

**"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."
(Isaiah 56:7)**

**Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Forty-second year of
Ministry.**

**MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor, and make disciples
of every Person everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)**

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

We extend a special welcome to our visitors.
You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.
In Romans 15:7 the Scriptures exhort us to:
"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,
for the glory of God" (NABRE – 2011)

Participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are 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 3-22-26, Lent WK V, Women's History Month Wk IV, 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."

Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal
and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:7-14 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 806

Psalm: Psalm 130 with a response verse in this bulletin.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 157

Gospel: John 11: selected verses NRSV 2ND Testament page 104

***We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament. The NRSV Bible 1st Testament numbers are found in the front portion, and the 2nd Testament numbers are found in the later portion. 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 until the bell rings.

Bell's 1st ring. As our 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.

Our St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1st St. in Elmira, NY, is a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, given 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, and we now celebrate victory and gratitude for our Salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) We ring the bell 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

Veronica Floyd: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, __(State)_____. Good morning. Welcome 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. This church is your Spiritual Service Station, and Faith Repair Shop, where our Loving Creating God is C.E.O., the owner of record is Jesus, the Christ, and the Operations Manager is The Holy Spirit. Our Congregation is a franchise location of the Body Of Christ, the Church. The Members and Friends are the working staff here today to facilitate your worship experience. Today is March 22, 2026. We announce all instructions, pages, and song numbers and use a

psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

To all who are online or may view this recording later, to facilitate your participation, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship, and the Music Supplement on Facebook Live by right-clicking the "Featured Links" icon. On Zoom, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. The Zoom link is also posted on the webpage.

Katrina Lourdiane: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Good morning, and welcome. (** Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.**) We invite you to participate in as many or as few parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable. To people watching online, you may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. To participate in Communion, please bring to your table 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, and 3) a second cup with some water and a side napkin. We will use these in the second half of the worship service. Now, gather all these items, and we will start shortly.



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)

(The Congregation amended this By-law on 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 will announce the start of the worship

event.

Katrina Lourdiane: (**PLEASE wait for the second bells to ring, and remember to look up at the people and smile.**) Good morning, my name is Katrina Lourdiane. Thank you for choosing to spend time with us today. In Romans, Chapter 15, verse 7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

Katrina Lourdiane: You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (** Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.**) Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **SAINTS** around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID-19 safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: Good Morning, **SAINTS!** I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

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

Brother: The Doctrine that each Person of the Trinity living in us is one of the subjects of today's second reading, Romans 8:9,10, and 11.

Brother: The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, God's love, and the Holy Spirit's fellowship is with you. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

ALL: And also with you, praise the Lord.

Brother: Welcome to your Spiritual Service Station and Faith Repair Shop, where we promise to do our best to help everyone worship God in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. At Ray Of Hope, we embrace a free-thinking standard, meaning, in part, that what you believe is between you and God. You are welcome here from any faith tradition, and even if you have no faith at all. God will take care of the relationship between God and you. We are here to welcome, love, and affirm all of who you are.

Today is March 22, 2026, Lent Wk V - the last Sunday of Lent, and the fourth week of Women's History Month, 2026.

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

Ray Of Hope Church officially began on Reformation Day, October 31, 1983, the vigil of the Feast of All Saints. October 31, 2024, marked our forty-first anniversary, and we are now in our forty-second year of ministry.

The first public worship event in the Southern Tier was held on Saturday, September 14, 1996, The Feast of the Triumph Of The Cross. September 14, 2025, was the twenty-ninth anniversary of the first worship event. We are in our 30th year of ministry in the Southern Tier.

Sunday, June 1, 2025, was the twenty-second anniversary of the opening of the Elmira Chapel. We are in our 23rd year at 380 W. First Street, Elmira, NY.



Lisa: 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.

Lisa: Our first song today is "Turn To Me" in the green Glory and Praise hymnal (number 342) and in the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able for our first song, "Turn To Me."

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

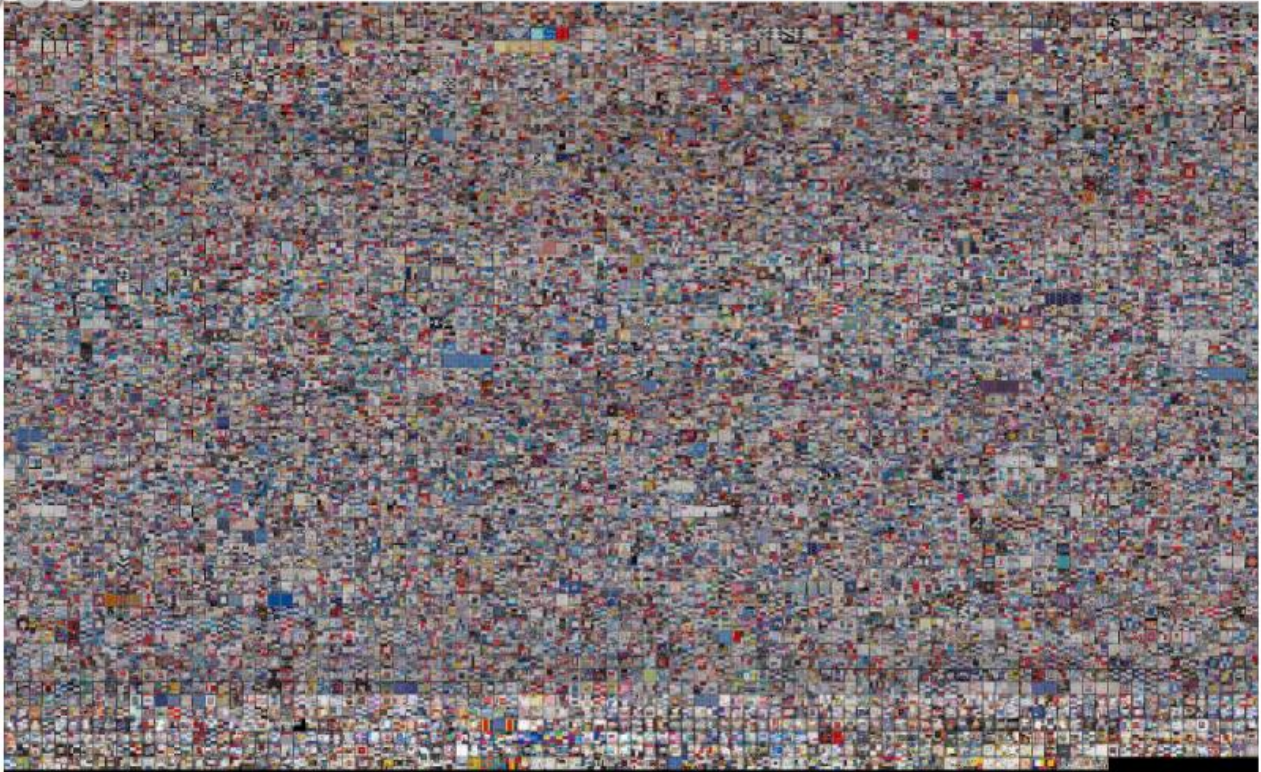
Text: Based on Isaiah 45:22–23; 51:12, 4, 6. Text and music © 1975, John B. Foley, S.J. and OCP. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise, Second Edition, number 342. Onelicense Song #81205 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

+ The Candle Of Hope

Kaiden: Please be seated. Scroll down on this page to see a picture of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt on one screen. We turned this picture into a link for you to use at home to visit the virtual search tool for the Quilt. People may still add 3-foot-by-6-foot panels to the Quilt in someone's honor.



- About ▾
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Kaiden: Now we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate the Truth Jesus promises us. 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)

Kaiden: Please look over and watch as the Candle of Hope is lit. When the flame flickers, we pray our proclamation of Faith.

Kaiden: Together:

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Kaiden: Ray Of Hope started in part to form a Church with an intentional ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS. It is forty-three years later, and still, some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance. The World Health Organization reported nearly 40 million people were living with HIV globally in 2023. In 2024, the United Nations AIDS organization, UNAIDS, reported that the number had risen to 40.8 million people, and we are confident the number will continue rising in 2026. Therefore, to keep HIV and AIDS in the conscious prayers of people, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into over 50,000 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at the National AIDS Memorial. Please scroll the page to see the panels on block number 183.



These are the names on Block # 183

- Sean O'Neil (1)
- Bill Hunter (2)
- Stephen Culp (3)
- Joe Fratianni (4)
- Jim Dawson (5)
- Jeff Mylett (6)
- Zanny Poelker (7)
- Jack Gilbert (8)

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

Kaiden: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have preceded us in death. (**pause for silent prayer.**)
May our 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 promise of the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Ian McLaughlin: Our second song is "Change Our Hearts" in the green Glory and Praise hymnal, number 349, and in the Electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing, "Change Our Hearts."



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins, our failures.

Ed Askins: Please be seated. (**wait**) Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ is truly present among us and forgives our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. In silent prayer, we consider our relationship with God and others, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, who is present in this room and our bodies, and receive His immediate forgiveness.

(*****Please wait to provide some silence for private prayers and confession.*****)

Veronica: Loving, Creating, and Eternal God, all life in the Universe comes from You. When we become self-absorbed, we close ourselves to seeing your beauty in all its forms. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Veronica: Christ Jesus, you call us to present the Love of God to everyone we meet. The governments of the world compete with conflicting ideas, agendas, and systems, even to the point of war. Broaden our concern for each other. Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Veronica: Holy Spirit, you desire to help us understand our circumstances and the world systems we live in. Society would have us prioritize everything over time for worship, time for private prayer, and devotional study of the Word. Holy Spirit, with you living in us, and with all the resources we have available, you have set out a feast of prayer and the Word, even in the presence of our enemies. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Lisa Frost: We pray for forgiveness and renewal together.

ALL: Lord Jesus, hear our confession, and receive our sins. Touch our hearts and shape our desires so that we will seek your Will daily in our lives. Send your Holy Spirit now to heal the wounds in our memories. Inform our conscience with the fire of your divine love so we will follow you without reservation. Draw us closer to you with your gentle voice and loving arms. We accept your forgiveness and restoration, in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lisa Frost: The Lord has heard our confession and has granted forgiveness, and so we declare together:

ALL: The faith community of Ray Of Hope Church openly declares the forgiveness of all your confessed sins in the Name of Jesus Christ. He forgives you, we forgive you, and God rejoices over your restoration in Christ. Amen.

Lisa Frost: The Church now provides the service of praising God together in thanksgiving. Please rise as you are able to give thanks and praise to God for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria.

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.**

Veronica Floyd: And now, for a little extra fun and praise, let's sing "Glorify The Lord," by Sandra Crouch, who will join us in singing her song from Paradise along with our other Ray Of Hope Members, Friends, and Family members who enjoy the Household of God ahead of us. Please rise as you are able, as we continue to give God thanks and praise for forgiving our sins by singing "Glorify The Lord."

**PRAISE SONG: GLORIFY THE LORD words and music by Sandra Crouch
Glorify the Lord.**

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Glorify the Lord
Praise His holy name
Let the trumpet sound
Let the bells ring
We've been redeemed
By the blood of the Lamb
Come on and praise His holy name
Ev'rybody sing
God is holy and He's worthy
And we worship we worship Him

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Wayne Harris: Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

+ Opening Prayer

Wayne Harris: The Lord is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Wayne Harris: Together, we lift up our hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Wayne Harris: We make this exhortation together:

ALL: Let us keep the Scriptures in mind and meditate upon them day and night, persevering in prayer, always on the watch. Let us beg the Lord to give us real knowledge of what we read and to show us not only how to understand it but how to put it into practice, so that we may deserve to obtain spiritual grace, enlightened by the law of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose power and glory will endure throughout the ages. Amen

Wayne Harris: Saint Origen, who lived from 185 – 254 A.D., wrote this prayer. His prayer is our prayer on this day. Please be seated now and listen with all your heart, soul, and mind as we open the Word of God.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

Ed Askins: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The first reading is in the Book of Ezekiel, chapter 27, verses 7-14. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 806. This reading is the resurrection of the dry bones in the valley. Here begins the reading:

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there

were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:^[a] Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,^[b] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the Land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [37.9](#) Or wind or spirit
- b. [37.9](#) Or wind or spirit

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel+37%3A7-14&version=NRSVUE>)

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+ Psalm:

Ian McLaughlin: (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The Psalm today is number 130, with a responsorial verse. The response today is, "With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption." (vs. 7b)

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD,

² Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

³ If you, O LORD, should mark our guilt,
Lord who would survive?

⁴ But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

⁵ My soul is waiting for the LORD.

I count on God's word.

⁶ My soul is longing for the Lord
more than those who watch for daybreak.

(Let the watchers count on daybreak

⁷ and Israel on the LORD.)

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Because with the LORD there is Mercy
and fullness of redemption,

⁸ Israel indeed God will redeem
from all its iniquity.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Give praise to the Living God.

To God's Son, Jesus the Christ, Our Lord.

To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.

Both now, and for-ever. A-men.

Psalm 130. A prayer of repentance and trust: sixth psalm of repentance.
(inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Psalm (129) 130. Onelicense
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Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

+ Second Reading

Lisa Frost: **** **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 Romans, chapter 8, verses 1-11. Again, this is the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 157 in the second testament. Here begins the reading:

Life in the Spirit

8 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit^[a] of life in Christ Jesus has set you^[b] free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin,^[c] he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.^[d] ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit^[e] set their minds on the things of the Spirit.^[f] ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit^[g] is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit,^[h] since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit^[i] is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus^[j] from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through^[k] his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Read full chapterFootnotes

Footnotes

- a. 8.2 Or *spirit*
- b. 8.2 Gk *you* is singular; other ancient authorities read *me* or *us*
- c. 8.3 Or *and as a sin offering*
- d. 8.4 Or *spirit*
- e. 8.5 Or *spirit*
- f. 8.5 Or *spirit*
- g. 8.6 Or *spirit*
- h. 8.9 Or *spirit*
- i. 8.10 Or *spirit*
- j. 8.11 Other ancient authorities read *Christ* or *the Christ* or *Jesus Christ*
- k. 8.11 Other ancient authorities read *on account of*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A1-11&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!

Reader: The Gospel reading is John, chapter 11, verses 1-3, 6-7, 14-15, 17, 20-27, 32-44. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of © 2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 104 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.**

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, ^[a] "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

⁶ after having heard that Lazarus ^[b] was ill, he (Jesus) stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus ^[c] had already been in the tomb four days.

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to

her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[i] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,^[g] the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Jesus Weeps

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [11.3](#) Gk *him*
- b. [11.6](#) Gk *he*
- c. [11.12](#) Or *will be saved*
- d. [11.16](#) Gk *Didymus*
- e. [11.17](#) Gk *he*
- f. [11.25](#) Other ancient authorities lack *and the life*
- g. [11.27](#) Or *the Christ*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+11%3A1-41&version=NRSVUE>)

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(NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (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 - sus 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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+ Sermon



Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.



The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.

The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 43 years. October 31, 2025 - 42nd Anniversary now in our 43rd year in Ministry.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me has not been in vain.

1 Cor. 15:10

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves (workers, servants, assistants) for Jesus's sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (NRSVUE)

RED for Martyrs; dry martyr, wet martyr. People feel crushed under the weight of massive firings across the United States, a result of the new President and his Administration. **Good news: Federal Judges ordered the Executive Administration to reinstate all Federal Employees who have been fired since the start of this Administration. (Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/13/politics/judge-opm-probationary-employees-fired-hearing/index.html>)

=====SERMON NOTES: Brother ===3-22-26=====

=====READINGS =====

Ezekiel

Someone told us the Jews do not understand, expect, or believe in the resurrection of the dead. However, today's first reading is from the Major Prophet Ezekiel 37:12-14, where the resurrection of the House of Israel is clearly promised. We can fully understand this reading from a premillennial perspective because the promise is specific to the House of Israel and to raising them to inherit the Land of Israel. Now that we have the full revelation, all the way to the last words of the Book of Revelation, we know Israel will indeed be raised to inherit the Land for the 1,000-year Kingdom under Messiah Christ and his Regent, King David. (see Jeremiah 30:9, Ezekiel 34:23-34, Ezekiel 37:24-25)

Ezekiel is writing what God is telling him to write.

Psalm response: With the Lord, there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Mercy is God's relating to our struggles; the fullness of redemption is resurrection to eternal life. "With you is forgiveness that you may be revered."

The forgiveness of our sins is, in fact, so that we may be empowered to participate in eternal life, to revere God, to praise God, to be freed from the grip of sin, dis-ease, and death.

Second Reading Romans 8:9,10,11

and NO condemnation: Life in the Spirit

8 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit^[a] of life in Christ Jesus has set you^[b] free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin,^[c] he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.^[d]

IN YOU

Gospel

"I am the resurrection and the life.^[f] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,^[g] the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

(39b) Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would **see the glory of God**?"

The glory of God is victory over death, a restored creation.

When Jesus called out to Lazarus: ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43 NRSVUE) It is a good thing Jesus called Lazarus by name or every grave on the whole Earth would have opened with those powerful words "COME OUT." That would have been followed by "oops."

The last enemy is death. 1 Corinthians 15:26

What started with an archangel, Lucifer's self will I will I will I will (Isaiah 14:12-15) and was used to convince Adam and Eve to do the same "I will be like god," (Isaiah 14:14), Lucifer: "You will be like God." (Genesis 3:5) causing death to enter to human race, will end with the resurrection of all people by the power, the mercy, the goodness of God. Corinthians 15:22 " ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ." (NRSVUE) All will rise. It is appointed to every man to be born once, to live once, to die once, and to be raised from the dead once.

Hebrews 9:26b-28 NRSVUE But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once and after that the

judgment,²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Summary:

Resurrection: **ISRAEL** Ez. 37:12 Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the Land of Israel.

Resurrection: **CHURCH** Romans 8:9,10,11

Resurrection: Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. John 11:25

The **Glory of God** is resurrection. John 11:40 **40** Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would **see the glory of God?**"

Digital GOD - Vatican - give link

digital tracking, and data collection - amount of time on any image, or page, or sound, etc. Senator Sanders and the Cardinals article from last week.

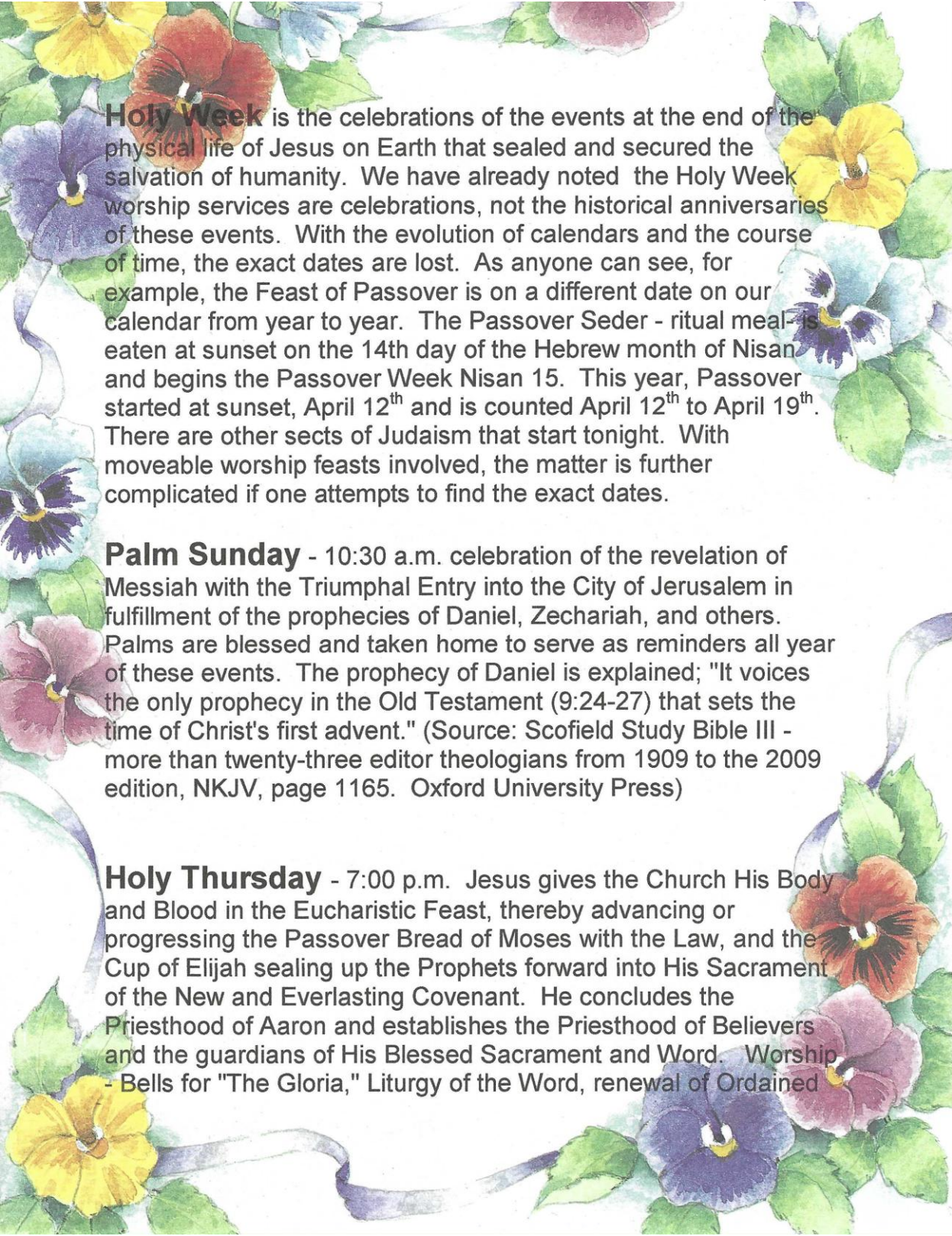
The Anti-Christ will imitate Christ's ability to know all things about us, see today's second reading. "The Lord is with you," not just when one is here in the worship space or in a worship event. The Lord is with us always. Satan cannot exercise omniscience - knowing all things, or omnipresence - to be at all places, as a created being. Satan can only be in one place at a time. However, the purveyors of luciferian doctrines and agendas are an unknown number of "hosts, dominions, and powers" who are in full cooperation with all things anti-God and anti-Christ. It is not people's right to choose whether to live in acknowledgment of the reality of God. We are not in charge of what is and what is not in existence; seen and unseen. Humans deceive themselves if we think that our human brains think into or out of existence all things unseen in the spiritual world that were here billions of measurements of time before us and will be after us. Imagine the one brain of one individual Person who thinks reality, during their

human life and after their last breath, is whatever they decide. Visualize one human brain, then zoom out to a crowd, keeping sight of one Person's physical brain, and zoom out to the people and place of the State where you live, then keep zooming out to your continent. Stop and think about the continent: how completely insignificant that one brain is to all the creation and all the human brains on the continent. Now keep going, out to Earth's atmosphere. Anyone who cannot see that their one brain has absolutely no authority over all that has zoomed into view and blocked their view, bringing the significance of that one brain into perspective, is truly out of touch with reality. Such a person who cannot understand their own insignificance in the grand scheme is truly out of touch with reality. We haven't left Earth's atmosphere yet, and so we go out, further and further, and looking back at that one brain, well, it is imperceptible. What God has created, is creating, and will create, what God has done, is doing, and will do is not under the control of any created being, and that includes all of us - individually and / or collectively.

Lukewarm Church

Digital Pastors


HOLY WEEK



Holy Week is the celebrations of the events at the end of the physical life of Jesus on Earth that sealed and secured the salvation of humanity. We have already noted the Holy Week worship services are celebrations, not the historical anniversaries of these events. With the evolution of calendars and the course of time, the exact dates are lost. As anyone can see, for example, the Feast of Passover is on a different date on our calendar from year to year. The Passover Seder - ritual meal - is eaten at sunset on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan and begins the Passover Week Nisan 15. This year, Passover started at sunset, April 12th and is counted April 12th to April 19th. There are other sects of Judaism that start tonight. With moveable worship feasts involved, the matter is further complicated if one attempts to find the exact dates.

Palm Sunday - 10:30 a.m. celebration of the revelation of Messiah with the Triumphal Entry into the City of Jerusalem in fulfillment of the prophecies of Daniel, Zechariah, and others. Palms are blessed and taken home to serve as reminders all year of these events. The prophecy of Daniel is explained; "It voices the only prophecy in the Old Testament (9:24-27) that sets the time of Christ's first advent." (Source: Scofield Study Bible III - more than twenty-three editor theologians from 1909 to the 2009 edition, NKJV, page 1165. Oxford University Press)

Holy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Jesus gives the Church His Body and Blood in the Eucharistic Feast, thereby advancing or progressing the Passover Bread of Moses with the Law, and the Cup of Elijah sealing up the Prophets forward into His Sacrament of the New and Everlasting Covenant. He concludes the Priesthood of Aaron and establishes the Priesthood of Believers and the guardians of His Blessed Sacrament and Word. Worship - Bells for "The Gloria," Liturgy of the Word, renewal of Ordained



Priestly Vows, Eucharist, Meditation (in the Garden) using a monstrance and stand, Benediction at 8:30. Finished by 8:45 p.m. Please leave the chapel in silence for those who wish to remain and pray. We can visit outdoors. There is no social hour.

Good Friday (Sacrifice Friday, Passion Friday) -

7:00 p.m. The Stations of the Cross with two hymns, "Were You There" and "Lift High The Cross." There is no Holy Communion on this day. We are usually finished by 8:00 p.m. Please leave the chapel in silence for those who wish to remain and pray. We can visit outdoors. There is no social hour.

Holy Saturday, The Vigil of the Resurrection of Christ -

The most important worship event of the entire year. 7:45 p.m. after sunset. The celebration begins with awe and praise for all of Creation. Begins with the blessing of a new fire and service of Light, then water with the service of Baptism, and the Word continues through the Resurrection Proclamation with the singing of "The Gloria" with ringing bells. The Gospel of the Resurrection, the Rite of Membership to receive new Members into the Church. The Eucharist is celebrated. Normally finished by 9:30 p.m. There is a social time even around the fire to roast marshmallows, hotdogs and other treats if people happen to bring them and want to stay and visit.

No events are scheduled for Sunday, April 20 so you can visit with others on "Easter Sunday."

Visit our main website: www.rayofhopechurch.com

Visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/lgbtqisia2ssByYou/>

Address: Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

380 W. 1st St., Elmira, NY 14901. Pastor's cell: 1-607-280-0374

=====SOCIAL PIECE=====

See the chart comparing the NRSVUE and the NRSVUE-CE at the end of this bulletin.

Women: Rev. Sandra Crouch:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandra_Crouch#:~:text=Personal%20life.%20Sandra%20Crouch%20was%20born%20on,of%20God%20in%20Christ%20in%20Pacoima%2C%20California. Ordination, Sandra Crouch said, "doesn't mean that you will be doing ministry; it means you are doing it and that we bless you in what you are doing." (Source: <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1998-jul-25-me-6993-story.html#:~:text=By%20JOHN%20DART,at%20this%20year's%20national%20convention.>)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/COGICHistoryPage/posts/707610996447028/>
Digital Pastors

"Love endures all things, believes all things, bears all things, and hopes all things. Love never ends." (NKJV 1 Cor. 13:7-8)

*)- CONTINUING REVELATION * * * **Keeping Watch** * * * On Sunday, January 19, 2024, I wrote the following in the bulletin. Finally, a hopeful thought to close with: on Friday, January 17, 2025, President Biden announced the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is the law of the Land because all of the required votes of the States have been received. The American Bar Association agrees that all requirements have been met. The National Archivist, Colleen Shogan, only has to certify and publish the 28th Amendment.

(Source: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20\(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment.\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment.))) NPR story on the ERA

<https://www.npr.org/2025/01/17/nx-s1-5264378/biden-era-national-archivist-constitution>

*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Brother: Our Prayers of the People will each be followed by our common petition, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Veronica: We hold up to You, oh God, all who have asked us to pray for them and those for whom we have promised to pray. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Veronica: We pray for all who are in danger because of acts of war, especially children, the elderly, those in hospitals, nursing centers, and schools that the weapons of war have leveled or severely damaged. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Veronica: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other agencies report that on a global scale, more than 123 million people are forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. In total, approximately 304 million people are migrating somewhere on this earth as we speak. Therefore, we pray that government leaders think beyond their own countries, or worse, their own personal ambitions for worldly power, wealth, and authority, and seek to help resolve this crisis. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Kaiden: We pray for people who have lost access to employment, a home, or an apartment, especially those who are in despair. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide social agencies in finding practical solutions that help people regain their footing in society. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Ed Askins: We pray for people who suffer oppression and discrimination, especially when it is based on poverty, social status, ethnicity, sexual identity, and gender expression. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Ed Askins: We pray for all who are sick, all who are in any form of treatment, all who care for the sick, and all who support those delivering care and their families. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Veronica: We pray that all people throughout the world, especially the lukewarm of faith, and those in most need of your mercy, O God, would turn to You and accept your guidance. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Veronica: God, give us the grace to bear with each other's burdens and to be instruments of your peace. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor concludes the Prayers of the People.

(For more information on government statistics regarding some of the populations mentioned above, see the following source: [https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20250728/samhsa-releases-annual-national-survey-on-drug-use-and-health#:~:text=Among%20people%2012%20or%20older%2C%2016.8%25%20\(or%2048.4%20million,2021%20to%209.8%25%20in%202024](https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20250728/samhsa-releases-annual-national-survey-on-drug-use-and-health#:~:text=Among%20people%2012%20or%20older%2C%2016.8%25%20(or%2048.4%20million,2021%20to%209.8%25%20in%202024)).



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

Veronica Floyd: Worship is our primary activity as a church. We are grateful to all the people over the last forty-two years of ministry who have given their help and assistance so that Ray Of Hope is here in 2024. Thank you to everyone who has contributed with your gifts "seen and unseen," may God bless you.

We are an independent organization founded and funded by anyone who appreciates what we offer. Your support is one way to give God thanks and praise for this unique ministry for all people. There are many convenient ways



to participate with your donation, including this QR Code, this link in the bulletin: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#); other live links on [our website](#), the envelopes and donation box next to the door, always available in the Chapel. Checks sent in the mail are also accepted. [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact information, including our street address. We always say, "Give what you can, but never give your last."

Katrina Lourdine: As we set the Table of the Lord here in the chapel and in your homes, we are going to sing: "Hosea." The music is available in the Glory and Praise green hymnal (number 471) and in the electronic Music Edition. Please sing along as we set the Table of the Lord.

OFFERTORY: Hosea Text and Music Weston Priory and Gregory Norbet

Contributors: Gregory Norbet, Weston Priory

Tune: Text: Based on Hosea. Text and music, Gregory Norbet, OSB, © 1972, The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Glory and Praise, Second Edition, number 471.

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Ed Askins: (**You may improvise a prayer or use this one.) God, we bless you and praise you for all the gifts we have received to support this ministry. We thank you for those who can give financially and by sharing their skills, prayers, talents, volunteering, and other forms of support. We bless you, Lord, for those who could not give at this time, and we pray that all their needs will be met. We dedicate all this to the Name of Jesus, Amen. Please rise as

you are able **to sing and pray**
the conclusion of the Service of the Word with the Doxology.

(We sing **The Doxology 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

Pastor or?: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this Bread, 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), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Brother Benedict: Now, please lift your cup with me as I pray this prayer. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this 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 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), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Pastor: Please set down your cup.

Truly present and risen among us, **SAINTS**, 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: **(An improvised prayer is said here.)**

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

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 5 might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 10 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 16 Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
 22 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
 27 san - na in the high - est.

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Brother: At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts 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 well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen

Brother: You may relax your arms and hands. Kaiden, please show the Bread today, and Wayne, please show the cup. **Today, we pray together in song the words of Institution.**

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

WORDS OF INSTITUTION 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 Lord's Prayer

Wayne Harris: 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**

Music setting information: **The Lord's Prayer Composed by Albert Hay Malotte.** ©1935 G. Schirmer, Inc. (Admin. by Music Sales Corporation) CCLI Song#1534 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



The Reception of Holy Communion

Pastor: Please raise the Blessed Sacrament as a sign of praise and pray together:

ALL: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold the Christ truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this cup, though they die, they shall live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.

Pastor: Blessed are those who come to this table; everyone is welcome.

ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word, I am healed. 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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Ed Askins: Please open your kit and receive Holy Communion now. Receive now the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Gift of God for the People of God. Receive these gifts of love to strengthen your resolve to serve others and God, and to fortify your Salvation. 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, and will be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God. (Please pause here to give people time to receive.**)**

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Veronica Floyd: We understand that some of you watching do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine. We invite you to pray for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion, based on a prayer in the Prayer Book of the Episcopal National Cathedral. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together;

Oh, My Jesus, I believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and 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 anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion. Still, circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

+ Sign Of Peace

Veronica: In Romans, chapter five, verse one, we read: 5:1 "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Friends in Christ, since we have this peace, we

can share it with one another. Therefore, I proclaim, the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Veronica: 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: 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, and clear your worship table and altar.

Katrina Lourdiane: We continue our prayers now by singing together: "Reflections on a Central Commitment," words and music by Deacon Ray Defendorf. The words are printed below. Please rise as you are able to sing "Reflections on a Central Commitment."

COMMUNION SONG: REFLECTIONS ON A CENTRAL COMMITMENT

Words and Music by Ray Defendorf – Celebrate Life Songs

Verse 1

Sometimes it seems that we've lost track of
The reason we were put upon the earth.
Is it to have never – rocked a boat or never tried?
Is it just – to exist – until we die?

Refrain 1

That's not my way. Not why I suffered.
To change the world – I died.
I gave my life for – a new way of living.
My way is love. My way brings peace.

Verse 2

If success and wealth – are the only goals.
That give this life its worth.
Tell me why the flowers – and the little child delight.
In simply living in this world – and resting by the night.

Refrain 2

Sing a new song. Live a new life.
To change the world – I died.
I gave my life for – a new way of living.
My way is love. My way brings peace.

Verse 3

Life is change. The youth becomes an elder.
Youth is spring – and spring is but a day.
But if in spring the seeds of brotherhood are sown . . .
Your life will grow in love – and that's my way.

Refrain 3

Spread the Good News. Tell my story.
To change the world – I died.
I gave my life for – a new way of living.
My way is love. My way brings peace.
Peace. Peace!

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From Deacon Ray's CD – "Gentle Spirit". Deacon Ray Defendorf on Apple Music:

<https://music.apple.com/us/artist/deacon-ray-defendorf/64895995>

Deacon Ray Defendorf <https://deaconray.com/>

Reflections performed by Celebrate Life 2004 <https://deaconray.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/02-Reflections.mp3>

Deacon Ray on Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/6VdFJaJejlkKc4bbg2d4X>

Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2026

It's with a thankful heart that I write this report. God's faithfulness and your generous donations came together and it's been a month where we could meet all our obligations on time.

General Fund opening balance at the beginning of February was \$612.71. Regular donations to the General Fund were \$2,754.48. Payments out of this account were: Pastoral compensation of \$2,060.00, Verizon \$62.75, a reimbursement for communion kits to Ed Askins purchased on Amazon \$26.99. Larger bills monthly allotment was moved to savings in the amount of \$153.00 and Paypal charges were \$36.48 and I transferred \$83.34 to savings for February Self-Employment tax for the Appointed Pastor. After these were paid the balance of this account at the end of the month was \$944.63. There were no undeposited funds for February.

Building Fund opening balance was \$652.36. Donations to the Building fund were as follows: Ian and Christina McLaughlin \$450.00, Brother Shawn Benedict \$650.00, Marcus \$100.00. I transferred in from the Building Improvement Fund \$1,325.00. Bills that came out of the fund this month were the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$47.53, electric bill \$352.92, gas bill \$445.00, Finger Lakes Casualty for insurance \$307.40, and Christian Kalweit, electrician \$1,325.00. I transferred \$216.00 to savings toward the large bill allotment. Ending balance of this fund was \$483.51.

Building Improvement Fund opening balance on this account was \$547.36. Deposits to this account were Katrina \$100.00, Wayne and Glenn \$400.00, Ian and Christina \$1,000.00 and Ed Askins \$340.00. I transferred \$150.00 from savings that had originally been donated for the dishwasher. I transferred \$1,325.00 out to the Building Fund to cover the electrician's check noted above. The ending balance in the account was \$1,212.36 which is being saved towards the balance of the electrician's bill.

Savings (Council) Account opening balance in this account was \$1,736.87. Transfers to this account were \$153.00 from General Fund for large bills, \$83.34 from General Fund for the Appointed Pastor's self-employment tax for February and \$216.00 from Building fund for large bills. Transfers out of this account was \$150.00 to the Building Fund which had been saved for the dishwasher. The balance at the end of the month was \$2,039.21.

Our year to date income is \$9,825.81 and our year to date expenses are \$11,141.38

Upcoming bills: Bills due before the end of February: Transfer to savings for General fund large bills \$153.00, Appointed Pastor's self-employment tax for February \$83.32, transfer to savings for Building Fund large bills \$216.00.

Credit Card

The balance on the credit card as of the last statement is \$ 2,540.89 because I put the \$453.00 for CCLI on it last month.

Balances as of March 20, 2026

General fund: \$705.78

Building fund: \$149.93

Building Improvement fund: \$457.36

Savings: \$1,556.21

Savings breakdown is: Self-employment tax money \$166.68, Building fund large bills \$1,138.53 and General fund large bills \$251.00

NOTES OF THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR GENEROSITY GIVEN TO THE LORD THROUGH RAY OF HOPE

General Offering for the week of February 22, \$800.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday Tuesday February 24 - 8, Wednesday, February 25, Mass - 8

General Offering for the week of March 1, \$1,925.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday Tuesday March 3 - 5, Wednesday, March 4, Mass - 6

General Offering for the week of March 8, \$50.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday Tuesday March 10 - session not held, Wednesday, March 11, Mass - 8

General Offering for the week of March 15, \$425.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday Tuesday March 17 - 8, Wednesday, March 18, Mass - 9

THANK YOU, EVERYONE, for all the donations made to date on our building improvements. You are making change happen with your generosity. CELEBRATE the accomplishments!!!!!! Donations that cause change and growth are not always in cash; many thanks to everyone who donates time and talent, cooking, cleaning, transporting, calling, reminding, making copies, and so many other examples of donated help. Thank you.

DISHWASHER / APPLIANCE ROOM: MARCH:

Building Improvement Fund: MARCH: \$50.00 donated by Marcus 3-8-26, thank you Marcus. March 20, 2026 - Deanna Caputo and Jason Ramboz \$320.00, thank you both.

Exterior Building Improvement Summer, 2026 Fund: We are looking to raise \$11,000.00

HOT WATER TANK: \$100.00 by Katrina Lourdiane

Donations to the Building Improvements are still welcome as we have insulation, drywall, dryer vent, and finishing to do.

We are very grateful to the **Novant Community Benefit Fund (Robinson)**, a donor-advised fund of The Winston-Salem Foundation for a gift grant of \$500.00 we received at the beginning of March, 2026. Thank you **Dr. Elwood Robinson and Denise Robinson** for remembering the work of Ray Of Hope in this kind and very helpful way. We truly appreciate this gift.

**** Special Gifts made this week:** on 3-18-26 Brother made a donation to the Building Fund for \$350.00, thank you. As mentioned above, on 3-20-26 Deanna Caputo and Jason Ramboz made a \$320.00 donation to the Building Improvement Fund, thank you both.

**** Recent Special Gifts made in addition to offering plate gifts.** \$50.00 donated to the Building Fund by Marcus on 3-8-26, thank you Marcus. Thank you to Brother Benedict for a gift of \$350.00 received for the Building Fund on 3-8-26.

In the week of February 22 through March 1, we received a total of ****\$2,480.00**** including the following: Ed Askins donated \$340 to the Building Improvement Fund, thank you, Ed. Wayne and Glenn donated \$350.00 to the Building Improvement Fund, thank you both. Ian McLaughlin made a \$1,000.00 donation to the Building Improvement Fund, thank you Ian. Marcus made a \$100.00

To be added to our email list, fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject box.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Marcus Coppola - March 7

Brother - March 7

The single, and I suggest, the most effective way to help grow our Congregation at this time is to join the Music Ministry. I sincerely believe that every Person's participation in the Music Ministry will enhance every aspect of our service to people who are not in this room today but will want to participate as they witness the growth the ministry in worship music will bring. 2-6-26 Br. Benedict.

THIS HAS BEEN A WEEK of activity to give God thanks and praise over.

Electric repaired.

Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day, washing machine and dryer - MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE, we can't thank you enough. After Bible Enrichment, we noticed the Hot water tank malfunctioned at 10:30 p.m. Isaac's had it by Wednesday night.

Saturday morning, the intake pump on the boiler malfunctioned and had to be replaced.

Friday, the Council voted to welcome Marcus Coppola into Membership.

Sunday, March 22, 2026, 10:30 a.m. Women's History Week IV, 5th Sunday of Lent

Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment - The Book of Revelation

Wednesday, March 25, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass **The Annunciation of the Lord**

Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m. **Chapel Assistants change chapel to RED**

Thursday, March 26, please keep Christina in your prayers; she is having major surgery.

Friday, March 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m. *******Music Ministry Rehearsal*******Come and join the Music Ministry, all are welcome. No previous music experience is required.**

=====IT'S HERE!!!!=====

HOLY WEEK, 2026

Sunday, March 29, 2026, is Palm Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

****No Bible Enrichment Session planned for Tuesday, March 31
Tuesday, March 31, is Trans Visibility Day at Steele Memorial Library,
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

Wednesday, April 1, 2026, Noon ecumenical Mass during Holy Week

Thursday, April 2, 2026, 7:00 p.m. Holy Thursday -

**Friday, April 3, 2026, 7:00 a.m. Annual A.C.T.S. Good
Friday Celebration 7:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet 8:00 a.m.
Program - Pastor Andy Pollock - United Methodist
\$10.00**



**52nd Annual A.C.T.S.
Good Friday Celebration**

IT IS FRIDAY ...

Clarion Inn
Elmira-Riverview
760 E. Water St.
Elmira, NY 14901

Friday, April 3, 2026 *
7:00 am ~ Served Breakfast ~ \$10 per person
8:00 am ~ Program
Breakfast Buffet (After Program) \$10 per person
Reservations required for Breakfast & Buffet

ACTS
www.ACTSTT.org

Guest Sharer: Pastor Andy Pollock
Pastor Andy serves at multiple locations of Fresh Start Church including: Pine City, Miracle Mile, Watkins Glen, and online. He will share his passion relating to the phrase:
"It is Friday...But Sunday is coming"

* ACTS Good Friday event includes two breakfast options. We begin with a traditional early served breakfast. Others may enjoy a breakfast buffet after the program.
Please call Stephanie at 607-737-5280 Ext.207 prior to 5pm on Tuesday, March 31st to register for Breakfast, Program, & Buffet.
No fee to attend the program without a breakfast meal.

Friday, April 3, 2026, NOON CHAPEL ASSISTANTS CHAPEL TO BLACK

**Friday, April 3, 2026, 7:00 p.m. Sacrifice of the Cross, Good Friday
The Stations of the Cross**

Saturday, April 4, 2026 NOON CHAPEL ASSISTANTS DECORATE FOR THE VIGIL

Saturday, April 4, 2026, 7:45 p.m. Vigil of the Resurrection - Membership

No events scheduled for Sunday, April 5, 2026

April 24, 2026, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Council

Music Ministry Schedule: 2/27/26 through 4/5/26

Friday, March 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m. 6 of 6 before Holy Week	Final rehearsal for Holy Week We must rehearse songs that continue into the six weeks of the Season of the Resurrection. We will be singing all styles during this period.
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- May 10, Sunday, Mother's Day and Foundresses Day
- May 17, Sunday, Ascension Sunday
- May 24, Sunday Pentecost
- May 31, Trinity, Memorial Sunday
- June 6, Saturday, Pride Elmira
- June 7, Sunday, Corpus Christi - relicense Servants of the Eucharist
- June 13, Saturday, Pride Corning
- June 14, Sunday, 30th Ordination Anniversary
- June 20, Saturday, Juneteenth in Elmira E.O.P.
- June 21, Sunday, Father's Day, Juneteenth Celebration (19th), and 30th Ordination Anniversary
- June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY

There is a sign-up sheet on the table for desserts during the after-worship fellowship time, and we are seeking volunteers to sign up for desserts. Kaiden will text the volunteer during the week to remind them they have signed up to provide snacks that week.

=====



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Veronica: SAINTS: The Lord is with you!
ALL: And also with you!

Veronica: **This is our closing prayer.** We bless and praise you, God, for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and peace; (*+*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Kaiden Benedict: **We pray** Romans Chapter fifteen, verse thirteen together, saying:

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)

Kaiden Benedict: 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.

Katrina: Please rise as you are able for our final song, "Way Maker," available in the electronic Music Edition. The words are printed below. Please rise as you are able to sing "Way Maker."

LAST SONG:

WORDS ONLY: WAY MAKER Words and Music by Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu Way Maker

Verse 1

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

Chorus

(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are

Verse 2

You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You

Verse 3

You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

Tag

That is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are

Bridge

Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working

WAY MAKER Words and Music by Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu © 2016
Integrity Music. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI Song #7115744. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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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."

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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.

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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NRSVEUE and the NRSVEUE-CA

(NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE))

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ. Copyright Information: Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002.)

(New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (NRSVCE))

New Revised Standard Version Bible: Catholic Edition, copyright © 1989, 1993 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.)

https://catholicbibletalk.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/NCC-Catholic-Imprimatur-for-NRSVue_Press-Release.pdf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Imprimatur Granted for the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, Catholic Edition.

October 3, 2025

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has granted an imprimatur for the Catholic Edition of the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue) Bible translation. The NRSVue, Catholic Edition is now approved for publication and "permitted for private use and study by the Catholic faithful."

Dr. Hugh Page Jr., chair of the **NCC's Bible Translation and Utilization Committee (BTU)**, said, "I am delighted that the NRSVue, Catholic Edition has received the imprimatur from the USCCB. Such ensures even wider engagement of this update as well as the intellectual and spiritual riches contained therein. We are deeply grateful to the USCCB for its careful review and endorsement."

The text of the NRSVue, CE will be the same as the base text of the NRSVue for those books regarded as Scripture by both Catholics and Protestants. The Catholic Edition will include the Deuterocanonical books of the Old Testament in the Roman Catholic canonical order.

The NRSVue was released in 2021 as a major update to the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), published in 1989. The translation prioritized meticulous research and sound biblical scholarship to deliver the highest quality and most accurate English-language Bible translation. The NCC partnered with the Society of Biblical Literature to initiate the review and update of the text. For questions, contact Friendship Press at info@friendshippress.org.

It also confirms that there are no differences between the NRSVue and the NRSVue-CE except for the inclusion of the deuterocanonical books in the Catholic canonical order (a detail that was originally reported in the comments here on the blog).

NOTE FROM BROTHER BENEDICT: The National Council of Churches and Friendship Press are PROTESTANT, not Roman Catholic organizations.

OLD TESTAMENT NRSVUE	OLD TESTAMENT NRSVUE-CE
Genesis	Genesis
Exodus	Exodus
Leviticus	Leviticus
Numbers	Numbers
Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy
Joshua	Joshua
Judges	Judges
Ruth	Ruth
1 Samuel	1 Samuel
2 Samuel	2 Samuel
1 Kings	1 Kings
2 Kings	2 Kings
1 Chronicles	1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles	2 Chronicles
Ezra	Ezra
Nehemiah	Nehemiah
Esther	Tobit
Job	Judith
Psalms	Esther
Proverbs	1 Maccabees
Ecclesiastes	2 Maccabees
Song of Songs	Job
Isaiah	Psalms
Jeremiah	Proverbs
Lamentations	Ecclesiastes
Ezekiel	Song of Solomon
Daniel	Wisdom
Hosea	Sirach
Joel	Isaiah
Amos	Jeremiah
Obadiah	Lamentations
Jonah	Baruch
Micah	Ezekiel
Nahum	Daniel
Habakkuk	Hosea
Zephaniah	Joel
Haggai	Amos
Zechariah	Obadiah
Malachi	Jonah
APOCRYPHA - MORE HERE	Micah
Tobit	Nahum
Judith	Habakkuk
Greek Esther	Zephaniah
Wisdom of Solomon	Haggai

Sirach	Zechariah
Baruch	Malachi
Letter of Jeremiah	
Prayer of Azariah	
Susanna	
Bel and the Dragon	
1 Maccabees	
2 Maccabees	
1 Esdras	
Prayer of Manasseh	
Psalms 151	
3 Maccabees	
2 Esdras	
4 Maccabees	

[Statement of Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, “A Call to Conscience”](#)

[March 7, 2026](#)

Calling up the Draft. On March 10, Karoline Leavitt, the White House Secretary, stated there is no "current plan" for a draft, but also noted the administration "wisely keeps its options on the table" for Operation Epic Fury.

(Source: [https://www.military.com/daily-news/2026/03/11/could-us-bring-back-draft-who-would-be-called-first-and-who-qualifies.html#:~:text=Comments%20From%20the%20White%20House,\(Archives.gov\)](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2026/03/11/could-us-bring-back-draft-who-would-be-called-first-and-who-qualifies.html#:~:text=Comments%20From%20the%20White%20House,(Archives.gov)). See also **People.com:** <https://people.com/karoline-leavitt-says-trump-not-ruling-out-military-draft-amid-iran-war-11921874>)

The cost of the war for the first six days (3-14-26) is 11.3 billion dollars, yet healthcare cuts are far less to extend ACA subsidies.

Project 2025 Unitive Executive Branch

Lukewarm Church

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

Elmira Worship- Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery . Join us live on Zoom. 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, the way it used to be from 7:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. daily, 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 to pray, read, or visit The Blessed Sacrament. 1-607-280-0374 Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel, live on Skype and Facebook. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Recordings of most of our Worship events are on our Facebook page, to see [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/> Mobile-Friendly website version: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> 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)

