



**Ray Of Hope
Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."

(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Fortieth year of Ministry.

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor,
and make disciples of every person

everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

"It is time to put our faith into action."

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:14-26)

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B, Appointed Pastor

We extend a very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (NABRE – 2011)

Everyone is invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as they feel comfortable. We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is March 19, 2023, Women's History Month Wk. 3

Lent Week 4, **Laetare Joy, Rose Sunday** Year A

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus.

St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

Revised Common Lectionary Lent WK 3 Yr. A

First Reading: 1 Sm 16:1-13a NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 259

Psalm: - responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 194

Gospel: John 9:1-41 NRSV 2ND Testament page 102

*We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament. The NRSV Bible 1st Testament numbers are in the front, and the 2nd Testament numbers are in the back of the book. If this confuses you, ask someone around you to assist you. Thank you.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another for a social time before the Bell is rung.

Bell's 1st ring. As the bell rings, please find your seat and pray silently for the next few minutes. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1st St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) The bell is rung before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of ___ in the State of __. We welcome you to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. We welcome our visitors and guests here in the Chapel and online through Skype and Facebook. To be added to our email list, email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject.

Visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box on the wall.

In this Church, each person decides to participate in some or all the parts of the worship event as they feel comfortable. We also assist

people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page, and song numbers and using a psalm response verse.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You are not required to be a member here or in any church to receive Holy Communion with us today. We celebrate the Lord's open table. Viewers at home, please bring the following items to your table at this time to prepare for the Holy Communion portion; 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

Leader-1: The bulletin order of worship and the music supplement for today are available in three ways. On Facebook Live, right-click the "Featured Links" in the window. On Skype, right-click the "Order of Worship" and "Music Supplement" posted in the Chat window. Finally, on our website, find the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly.

Ed Askins will play and sing a piano prelude for our service this morning. We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and not visit during the music. Thank you.

Music Prelude played by Ed Askins. "Heal Me" Words and Music by Terry MacAlmon © 2001 TMMI Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI Song # 3480760 For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." ALL LGBTQSIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

(This By-law was amended September 18, 2011, and used to read: We believe that Salvation is available to all who call on the Name of Jesus Christ, and are re-born into the Life of Christ.)([Article 10 STATEMENT OF FAITH 10.01 Short Form Statement Lines 1140 – 1143](#))



Bell's 2nd ring to announce the start of the worship event.

Leader – 2: Thank you for spending time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

ALL: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." (NABRE)

Leader -1: Glorify God by introducing yourself and welcoming the people around you. **While we are still observing COVID safety protocols, we may wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

ALL: We meet in the name of God our Creator, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour, and in the name of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Pastor: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: We come here to pray. Each person is an equal and active partner in all we do in the next 90 minutes. At Ray Of Hope, the worship event is not an observer's activity where people come to hear some good music and then hear a message. Instead, each person's primary responsibility is to actively pray during each section of the "service." The definition of the word liturgy is the prayer-work of the people. The people lead, serve, organize, and facilitate this public time of assembly to worship and experience God and one another. The people are actively praying and serving each person present and God.

Today is the third Sunday of Women's History Month.

(<https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>)

Today is also the fourth Sunday of the Season of Lent, Laetare Sunday.

From Wikipedia Laetare Sunday article: "The word comes from the Latin *laetare*, the singular imperative of *laetari*: "to rejoice".

The full [Introit](#) reads:^{[2][3]}

Laetare Jerusalem et conventum facite omnes qui diligitis eam; **gaudete** cum **laetitia**, qui in tristitia fuistis, ut exsultetis et satiemini ab uberibus consolationis vestrae. Psalm: **Laetatus** sum in his quae dicta sunt mihi: in domum Domini ibimus.

Rejoice ye with Jerusalem; and be ye glad for her, all ye that delight in her: exult and sing for joy with her, all ye that in sadness mourn for her; that ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations. *Psalm*: **I was glad** when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the Lord.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laetare_Sunday#)

I placed the text in a Latin to English converter and it came out like this:

Rejoice in Jerusalem and make a meeting, all you who love her; Rejoice with joy, you who were in sorrow, that you may rejoice and be satisfied with the abundance of your comfort. Psalm: I rejoiced in what was said to me: we will go to the house of the Lord.

The readings for the first two Sundays of Lent covered, The First and Second Dispensations (Innocence and Conscience. On the third Sunday, the readings were in the Fourth Dispensation, Promise, with Abraham being the primary figure. Last Sunday, the readings were in the Fifth Dispensation, The Law, with Moses being the prominent figure. The dispensation of the Law goes on through the entire period of Prophets and Kings, ending when Jesus says; "It is finished" from the Cross.

Today's readings have many themes, as usual. Any one piece I choose to speak on will leave many others on the sidelines. The theme I chose is the spiritual wisdom, spiritual insight, the clearly discernable leadership God can provide to the willing and open heart, meaning an open-minded and spiritually aware person.

Ray Of Hope Church began on 10/31/1983.

Today we are celebrating the **twenty-first Sunday** in our 40th year of ministry. Welcome to the **"WOKE"** Church of Elmira, NY, and the World.

Romans 13:11 "Now is the time to WAKE from your SLEEP."

We are proud to be known as the "WOKE" Church of Elmira and Central NY. Popularized by African-American young men, "woke" is: having or being marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, a liberal progressive orthodoxy, especially promoting inclusive policies or ideologies that welcome and embrace ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities. Awake and aware.

Source: Dictionary.com:

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/woke>

In Theological terms: Awakened by the Holy Spirit, alive in Christ, actively supporting persons of all Religions and faiths and those with no faith or religion.

See the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose for more information. Right Click Here:

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm>

Our prayers for the innocent victims of Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria will be at the Prayers of the People this morning. As we pray, we intentionally hold these and so many other people in our thoughts. as we progress through this worship event.

Pastor: With our whole heart, mind, and soul, we begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG: Joyful People Come and Worship Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Text: June Norris, © 1987; alt. with permission. The Hymnal Project, © 1990 MCC San Francisco Used by permission

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Now we celebrate our faith, our trust, in the promise of the "Blessed Hope," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life by lighting our Candle Of Hope.

Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

ALL: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25, 26)

Leader -2: While lighting the Candle of Hope, we read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to remember those who died of AIDS. Ray Of Hope Church started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, some churches, religions, and countries continue to reject

sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Looking up at the screen, we see the panel names on Block # 67

- Ramon Flores (1)
- John Whittington (2)
- Richie Mullen (3)
- Joe Aguilar (4)
- Russell Bevelaqua (5)
- Abel Perez (6)
- Bill Salmon (7)
- Bob Brown (8)

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we remember the names of our family and friends who have died from COVID-related illness and other causes of death. We pray for their families as they remember their loved ones. May this candle's flame help bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(NAMES Project website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 100,000 names on the Quilt virtually:

<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

SECOND SONG: Turn To Me (G&P 342) Words and Music John B. Foley, S.J.

Text: Based on Isaiah 45:22–23; 51:12, 4, 6. Text and music © 1975, John B. Foley, S.J. and OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense Song #81205 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) So far, we gathered together, greeted one another, and praised God in song. Now, we prepare to accept God's renewal when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. So, in silent prayer, prepare by reflecting on the relationships we have with God and other people. Christ is present and listening to receive the silent confession of our faults, sins and failures. He promises to forgive our sins immediately.

(silent prayer)

Leader -2: We pray together:

ALL: I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended anyone, and God, in any way. **Therefore**, I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to forgive me and pray for me to the Lord our God.

Leader -4: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

God continues the loving act of creating new life. But unfortunately, some religions, governments, and societies define limits on opportunity and education based on gender, ethnicity, and other categories. This manufactured inequality has caused great harm; therefore, we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Through the ministry of Christ, we should promote the equal place of women and girls in the World, and show equal respect for all gender

expression; Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

L-4: We pray that pastors and congregations lead the way to correcting all forms of discrimination through the tools of education and action; Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World, have mercy on us.

ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World, grant us peace.

Pastor: We pray that all of God's people may one day be united in God's Kingdom without the loss of anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Please rise as you are able to give God thanks and praise for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria. The Church has prayed this prayer since the earliest records of worship services.

Spoken:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on Earth.
You are the One God, Sovereign of the Universe,**

**Only Holy God, we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the World:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of God:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord of all,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

THIRD SONG: *As The Deer* Words and Music by Martin Nystrum © 1984

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+ Opening Prayer

Leader 5: O Loving, Eternal, and Creating God, lead us to the truth; your Word. Through your Word, help us initiate action and change in our lives. We pray that your Word transforms and equips us to serve you faithfully.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader 5: Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.

ALL: We read God's Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

Reader: **** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The first reading is in the Book of First Samuel, chapter 16, verses 1-13. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 259. Here begins the reading:

David Anointed as King

16 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came

mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+16%3A1-13&version=NRSVUE>)

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+ Psalm

**** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is

__, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of __.

The Psalm today is number 23, with a responsorial verse. The response today is "Lord, you are my shepherd today and forever."

R. Lord, you are my shepherd today and forever.

LORD, you are my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures you give me repose;

beside restful waters you lead me;

you refresh my soul.

R. Lord, you are my shepherd today and forever.

You guide me along the right paths

for your name's sake.

Even though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

With your rod and your staff

you give me comfort.

R. Lord, you are my shepherd today and forever.

You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

R. Lord, you are my shepherd today and forever.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever and ever.

R. Lord, you are my shepherd today and forever.

+ Second Reading

Reader: **** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The second reading is in the Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 5, verses 8-14. Again, this is the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 194 in the second testament. Here begins the reading:

Brothers and Sisters:⁸ for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light,⁹ for the fruit of the light^[a] is found in all that is good and right and true.¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them.¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly,¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#) Footnotes

a. [5.9](#) Other ancient authorities read *of the Spirit*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+5%3A8-14&version=NRSVUE>)
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+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Reader: We sing an acclamation before and one after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ at Ray Of Hope Church "Music for Worship" Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al - le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is John, chapter 9, verses 1-41. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 102 in the second testament.

Reader: Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to John.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be in our (+) minds that we will understand it, on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and in our (+) hearts that we will love it.

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We^[a] must work the works of him who sent me^[b] while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We

know that this is our son and that he was born blind,²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus^[c] to be the Messiah^[d] would be put out of the synagogue.²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses."²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes."³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"^[e]³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir?^[f] Tell me, so that I may believe in him."³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."³⁸ He said, "Lord,^[g] I believe." And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind."⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not

blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!
ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Footnotes

- a. 9.4 Other ancient authorities read *I*
- b. 9.4 Other ancient authorities read *us*
- c. 9.22 Gk *him*
- d. 9.22 Or *the Christ*
- e. 9.35 Other ancient authorities read *the Son of God*
- f. 9.36 Or *Lord*
- g. 9.38 Or *Sir*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+9&version=NRSVUE>)

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Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church
for the 1996 New Year,
The Year of The Holy Spirit!

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sds the

Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!

You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our

joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!

For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

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 **Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.** 
The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me

Spiritual wisdom is available to anyone who asks God for it.

In the first reading, First Samuel, chapter 16, verses 1-13, we see the first part of God's plan that David of Bethlehem, of the house of Jesse, would become King of Israel.

"David was around 15 years old when Samuel anointed him king in the midst of his brothers. How much time passed after David was anointed and the killing of Goliath is not clear." (source: The Sentinel, 3-16-23, "David, the shepherd boy" by Lyndon Stimeling July 13, 2019, <https://www.lewistownsentinel.com/news/religion/2019/07/david-the-shepherd-boy/#:~:text=David%20was%20around%2015%20years,of%20Goliath%20is%20not%20clear.>)

Eventually, David would be brought into the royal household by King Saul to play the harp and soothe Saul's anxieties. Then, after the killing of Goliath, the prince, Jonathan, would love and respect David and take him as his own in a public ceremony setting off terrible jealousy from the King. When both the King and the Prince are killed in battle, the people do what seemed obvious to them and call the partner of the Prince, David to the throne. God had pre-ordained this to happen. It was through the relationship with Jonathan that the will of God to make David King of Israel came about.

Bringing David to the throne through his relationship with Jonathan exemplifies how God can see above and beyond our comprehension of situations. God frequently executes a plan that surprises us and is not something we would have thought of typically.

The Psalm speaks to God guiding us in the image of God, our shepherd.

The second reading brings our attention back to Romans, Chapter five. This time using the metaphors of light and darkness, Paul tells us to choose. Paul writes, "walk as children of the light".. "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness" "Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.." STAY AWAKE, or STAY WOKE! by our current social discussion.

The Gospel reading takes up the testimony of the healing of a well-known local man born blind. Jesus first establishes people are not born with body difficulties because of their personal or family sins. The world is not whole because of sin in general, but no person or family is struck with punishment from God due to sin.

Jesus declares he is "the light of the world." (verse 5) The clergy tried to distract the people by publically charging Jesus with doing work on the Sabbath day. They hoped to distract the people with religiosity, clericalism and what I like to call "churchianity."

The established professional clergy could not accept a miracle from someone not on their

established list of educated and certified teachers by their standards. They declare, "29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

Jesus accepts worship in verse 38. By accepting worship in a public showing of his divinity, Jesus begins setting the stage for being charged with blaspheme.

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" [e] 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir? [f] Tell me, so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." 38 He said, "Lord, [g] I believe." And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Here we have Jesus teaching the Doctrine that anyone who wants spiritual wisdom through Him may have it. Later Jesus will ensure that the Holy Spirit will guide the believers into all truth. Our joy is founded and firm on promises such as this one, from Jesus.

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WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People

Leader – 3: Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit with communal and shared

prayers. Our response after each prayer will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: We continue to pray for the children and people of all ages whose lives have been changed forever by war anywhere in the World, especially in Ukraine, where the fighting has raged for 388 days. So, again we pray and ask You, God, to heal and strengthen the people traumatized; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 2: We pray for people we know who need healing, support, and encouragement as they go through stages of healing and recovery. We continue praying for people fighting cancer, including Heather's mother, Henrietta Bower, Sue Lemak, Portia Rawles, Bernell Hooker, our Ray Of Hope members Cheryl Allen, April Struhm, and others we are thinking of right now. To this list, we add those in need of general healing, including Ed Askins, Phillpa Askins, and who else????_____. We also pray for everyone in our Congregation who has requested our prayers. With all these people in mind, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide the doctors, medical teams, and scientists as we seek healing and wholeness. Finally, we thank God for each day of life we have together. We trust in God's presence today and always; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

[\(https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/02/02/fact-sheet-on-one-year-anniversary-of-reignited-cancer-moonshot-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-end-cancer-as-we-know-it/ \)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/02/02/fact-sheet-on-one-year-anniversary-of-reignited-cancer-moonshot-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-end-cancer-as-we-know-it/)

Leader – 2: We ask for your blessing on people suffering from the effects of climate change, especially the loss of food, clothing, heat, water, and shelter. We pray the leaders of the World will respond to this emergency with awareness, empathy, compassion, and plans for the short- and long-term. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lisa: At this time, we will add our shared prayers. Please speak your prayer loud enough so everyone may hear you. Your prayers may be for yourself or others, thanksgiving, praise, or whatever is on your mind. We

begin with _____

Lisa: We invite you to add your petitions in silent prayer.
(silent prayers)

Leader – 3: Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen



(Visit our moving
prayers page [Right
Click Here.](#))

+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion Altar/tables.

****** Veronica:** At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the World, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Every organization has actual expenses, including but not limited to utilities, building upkeep, insurance, taxes, and so on. A church is a private organization in the United States. Together, we keep this ministry available to our local and International participants by keeping it financially viable.

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation. In the Chapel, use the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event. There are donation envelopes available on the hospitality table by the door.

Internet participants may use the [PayPal link](#) in your bulletin, or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. Additionally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and on our website. So please give what you can, but never

give your last.

We also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Viewers on the Internet, please turn to page three and follow the instructions highlighted in yellow under leader two.

We are still using individual communion kits in the chapel as part of our COVID safety protocol.

Everyone may help set the Chapel Communion Table, and you may walk to the donation box during this time.

(** Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. ** Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local Church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you can join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.*))

SONG: He Is Exalted words and music by Twila Paris

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Leader -2: (* **Improvise a prayer** over the offering, giving thanks and praise.*) (When your prayer is complete, please say:) " Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology."

(The Doxology is sung here.)

ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Kaiden: Please gently hold the communion kit for the following two prayers. Viewers at home pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, and fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made.

Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), and this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

(Other titles include: the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54- 57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25)

Pastor: Please set down your communion kit.

Pastor: Truly present and risen among us; the Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: As His Body, we lift up our hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

Pastor: As His Church, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and just....

May our voices be one with all the fabulous Faithful from every time and place as we sing our song and join their unending praise hymns.

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Cheryl: At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. We invite you to extend your hands forward over the bread and fruit of the vine or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

ALL: O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful

ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for **our physical and spiritual wellbeing. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

Cheryl: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

(SONG: REMEMBER ME. Words and Music by Gerrit Gustafson and Martin J. Nystrom © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. c/o Integrity Music, Inc., P.O. Box 16813, Mobile, AL, 36695. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. CCLI Song # 451177 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.)



The Reception of Holy Communion

Pastor: Open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. The Gift of God for the People of God....

Pastor: I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Pastor: Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral

Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion.
This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a
physical reception. Together...

**Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in
the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above
all things, and I welcome you in my soul. Since I
cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your
Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart.
Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord
Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May
I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to
come. Amen.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

+ The Lord's Prayer

Leader -4: Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of
the cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together we pray:

ALL: It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to ____ You. Al - migh - ty

5
God ____ world with - out end. ____ A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia

11
A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men! ____

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+ Sign Of Peace

Veronica Floyd: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Veronica Floyd: Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. **During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Veronica Floyd: Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of the crumbs are in your cup. Add some water and swirl it around inside the cup. Drink the water. Dry the cup with the side napkin. Clear your worship table and altar.

SPECIAL MUSIC Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: "I Love The Lord"

Words: Isaac Watts (1791, alt.) © Words: Public Domain. Music: Richard Smallwood 1971 Century Oak Publishing Group (Admin. by Conexion Media Group, Inc.) Richwood Music (Admin. by Conexion Media Group, Inc.) CCLI Song # 1168957. Performed with Professional Backing Tracks Greatest Karaoke Sing The Hits of Whitney Houston. Label: Cooltone Karaoke, Artists: Cootone Karaoke, Cootone title: I Love The Lord (originally Performed by Whitney Houston) [Karaoke Version] Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, your death brought life to the World. By your holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion: Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy.

This prayer is known as the Fatima Prayer. It is prayed thousands of times every day by people praying the Rosary. Looking closely, one can see it is a very gracious prayer that prays for the salvation of all people. Read more of my commentary on this prayer: [Click Here](#).

Ash Wednesday February 22 Attendance: 11

General Offering for the week of February 26 \$468.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 12

General Offering for the week of March 5 \$1,418.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of March 12 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

****Special Gifts recently given.****

Thank you to April Struhm for donating a flat screen TV / computer monitor.

Thank you to April Struhm for a \$200 donation toward the 2023 Pastor Self-Employment Tax line in the budget made this week.

Many thanks to Ed Askins for the hours spent on repairing the interior walls and ceilings in the monastery. Visit the refinished kitchen, restroom, Fraiser Room, and the Chapel Entranceway, before leaving today.

Anonymous Gift for the Liability Insurance: \$751.75. We are very grateful. Thank you.

We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts given. We appreciate the special gifts being made at this time.

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR CALENDAR

March 21, Tuesday Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

Holy Week 2023: Palm Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Vigil of the Resurrection Saturday, April 8, 7:45 p.m.

No service on Sunday, April 9.

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We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: (a prayer is said) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

ALL: Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen (Romans 15:13)

Leader-4: We go forth in peace and love to serve all people and the Lord ...

ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to God.

SONG: SHINE JESUS, SHINE Words and Music by Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI Song # 30426 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](#) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser:

https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqsia?_t=8UgoVv5ekqg&_r=1 Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

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Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching using drywall mud. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please let Brother know with advanced notice so the necessary supplies will be ready.

***** Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord**
<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 This is all God's fault, God's design, God's doing from start to end.

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.

We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.

We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or
RECONCILING CONGREGATION for you.

We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING**
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.

WE ARE YOU!

THIS is the Church where **YOU** belong.

Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

=====**Who can receive the Holy Spirit**=====

Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.

Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)

=====
**WHO SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, THE
EUCHARIST, AT RAY OF HOPE CHURCH?**

Everyone may receive Holy Communion, also known as The Eucharist, The Lord's Table, or The Blessed Sacrament at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

You are not required to be a member of this Church or any other church, to receive Holy Communion at / or with Ray Of Hope Church.

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive it or right after, so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

Unfortunately, through the centuries, many institutional churches have established rules, teachings, and practices that exclude people from Holy Communion. There has been an almost endless list of reasons to exclude people from the Blessed Sacrament. Yet, together, during the worship service, we recite the very words of Jesus, the Words of Institution, "This is my body. This is my blood," and we rehear Christ present with us saying: "Take this, all of you and eat; Take this all of you and drink" of this gift.

After extensive consideration, I take these words, "Take this, all of you.." as a command to the Church to give and bring the Eucharistic Gift to everyone who will receive. This approach also requires us to educate people about this gift. I have said **it is uniquely and deliberately the work of Christ in His Church** to offer the necessary education, guidance, and practices that help people live a life centered and purposed on finding and sharing the Will of God. The Lord's Table is central to that life.

The Eucharist belongs to the Church. The Blessed Sacrament is Christ in, through, with us, and made known in breaking the Bread of Life and drinking the Cup of Salvation. We are to take this gift to the whole World.

We begin by inviting those on the fringe of Society, those pushed aside, poor, not accepted, sick, and who need God's help in extraordinary ways.

We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to everyone told

"no, you cannot" go to Communion in any other church; hear us, "yes, you can" at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or, as we like to say as one of our mottos when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien, "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

Come to the Table of the Lord. There is a place set for you too. (Excerpted from the Pastoral Report given at the Annual Meeting 34 on January 28, 2018, by Pastor Br. Shawn F. Benedict, updated 3-6-21, revised 3-3-2023)

Visit our page on the Sacraments. [Right Click Here](#).

See this in a PDF format from our website, share it with others, or download it to your computer / device. [Right Click Here](#).

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

Elmira Worship- Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery .
Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 a.m.
Syracuse Worship- looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information
[Click Here](#).

Bible Enrichment- Tuesday 6:30–8 p.m.-380 W. First St. Parsonage
/Monastery. Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign
on by 6:15 p.m. [Click Here](#).

**** to call the Pastor: Rev. Shawn Benedict: 607-280-0374***

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our website;
http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm. Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

NOTE: On June 15, 1996, as a part of the Ordination Ceremony and his profession of Benedictine Vows, Rev. Leo W. McDermott, II retired the use of his secular birth name and was given a new name in religion, Brother Shawn Francis Benedict.

The Chapel is not open to the general public as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

Visitors: Please feel free to fill out the information slip below and place it in the collection plate. Please indicate any special needs you may have. All information will be used for church purposes *only*.

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to be included on the church Email list.

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

In the Spirit of God, and in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, we the Faith Community at Ray Of Hope Church commit to:

- **guide** and welcome all people to the Free Gift of Salvation in Christ Jesus, with a God-ordained celebration of all sexual orientations, and gender expressions, with an open ministry to persons affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends,
- **declare** and openly assert the truth that same-sex relationships, founded and fostered in God-centered love, are holy and blessed, and in fact originate by the work of the Holy Spirit; and, that God equally uses blessed same-sex and heterosexual Holy Unions and Marriages to bring God's own love and good news of "Salvation to all who believe" into the World,
- **uphold**, proclaim, and teach the historic Biblical Christian Doctrine, build community through worship and prayer, break the bread, and live the ministry of the Holy Spirit,
- **change** the World around us by living Gospel principles of social justice in everything we do, thereby exposing all forms of prejudice, oppression, racism, homophobia, sexism, and misogyny,
- **proclaim** the ray of hope, which is the soon coming return of Christ Jesus, and the fullness of His Eternal Community where the Will of God will establish liberty, justice, equity, and peace for all God's People and the universe.

Visit us online:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here.](#)

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs

—————Scripture verses to share with others:—————

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 2:11, 3:4 The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing salvation **to everyone**.

John 5:24 Those who hear my word and **believe in God** who sent me, **have** eternal life, will **never** come under judgment and have passed from **death to life** already.

Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks. "Lord" here refers to God principally as in the book of Joel that is being quoted, so all persons who call on God shall be saved.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)