

**"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 3-30-25, The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday Year C, Women's History Wk. 5  
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:** Joshua 5:9-12 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 197

**Psalm:** 34:2-7 responsorial psalm in this bulletin

**Second Reading:** 2 Cor. 5:14-21 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 181

**Gospel:** Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament Pg. 78

**\*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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

**Leader – 1:** 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 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, Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. is a franchise location of the Body Of Christ, the Church. The Members and Friends are the working staff here today to facilitate this worship event. To participate fully, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship, and Music Supplement

3-30-25 Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday Women's History Month Week 5, Year C Page 3 of 41 available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, 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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). For people watching on the Internet, we recommend you have two Internet devices on. Set one device on Facebook Live to listen to the Music. Right-click on this link to access our [Facebook page](#). Open the Skype meeting on the second device to interact with us. Right-click on this Skype Link: <https://join.skype.com/qt6Y1PQvj04I>.

You do not need an account on Skype to "enter as a guest" when prompted. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

**Leader-2:** 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 some or all of the parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable.

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second half of this worship event. You need not be a member of this church or any church to receive Communion with us if you choose to. To the people watching on the Internet, to participate in Communion, please also 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)**



**Bell's 2<sup>nd</sup> ring will announce the start of the worship event.**

**Leader – 2:** (\*\* Reader, look up at the people and smile.\*\*)  
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)**

**Leader -2:** 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.

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

**June 1, 2024, was the TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.**

**Pastor:** Good Morning, **SAINTS**! 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:** The grace of the 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.**

**Pastor:** Welcome to your Spiritual Service Station and Faith Repair Shop. We promise to do our very best to help you worship God in Christ, with the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today is 3-30-25, The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday, Rose Color - Rejoice Sunday in Lent Year C, Women's History

**Wk. 5.** This is also the day before the International Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31st., which we will say more about later. **Holy Week is in two weeks.**

RED Martyr dry martyr, wet martyr. People are feeling crushed under the weight of massive firings across the United States caused by the new President and His Administration. We will have more to say on this during the Sermon today. \*\*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>)

Today, the theme is turning, repenting, starting afresh, so see if you can find this theme in today's readings.

**Pastor:** 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:** For You Are My God. G&P 612

**For You Are My God**

John Foley SJ

Refrain

For you are my God;  
you alone are my joy.  
Defend me, O Lord.

1. You give marvelous comrades to me;  
the faithful who dwell in your land.

Those who choose alien gods  
have chosen an alien band.

2. You are my portion and cup;  
it is you that I claim for my prize.

Your heritage is my delight,  
the lot you have given to me.

3. Glad are my heart and my soul;

securely my body shall rest.

For you will not leave me for dead,  
nor lead your beloved astray.

4. You show me the path for my life;  
in your presence the fullness of joy.  
To be at your right hand forever  
for me would be happiness always.

**For You Are My God.** G&P 612 Text based on Psalm 16. Text and music © 1970, John B. Foley, S.J. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. OCP Octavo/Bonus Music. Onelicense Song #81275 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

## + The Candle Of Hope

**Leader - 2:** Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our Faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Those viewing at home may light a special candle and bring it to your table. Now, everyone, please join me and recite these words of Jesus to celebrate the Truth they promise 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)

**Leader -2:** In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS and to extend a radical welcome to all people to worship with us. Our witness to God's unconditional love for everyone is as relevant today as in 1983. Here we are forty-one 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.

Therefore, at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we continue

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to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people. Scroll the page to see the panels on block 144.



These are the names on Block # 144

- Thom Bauer (1)
- David B. Fling (2)
- Michael Baker (3)
- Louis Onesta (4)
- Bill Bucholz (5)
- Chip Bollinger (6)
- Aaron Haynes (7)
- Gordon Meyer (8)

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

**Leader -2:** In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. We pray that those who feel left behind in the face of death experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones.

**(\*\*pause for silent prayer.\*\*)** 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 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>)

**SECOND SONG: Change Our Hearts.** Words and Music by Rory Cooney/Jeffrey Honoré © 1984, OCP. All rights reserved. Glory & Praise Second Edition 349 Onelicense Song #81517 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127



## **WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

### **+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.**

**Leader -2:** Please be seated. (wait) At this time we prepare our hearts to be renewed by receiving God in Word and Sacrament by confessing our sins to Christ in silent prayer.

(silent prayer)

L-3: Filled with the Holy Spirit we are called to live a life of transformation and change to show forth the Christ of God. We ask God to give us the courage to participate in our democratic process, taking responsibility to right the human errors of politics and war. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-3: With Christ living in us we are empowered to understand and act upon the will of God. We know war is avoidable, poverty can be lessened,



3-30-25 Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday Women's History Month Week 5, Year C Page 9 of 41  
opportunity for education and work can be more equitable, and charity can expand if people would show respect and awe at the wide spectrum in the gifts of humanity. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

L-3: With our baptism into Christ, we are called to go everywhere and welcome everyone into the Church of Jesus Christ. We have taken the path of least resistance too often, rather than face the cost of speaking up and out for the Gospel. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**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 God in any way. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

**Pastor:** May Almighty God have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen. 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.**

**Leader - 3:** The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together. Please rise as you are able as we sing "The Gloria."

**WORDS ONLY HERE. MUSIC SCROLL DOWN**

**"The Gloria"**

From "Music for Worship"

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 1:

You are the One God,  
Sovereign of the Universe,  
Only Holy God, we worship You,  
we give You thanks,  
we praise You for Your great glory!

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 2:

Lord, Jesus Christ;  
The Only Begotten Son of God  
You are 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.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.

We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 3:

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 God.  
In the Holy Spirit, in the Holy unity of God.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 4:

Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen.

From "Music for Worship" © Words and Music: Gaude! Liturgical Arts 7/25/19 - 1/21/24 Br.  
Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

Dedication: Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 40th Anniversary.

Dedication:  
 Ray Of Hope Church  
 Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.  
 40th Anniversary

# The Gloria

## "Music for Worship"

Words and Music  
 Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
 7/25/19-1/21/24  
 Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

**Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

4  
 peace to all peo - ple on earth — Glo - ry to God in the high - est —

8  
 We give you thanks — and praise. Al - le - lu - ia

10  
 We give you thanks — and praise.

12 **Verse 1**  
 You are the One God, Sov - ereign of the Un - i - verse, On - ly

16  
 Ho - ly God, — we wor - ship You, — we

18  
 give you thanks, we praise You for Your great glo - ry!

21 **Refrain**  
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo - ple on earth —

25  
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est — We give you thanks and

2

28

praise. Al-le-lu\_ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

31 **Verse 2**

Lord, Jes - us Christ; The On - ly Be - got - ten

34

Son of God, You are Lord God,

36

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; Have mer - cy on

41

us; You are sea-ted at the right hand of God; re - ceive our prayer.

46 **Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo - ple on\_ earth\_

50

Glo - ry to God in the high - est\_ We give you thanks\_ and

53

praise. Al-le-lu\_ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

56 **Verse 3**

For You a-lone are the Ho - ly One You a - lone are the Lord of all,

61

You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, With the Ho - ly

66

Spi-rit in the glo - ry of God. In the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the

71

Ho - ly un - i - ty of God.

75 Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, - and peace to all peo-ple on\_ earth\_

79

Glo-ry to God in the high-est\_ We give you thanks\_ and praise. Al-le-lu\_ia

83

We give you thanks and praise.

85 Verse 4: Amen

A\_ men\_ We  
We give You thanks and praise!  
Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

give You thanks and praise!

We give You thanks and praise!

give You thanks, We give You praise We give You thanks and praise

89

A - men

A - men. Al - le - lu - ia.

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You men. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PASTOR:** Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

**+ Opening Prayer**

**Leader-4:** The Lord is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Leader-4:** Together, we lift up our hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Leader-4:** 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**

**Leader-4:** 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**

**Reader:** (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

Our first reading is in the Book of Joshua chapter 5, verses 9-12. You will find this on page 197 in the front of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

Then YHWH said to Joshua, "Today I rolled away from you the reproach of Egypt." And the place is called Gilgal to this day. §

§ "*Gilgal* literally means "circle," as a circle of stones, but the word is a close cognate of the word for "rolling." The "reproach of Egypt" refers to the shame of being uncircumcised like Egyptians."

<sup>10</sup> During their encampment at Gilgal, the Children of Israel offered the Passover sacrifice at sunset on the fourteenth day of the month on the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the Passover they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. On that same day, <sup>12</sup> after the Passover on which they ate the unleavened cakes and roasted grain, the manna stopped falling for the Children of



**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

(Joshua 5:9-12 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 488-489). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 127. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

### + Psalm

**Reader:** (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Psalm today is 34 with selected verses two through seven. Our response today is; "I will bless the LORD at all times, praise the Lord."

**R: I will bless the LORD at all times, praise the Lord.**

<sup>2</sup> I will bless the LORD at all times,

God's praise always on my lips;

<sup>3</sup> in the LORD my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad.

**R: I will bless the LORD at all times, praise the Lord.**

<sup>4</sup> Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise God's name.

<sup>5</sup> I sought the LORD and was heard;

from all my terrors set free.

**R: I will bless the LORD at all times, praise the Lord.**

<sup>6</sup> Look towards God and be radiant;

let your faces not be abashed.

<sup>7</sup> When the poor cry out the LORD hears them

and rescues them from all their distress.

**R: I will bless the LORD at all times, praise the Lord.**

**Give praise to the Living God.**

**To God's Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.  
To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.  
Both now, and forever. Amen.**

Psalm 34:2-23 - In Praise of God's Goodness (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense Song #05159. All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Brother Shawn F. Benedict.

## + Second Reading

**Reader:** (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

Our second reading is found in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 5, verses 14 through 21. You will find this on page 181 in the back, the second testament of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

<sup>14</sup> The love of Christ overwhelms us whenever we reflect on this: that if one person has died for all, then all have died. <sup>15</sup> The reason Christ died for all was so that the living should **live no longer for themselves but for Christ**, who died and was raised to life for them. <sup>16</sup> And so from now on, we don't look on anyone in terms of mere human judgment. Even if we did once regard Christ in these terms, that is not how we know Christ now. <sup>17</sup> And for anyone who is in Christ, **there is a new creation**. The old order has passed away; **now everything is new!** <sup>18</sup> All of this is from God, who ransomed us through Christ—and made us ministers of that reconciliation. <sup>19</sup> **This means that through Christ, the world was fully reconciled again to God, who didn't hold our transgressions against us, but instead entrusted us with this message of reconciliation.** <sup>20</sup> This makes us **Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making the appeal directly through us. Therefore we implore you in Christ's name: **be reconciled to God.** <sup>21</sup> For our sake, God made the One who was without sin to be sin, so that by this means we might become the very holiness of God.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

(2 Corinthians 5:14-21 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 3069). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 753. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this

## + 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:** (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Gospel reading is on page 78 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 15, verses 1-2, 11-32.

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

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Reader:** A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**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.**

15 :1 Meanwhile, the tax collectors and the "sinners" were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, <sup>2</sup> at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, "This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!"

<sup>11</sup> He added, "A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to their father, 'Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.' So the father divided up the property between them. <sup>13</sup> Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went off to a distant land. Here he squandered all his money on loose living. <sup>14</sup> "After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the land, and the son was in great need. <sup>15</sup> So he went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. <sup>16</sup> The son was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything. <sup>17</sup> Coming to his senses at last, he said, 'How many hired hands at my father's house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! <sup>18</sup> I'll quit and go back home and say, "I've sinned against God and against you; <sup>19</sup> I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup> With that, the younger son set off for home. "While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> The son said to him, 'I've sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.' <sup>22</sup> But his father said to one of the workers, 'Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Take the calf we've been fattening and butcher it. Let's eat and celebrate! <sup>24</sup> This son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found!' And the celebration began. <sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile the elder son had been out in the field. As he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the workers and asked what was happening. <sup>27</sup> The worker answered, 'Your brother is home, and the

fatted calf has been killed because your father has him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> "The son got angry at this and refused to go in to the party, but his father came out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> The older son replied, 'Look! For years now I've done every single thing you asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But then this son of yours comes home after going through your money with prostitutes, and you kill the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> " 'But my child!' the father said. 'You're with me always, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This brother of yours was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found.'"

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

(Luke 15:1,11-32 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 2818-2820). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 690. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

## 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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sds the". The second staff starts at measure 5 and includes the lyrics: "Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!". The third staff starts at measure 9 and includes the lyrics: "You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our". The fourth staff starts at measure 13 and includes the lyrics: "joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!". The fifth staff starts at measure 17 and includes the lyrics: "For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!".

**+ Sermon**  
**NOTES**



**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me has not been in vain. 1 Cor. 5:10**

REMINDER of this great resource that is available for your private study: \*\*\* Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord <https://walvoord.com/series/328>

Last week, the readings related to the Dispensation of the Law. I thought of calling these readings a dispensation of circumcision of the heart. Or the circumcision of our will and our choices.

**READ** Saint John Chrysostom (c.347-407) was Ordained a deacon in 381 at 34 years old, a priest in 386, and the Patriarch of Constantinople in 397.

Our second reading is found in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 5, verses 14 through 21. You will find this on page 181 in the back, the second testament of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

<sup>14</sup> The love of Christ overwhelms us whenever we reflect on this: that if one person has died for all, then all have died. <sup>15</sup> The reason Christ died for all was so that the living should **live no longer for themselves but for Christ**, who died and was raised to life for them. <sup>16</sup> And so from now on, we don't look on anyone in terms of mere human judgment. Even if we did once regard Christ in these terms, that is not how we know Christ now. <sup>17</sup> And for anyone who is in Christ, **there is a new creation**. The old order has passed away; **now everything is new!** <sup>18</sup> All of this is from God, who ransomed us through Christ—and made us ministers of that reconciliation. <sup>19</sup> **This means that**

through Christ, the world was fully reconciled again to God, who didn't hold our transgressions against us, but instead entrusted us with this message of reconciliation.<sup>20</sup> This makes us Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making the appeal directly through us. Therefore we implore you in Christ's name: be reconciled to God.<sup>21</sup> For our sake, God made the One who was without sin to be sin, so that by this means we might become the very holiness of God.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!  
**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

(2 Corinthians 5:14-21 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 3069). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 753. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

Women's History <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

Here is a good article on the Pink Triangle:

<https://www.manchesterpride.com/reclaiming-the-pink-triangle>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Transgender\\_Day\\_of\\_Visibility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Transgender_Day_of_Visibility)

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=transgender%20day%20of%20visibility%202025>

**\*\*\* 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>

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\*\*\*\*\*OPEN MICROPHONE \*\*\*\*\*

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**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Lisa Frost on Violin, Br. Benedict on Piano. **Is There Any Way? Words and Music by Walter Hawkins.** © 1985 Bud John Music, Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI Song # 620393. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152



**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Brother: PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:** \*\* Wayne Harris has started an Intercessory Prayer book. See Wayne to add names or situations to the list. Heather Austin reports she is healing very well from her surgery, Henrietta Bower, Michael Austin, Ruth Goyette, Glenn Rathbun's hands are healing very well, Annie Houser and Gary Davis are also reporting they are healing very nicely, Ed Askins, Phillipa Askins, Marty Grinolds, Cheryl Allen reports she is grateful for our prayers and she is very pleased with how well she has been this year, Louisa Lourdiane, the Baptist community of Elmira, the people of the Northside of Syracuse are facing the aftermath of a huge fire at the former Mother House of the Sisters of St. Francis where Mother Cope received her education - there were hopes for new apartments for the elderly at the building, Pope Francis, Debbie Emerson, Ann Devillers, William Burns, Joe Cost, Earl Courtney, Ellanna Joe Adams, Kaiden Benedict, John McLaughlin, Ian McLaughlin, the young women who are having their access to education taken away all our the world, Trans Service Members in the United States Armed Forces, Trans youth and are being denied continuation of medical treatments by our government.

Nettie Pirozzolo while she is in comfort care. We prayed for a peaceful death for Michael's Aunt Mary and the prayers were granted. We now have been asked to pray for her children, grandchildren and her very large family as they find the way forward. Michael's stepfather, Larry Chalfant, is still struggling with many health issues, and he will be starting to receive in-home aide services. We also want to remember the family of Qua'Ron Marquis, Faison - Veronica's second cousin as they also process the loss of him and the loss of his future. Also, in our prayer requests we have heard from people who have lost






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

**Leader:** Worship is our primary activity as a church. We are grateful for all the people over these last forty-one years of ministry who have given help and assistance so that Ray Of Hope is here in this new year of 2025. Thank you to everyone who has contributed with your gifts "seen and unseen." Your giving has been exemplary and extraordinary; 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 QRCode , 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."

**OFFERTORY SONG: Let All That Is Within Me** by Melvin Harrell © 1963 Gospel Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI Song # 2841616 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**Leader - 3:** (\*\*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 with their skills, prayers, talents, and other ways. We bless you for those who could not give at this time

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and pray that all their needs will be met. We dedicate all this to the Name of Jesus, Amen.

(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.**

**Leader 4:** Please set down your Bread. For those 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.

**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.**

**Leader 4:** Please set down your cup.

**Pastor:** 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**

**Leader - 3:** 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**

**Leader - 1:** You may relax your arms and hands.

**+ 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**

**Leader 3:** 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



## 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.

**Leader - 2:** 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! \_\_\_\_

**Leader 4:** Please open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. 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.**

### **PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.**

**Veronica:** 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 upon a prayer in a Prayer Book at 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 that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment. Still, circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

### **+ Sign Of Peace**

**Leader-1:** The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Leader-1:** 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.

**Leader-1:** Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of

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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.

**COMMUNION SONG:** Earthen Vessels Words and Music by John Foley, SJ. Text based on 2 Cor 4:6-7; 1 Cor 1:27-29. Text and music © 1975, John B. Foley, S.J. and OCP. Glory and Praise Second Edition #584 Onelicense Song #80680 All rights reserved. Used with permission. Onelicense #81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

**TEXT ONLY**

**Earthen Vessels Words and Music by John Foley, SJ.**

Refrain

We hold a treasure, not made of gold,  
in earthen vessels, wealth untold;  
one treasure only: the Lord, the Christ,  
in earthen vessels.

1. Light has shone in our darkness:  
God has shone in our heart  
with the light of the glory of Jesus, the Lord.
2. God has chosen the lowly  
who are small in this world;  
in this weakness is glory in Jesus, the Lord.

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## Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2025

I want to thank you all for your donations for the month of February as we endeavor to complete the work that God has given us here. If any of you ever have any questions that come up concerning the finances, please, always feel free to contact me. My cell number is 607-346-4240.

**General Fund** opening balance at the beginning of February was \$1,263.71. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$3,049.82. This included special donations of \$60.00 towards Appointed Pastor's self-employment tax. Pastoral compensation of \$2,060.00 was paid. The following payments were made from this account: Verizon \$62.47, I was reimbursed \$26.49 for grape juice purchase, \$143.34 was transferred to savings towards Appointed Pastor's self-employment tax and \$32.82 came out of the account for Paypal charges. After these were paid the balance of this account at the end of the month was \$1,988.41.

**Building Fund** opening balance was \$1,374.29. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$648.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00, Lisa Frost \$330.00 towards the annual cellular fire alarm invoice and Wayne and Glenn \$100.00. I transferred \$1,256.27 from the Building Improvement fund. Bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$56.77, electric \$276.92, gas bill \$253.00, Liability Insurance \$275.60, Accessibility Solutions (for elevator maintenance)

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\$174.81, Fire Alarm Service for the annual basic fire alarm monitoring \$330.00 and Maintenance Concepts \$1,260.02 for outside light wiring, doorbell installation and interior electric repairs. The ending balance of this fund was \$1,481.44.

**Building Improvement Fund** opening balance on this account was \$1,670.63. Ian and Christina donated \$450.00. I transferred \$1,256.27. The ending balance on the account is \$864.36.

**Savings (Council) Account** opening balance \$526.99. I transferred \$143.34 for Appointed Pastor Self Employment tax to this account. 5 Star bank took \$5.00 out for a paper statement fee, which I have now changed to all electronic statements. The ending balance is \$665.33.

There were no undeposited funds for February.

Balances in the cash accounts as of today, March 27, 2025:

General fund: \$2,362.26, Building Fund: \$1,802.82, Building Improvement fund: \$864.36 and the Savings (Council) Account: \$688.65, which includes \$250.00 of Appointed Pastor SE tax which will be paid quarterly before it's due date of April 15th.

Bills I have received: City of Elmira Sanitation fee is \$365.00. Regular bills coming due first week of April out of the Building Fund: Gas bill-\$253.00, Electric bill-\$276.92, Liability Insurance-\$275.60. I'm expecting a bill from the Fire Alarm Service company for \$330.00 for the cellular fee. Lisa had donated that earlier and I have saved it for this coming bill.

veeflo@aol.com <veeflo@aol.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 12:14:42 PM EST

**Subject:** New area of concern that has surfaced regarding website

Dear Members and Friends, to keep you informed, we wanted to share with you that we have been notified by an organization called PicRights International Inc. that we alleged used images that were copyrighted on our website in 2021. This is a new area of concerns that we are facing as Pic Rights operates on behalf of the Associated Press and EPA photographers. We are being told that this is a copyright violation and were initially fined a total of \$1,875 for 5 images. The images used were all linked to an article that was posted for educational and religious education purposes. They in essence were part of the article.

Although we believe all rules of the Fair Use Act were applied and materials well sourced on our website, I was told that those rules of engagement do not apply to the use of these images on our website. Br. Benedict has worked tirelessly and continues to do so to ensure everything we do is in compliance and we thank him for all the hours he has donated to this.

The council is 100% committed to getting clarification on what the rules of engagement are and putting into place compliance with those rules if indeed they are not what we believe to be the case so this is not a recurring issue. We have spoken with a friend of the church who provided us with some attorneys that specialize in Intellectual property and copyright laws. We are moving forward with contacting an attorney to represent us.

We were able to negotiate an offer with PicRights due to our status as a Not for Profit Religious Corporation as well as the impact such a stiff fee would have on our church finances. The reduced fee is a 60% reduction to \$750. We were given a due date of February 14, 2025 to take advantage of the negotiated rate. We will be speaking with an attorney prior to that time to see if this is the best course of action for us at this time and how to proceed in the future.

I am bringing this to the attention of all our members and friends to first make you aware of the concern. Secondly, if you would like to assist with website maintenance expenses, please contact our treasurer Ed Askins. Any amount of donation would be beneficial. Also, if you know anyone who has copyright law experience that could help us moving forward, please let any council member know. We will keep you informed of any updated developments.

As always, we thank you for your generosity and support as we endeavor to do God's work together and give God glory and praise.

Christ Peace be with you,  
Veronica Floyd, Moderator Ray Of Hope

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

**General Offering** for the week of March 2 \$1,475.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday  
No Noon Mass - Ash Wednesday

**General Offering** for the week of March 9 \$501.00 Attendance 8 on Sunday  
Wednesday, March 12, Attendance 8

**General Offering** for the week of March 16 \$20.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday  
Wednesday, March 16, Attendance 9

**General Offering** for the week of March 23 \$721.45 Attendance 10 on Sunday  
Wednesday, March 16, Attendance 7

**\*\* Special Gifts made this week:** Brother made a \$648.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you.

**\*\* Special Gifts made in addition to offering plate gifts made recently\*\***

Thank you, Katrina for making two Membership Books and continuing working on the psalms for our use in worship. Thank you Wayne and Glenn for a \$200.00 donation to the Building Fund, and paper products for social hour and for the restroom.

We are always very grateful to everyone who helps around the Monastery; Christina, Katrina and others who stop in and lend a hand. Thank you to everyone who bakes for our social hours.

**\*\* We received a \$500.00 gift from the Novant Community Benefit Fund (Robinson), a donor-advised fund of The Winston-Salem Foundation. The advisor donors are Dr. Elwood and Denise Robinson, Veronica Floyd's sister and brother-in-law. We thank the Robinson's for their friendship, support, prayers and participation in the life and mission of Ray Of Hope Church through the years.**

Thank you, Katrina for a \$60.00 donation to the Pastor SE Tax line in the Budget.

Brother Benedict donated \$648.00 to the Building Fund. Thank you, Brother.

Wayne and Glenn donated \$100.00 to the Building Fund. Thank you, Wayne and Glenn.

Thank you everyone who has made or purchased treats for our social times including Wayne, Glenn, Christina, Kaiden, Lisa, Katrina, Gary and Annie, Ruth, and Ed.

Thank you, Katrina for assisting with the research on the copyright issues, and helping in the Monastery with cleaning, cooking, running errands, spending many hours assisting with typing and clerical skills.

**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](mailto:rayofhopechurch@aol.com) and write "email list" in the Subject box.**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**

Tuesday March 25 Bible Enrichment 7:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Wednesday March 26 Noon Mass

Thursday March 27 6:30 p.m. Council

Inquiries Class #1 Friday March 14, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Statement of Purpose, Statement of Faith

Inquiries Class #2 Friday March 21, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Statement of Purpose, Statement of Faith

Inquiries Class #3 Friday March 28, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Worship and Common Threads (Liturgical Calendar +)

March 27, 2025 Council Meeting 6:30 PM.

**Inquiries Class #4 Friday April 4, 2025** 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Polity & Practice

Inquiries Class #5 Friday April 11, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

Inquiries Class #6 Friday April 25, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

**APRIL COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE GREAT VIGIL MEMBERSHIP SO, APRIL 10** 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

**APRIL 13**, 2025 Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m. HOLY WEEK

**APRIL 17**, 2025 HOLY THURSDAY 7:00 p.m.

**APRIL 18**, 2025 PASSION FRIDAY 7:00 p.m.

**APRIL 19**, 2025 GREAT VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OUR EASTER EVENT and the RITE OF MEMBERSHIP

May 11, Sunday Mother's Day and Foundresses Day

June 1, Sunday Ascension Sunday

June 7, Saturday, Pride Elmira

June 8, Sunday Pentecost

June 14, Saturday, Pride Corning

June 15, Sunday, Father's Day and 29th Ordination Anniversary

June 22, Sunday Juneteenth Celebration (19th)

June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Leader - 2:** **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Leader - 2:** 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**

**Leader - 2:** 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)

**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.**

**ENDING 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.

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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."



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

**Made by you and for you, because we are**

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

## 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](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.

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Visit us online:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Mobile-Friendly website version: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> Face book Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#). Our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs](http://www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs)

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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)

