

**"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 3-8-26, Lent WK III, Women's History Month Wk II, 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:** Exodus 17:1-7 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 64

**Psalm:** Psalm 95 selected verses - responsorial in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** Romans 5:1-11 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 155

**Gospel:** John 4:5-15, 19B-26, 39A, 40-42 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament  
page 94

**\*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**

**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 8, 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](http://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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm)) ([www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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 8, 2026, Lent Wk III, and the second 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.



**Ian McLaughlin:** 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.**

**Ian McLaughlin:** Our first song today is "Come To Me" in the green Glory and Praise hymnals, number 629, and in the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able for our first song, "Come To Me."

**FIRST SONG: Come to Me.** Words and Music by Gregory Norbet Tune: Text based on Matthew 11:28–30; Psalm 23. Original text and music: Gregory Norbet, OSB; © 1971, 1994 (revised text), The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise Second Edition, number 629, GIA. Used with permission. Onelicense Song #81269 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 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 number181.



These are the names on Block # 181

- Jay Dee Basden (1)
- Mel Freeland (2)
- Steve Gomes (3)
- Dennis T. (4)
- Richard Martin (5)
- Harold (6)
- Billy (7)
- Eugene Josephson (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>)

**Katrina Lourdiane:** Our second song is "Goodness of God" in the Electronic Music Edition. The words are also below. Please rise as you are able to sing, "Goodness of God."

**Second Song:** Goodness Of God Words and Music by Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding, and Brian Johnson.

### Verse 1

I love You Lord  
Oh Your mercy never fails me  
All my days  
I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
I will sing of the goodness of God

### Chorus

All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God

### Verse 2

I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In darkest night  
You are close like no other  
I've known You as a father  
I've known You as a friend  
I have lived in the goodness of God

### Bridge

Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
With my life laid down

I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me

**Goodness Of God.** Words and Music by Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding and Brian Johnson.

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## 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.\*\*\***)

**Marcus:** Loving, Creating, and Eternal God, all life in the Universe gives You praise and glory. You invite us to see beyond ourselves and to experience life's energy and flow. When we become self-absorbed, we close ourselves to seeing your beauty in all its forms. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Marcus:** Christ Jesus, you call us to present the Love of God to everyone we meet. The stress of society, with its conflicting ideas, agendas, and systems, can dim our resolve to speak of your presence among us. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Marcus:** Holy Spirit, you desire to help us understand our circumstances and

the world system we live in. You desire to open our minds to a fresh understanding of the Sacred Scriptures, the Bible. Society would have us prioritizing everything above time to pray, time dedicated to reading the Word, and all the resources we have available. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Ian McLaughlin:** 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.**

**Ian McLaughlin:** 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.**

**Ian McLaughlin:** 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.

**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 Book of Exodus, chapter 17, verses 1-7. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 64. Here begins the reading:

### **Water from the Rock**

**17** From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah<sup>[a]</sup> and Meribah,<sup>[b]</sup> because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

#### **Footnotes**

a. [17.7](#) That is, *test*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+17%3A1-7&version=NRSVUE> )

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## + Psalm:

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

The Psalm today is number 95, with a responsorial verse. The response today is "**O Lord, open our hearts to hear your voice.**"

**Response: O Lord, open our hearts to hear your voice.**

<sup>1</sup> Come, ring out our joy to the LORD;

hail the rock who saves us.

<sup>2</sup> Let us come before God, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord.

**Response: O Lord, open our hearts to hear your voice.**

<sup>6</sup> Come in; let us bow and bend low;

let us kneel before the God who made us

<sup>7</sup> for this is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

**Response: O Lord, open our hearts to hear your voice.**

O that today you would listen to God's voice!

<sup>8</sup> "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert

<sup>9</sup> when your ancestors put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.

**Response: O Lord, open our hearts to hear your voice.**

**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 95. Come, ring out your joy to the Lord. (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Psalm (94)95 Onelicense Song #01359. All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Response verse and Doxology by Brother Shawn F. Benedict.

### + Second Reading

**Veronica Floyd:** \*\*\*\* 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 5, verses 1-11. Again, this is the NRSV Updated Edition of © 2021 (See the citation below the reading.). The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 155 in the second testament. Two weeks ago we read this same chapter, Romans 5, beginning at verse 12 through 21 focusing on the Doctrine of Universal Salvation. Notice our reading today is the first eleven verses before verse 12. Therefore, we may listen to understand how these verses are an introduction to verses 12-21. Here begins the reading:

### Results of Justification

**5** Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we<sup>[a]</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access<sup>[b]</sup> to this grace in which we stand, and we<sup>[c]</sup> boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we<sup>[d]</sup> also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the

wrath of God.<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. 5.1 Other ancient authorities read *let us*
- b. 5.2 Other ancient authorities add *by faith*
- c. 5.2 Or *let us*
- d. 5.3 Or *let us*
- e. 5.9 Gk *the wrath*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5%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!

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is John, chapter 4, verses 5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021 (See the citation below the reading.). The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 93 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.**

<sup>5</sup> Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about Noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew,

ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew **the gift of God** and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir,<sup>[b]</sup> you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but **those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.**" <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir,<sup>[c]</sup> give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir,<sup>[d]</sup> I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you<sup>[e]</sup> say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you<sup>[f]</sup> will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You<sup>[g]</sup> worship what you<sup>[h]</sup> do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But **the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,** for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> **God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.**" <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "**I am he,<sup>[i]</sup> the one who is speaking to you.**"

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. [4.9](#) Other ancient authorities lack this sentence
- b. [4.11](#) Or *Lord*
- c. [4.15](#) Or *Lord*
- d. [4.19](#) Or *Lord*
- e. [4.20](#) The Greek word for *you* is plural
- f. [4.21](#) The Greek word for *you* is plural
- g. [4.22](#) The Greek word for *you* is plural
- h. [4.22](#) The Greek word for *you* is plural
- i. [4.26](#) Gk *I am*
- j. [4.29](#) Or *the Christ*
- k. [4.36](#) Or . . . *the fields are already ripe for harvesting. The reaper is receiving*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+4%3A5-42&version=NRSVUE> )

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**(NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE))**

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## **Gospel Acclamation**

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sds the  
Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!  
You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our  
joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!  
For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

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### + 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 <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves (workers, servants, assistants) for Jesus's sake. <sup>6</sup> 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 ===3-8-26=====

Two weeks ago, Universal Salvation

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

=====READINGS=====

I looked back to 2023 to see what we looked at with these readings. I find most of the material is still very relevant. Here is much of that material with some updates.

Last week I mentioned we had progressed through four of eight or nine dispensations in the Bible. The fourth dispensation is the Age of Promise, and Abraham is the key figure.

What is a "dispensation" in Dispensational Theology? The primary source I will use for this is our Scofield, III Reference Bible, with the Holy Bible, New King James Version © 2002 by Oxford University Press, Inc., page 4; Summary: Dispensations of the Bible. "A dispensation is a period during which man is tested in respect to his obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God. Three important concepts are implied in this definition:

- (1) a *deposit* of divine revelation concerning God's will, embodying what God requires of man as to his conduct;
- (2) man's *stewardship* of this divine revelation, in which he is responsible to obey it; and
- (3) a *time-period*, often called an "age," during which this divine revelation is dominant in the testing of man's obedience to God." (end of quote from page 4)

There is another very good summary on page 22 titled: "Divine Dealing With The Human Race."

The summary for the Dispensation of Promise, the fourth dispensation, we discussed last week is on page 23.

The summary for the fifth one, the Dispensation of Law is on page 113.

We mentioned the eight Covenants as another way to outline the Bible and there are two excellent summaries on pages 6, and 1674.

We use these external sources so the attendees at Ray Of Hope Church (LGBTQSIANE2ss+) may have confidence we are not making up a Theology as we go along.

There are many important themes in today's readings. Any one particular one I choose to talk about is leaving many others on the sidelines. However, choose I must.

=====

The HOLY SPIRIT IS THE GIFT OF GOD referred to in these readings.

Five Verses where the Holy Spirit is referred to as Water:

**Isaiah 44:3** For I will pour water on those who are thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;

**John 4:14** ".. but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give them will never thirst. But the the water I shall give them will become in them a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Connecting with the following verses, the Holy Spirit is metaphorically connected to the living waters.

**John 7:37-39** On the last day, that great day of the feast, (vs. 2 Feast of Tabernalces) Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let them come to me and drink. Those who believe in Me, as Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But Jesus spoke concerning the Holy Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Here is the same Scripture citation from The Inclusive Bible:

<sup>37</sup> On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted, "Any who are thirsty, let them come to me and drink!" <sup>38</sup> Those who believe in me, as the scripture says,  
'From their innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

<sup>39</sup> Here Jesus was referring to the Spirit, which those who came to believe were to receive—though she had not yet been given, since Jesus had not been glorified. <sup>40</sup> Several people in the crowd who had heard the words of Jesus began to say, "This must be the Prophet." <sup>41</sup> But others were saying, "He's the Messiah." Still others said, "Surely the Messiah is not to come from Galilee?" <sup>42</sup> Doesn't scripture say that the Messiah, being of

David's lineage, is to come from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?"<sup>43</sup> So the people were sharply divided over this.<sup>44</sup> Some of them even wanted to arrest Jesus. However, no one laid hands on him.

(John 7:37-44. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (p. 700 location 43698) Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 704. 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.)

In the prayers for the Feast of Tabernacles found in the Book of Nehemiah, there are several references to the priests remembering God's provision for them when Moses struck the rock and God gave them water. (Exodus 17:6) "You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them." (Neh 9:15)

FLOWING WATERS CONNECTED to FEAST OF TABERNACLES before.  
AND IN

1 Corinthians 10:4 Paul explains it was always from Christ that the water sprung: "For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ." So, in the Temple Jesus clearly was identifying Himself in Exodus, in the Feast of Tabernacles, and in the future of HIS CHURCH THAT HE WOULD BUILD upon Himself as the chief cornerstone, and He would provide the HOLY SPIRIT flowing out of his own HEART.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit." (NKJV)

Matt 16:18 and upon this rock I will build my church. Christ and out of his heart would flow the Holy Spirit to ANYONE. See above, Christ is the Rock.

1Corinthians 10:4.

<https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/holy-spirit-as-living-water-st-cyril-of-jerusalem/>

*This wonderful meditation on the Holy Spirit as living water, so called by Jesus in his conversation with the Samaritan woman, is taken from a catechetical instruction by St. Cyril of Jerusalem who was bishop of Jerusalem around the year 360 AD.*

The water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of living water, welling up into eternal life. This is a new kind of water, a living, leaping water, welling up for those who are worthy. But why did Christ call the grace of the Spirit water? Because all things are dependent on water; plants and animals have their origin in water. Water comes down from heaven as rain, and although it is always the same in itself, it produces many different effects, one in the palm tree, another in the vine, and so on throughout the whole of creation. It does not come down, now as one thing, now as another, but while remaining essentially the same, it adapts itself to the needs of every creature that receives it.

In the same way, the Holy Spirit, whose nature is always the same, simple and indivisible, apportions grace to each man as he wills. Like a dry tree which puts forth shoots when watered, the soul bears the fruit of holiness when repentance has made it worthy of receiving the Holy Spirit. Although the Spirit never changes, the effects of his action, by the will of God and in the name of Christ, are both many and marvelous. The Spirit makes one man a teacher of divine truth, inspires another to prophesy, gives another the power of casting out devils, enables another to interpret holy Scripture. The Spirit strengthens one man's self-control, shows another how to help the poor, teaches another to fast and lead a life of asceticism, makes another oblivious to the needs of the body, trains another for martyrdom. His action is different in different people, but the Spirit himself is always the same. In each person, Scripture says, the Spirit reveals his presence in a particular way for the common good.

The Spirit comes gently and makes himself known by his fragrance. He is not felt as a burden, for he is light, very light. Rays of light and

knowledge stream before him as he approaches. The Spirit comes with the tenderness of a true friend and protector to save, to heal, to teach, to counsel, to strengthen, to console. The Spirit comes to enlighten the mind first of the one who receives him, and then, through him, the minds of others as well.

As light strikes the eyes of a man who comes out of darkness into the sunshine and enables him to see clearly things he could not discern before, so light floods the soul of the man counted worthy of receiving the Holy Spirit and enables him to see things beyond the range of human vision, thing hitherto undreamed of.

*This meditation on the Holy Spirit as living water from the Catechetical Oration of St. Cyril of Jerusalem (Cat. 16 De Spiritu Sancto 1, 11-12, 16: PG 33, 931-935, 939-942) is used in the Roman Liturgy's office of Readings for Monday of the 7<sup>th</sup> week of Easter, as a reflection to prepare us for the great Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.*

St. Cyril of Jerusalem was born just about the time the Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire (313 AD) and became bishop of the Holy City of David about 349AD. St. Cyril was banished from his Jerusalem see a total of three times for his bold proclamation of faith in Christ's full divinity during a time when many bishops and emperors favored various forms of the Arian heresy.

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem is one of the most important sources we have for how the church celebrated the liturgy and sacraments during the first few decades after the legalization of Christianity. In his famous 24 lectures commonly known as the Jerusalem Catecheses, Saint Cyril instructs new Christians in the days immediately before and after their initiation into the life of the Church at the Easter Vigil. In these catechetical instructions, which are the only documents by St. Cyril to survive, we find a very strong insistence on the value and efficacy of the sacrament of baptism, as well as a heavy emphasis on the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the sacrament of the Eucharist. St. Cyril of Jerusalem is considered one of the Early Church Fathers and is also numbered among the Doctors of the Catholic Church. St. Cyril of Jerusalem died about 386 AD, shortly after the First Council of Constantinople, which completed the

Creed often known as the Nicene Creed. (bio by Dr. Italy)

=====

So if the Holy Spirit is our source of water, for refreshment and power to do the Lord's work, we should draw our inspiration for all of our ideas.

How do you know you are at a

Restaurant –

Music Store –

Clothing Store –

Library –

Hospital –

School –

Art Museum –

Fast Food –

Church –

How have we improved our presentation?

paperless programs and meetings, improved broadcast capabilities, updating our Music choices, securing copyright licenses for print and broadcast, and making better use of computers to increase the ability to webcast. What else?

In the building, we recently updated the electric system (2023). Our utilities are more expensive than ever before. Rather than pay more for candles, we are making them ourselves (2023). Also, we are converting wax candles to electric ones. In 2023, the Sanctuary Light of Presence in the window - 3-12-26. This year, 2026, Marcus designed a new Candle of Hope, and we commissioned it on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, which we celebrated on 1-18-26.

Marcus has the Eucharistic Candle of Presence and is converting that to electric as of this week.

Painted the walls, took out the shag rug, painted the floors, painted the entrance way, worked on the foundation, and painted the doors (2023).

What else comes to mind?

Music Ministry

These are all examples of how the Holy Spirit, the Living Water of Christ the Rock, continues to inspire us to work together to ensure we take our place in the City, with real property, a real presence, and a dedicated space for Christ's purpose. So, with the eyes of Faith wide opened, let's review the second reading, looking for the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, the Living Water, coming from Christ to live within us.

Romans 5: 1-11 (NRSVUE)

## Results of Justification

**5** Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we<sup>[a]</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access<sup>[b]</sup> to this grace in which we stand, and we<sup>[c]</sup> boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.<sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we<sup>[d]</sup> also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,<sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,<sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.<sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.<sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.<sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.<sup>[e]</sup><sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.<sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even

boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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

Center for Human Rights in Iran February 22, 2023

[Iran: Scores Blinded as Security Forces Aim Guns at Protesters' Eyes](#)

*Protesters: "We Aren't Afraid of the Darkness"*

"In their violent drive to crush the anti-state protests that have roiled Iran over the last five months, Islamic Republic security forces have shot scores of young protesters directly in the eyes, resulting in the loss of sight in one or both eyes in numerous individuals.

So far, 26 people (names below) have made their visual-impairment public, while many others have chosen to remain silent out of fear of state reprisals, the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) has learned.

Many protesters fear treatment in hospitals, which are patrolled by security forces, and there have also been consistent [reports](#) for months that wounded protesters have been denied treatment or arrested after treatment. [Doctors tending to the wounded](#) have also been arrested by Islamic Republic security forces."

MARCH 10, 2023

[Teachers Across Iran Protest Government's Inaction on School Gas Attacks](#)

**Government Dithers While Thousands of Schoolgirls Sickened**

"Amid ongoing [poison gas attacks reported at girls' schools](#) in dozens of cities in Iran, the [Coordinating Council of the Iranian Teachers Trade Association](#) (CCITTA) [held](#) nationwide protests in Iran on March 7, 2023, demanding protection for children's access to education.

"The authorities and perpetrators involved in these incidents must know that students are the teachers' red line," warned the teachers' association in its call for protests. A final [resolution](#) was read aloud at the protests."

**3-1-26 war with the Islamic Republic of IRAN 1979**

[Timeline: A Modern History of Iran](#)

[Politics](#) Feb 11, 2010 8:51 PM EST

**Women's History Month has been celebrated since 1995. The month is set aside to honor, acknowledge, and study the accomplishments of women throughout the history of America.**

I encourage everyone to explore these websites fully

**NWHA National Women's History Alliance**

**Theme: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future**

\* \* \* \* \* <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/3d-flip-book/2026-wh-magazine/> \* \* \* \* \*

**Smithsonian American Women's History Museum**

Underline the "We Do Declare: Women's Voices on Independence" (<https://womenshistory.si.edu/we-do-declare>)

MARCH 7 - Calendar of A History of Injustice.

<https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/mar/7> BLOODY SUNDAY

MARCH 8 - Calendar of A History of Injustice.

<https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/mar/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>

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

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**INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

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

**Katrina:** 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.**

**Katrina:** We pray for all who are in danger because of warfare around them, especially the children, the elderly, those in hospitals, nursing centers, and schools that the weapons of war have leveled. We pray to the Lord,

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Kaiden:** 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 understand the global crisis of approximately 304 million who are migrating. We pray to the Lord,

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Kaiden:** We pray for people who have lost access to a home or an apartment, especially those 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.**

**Kaiden:** 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.**

**Ian:** 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.**

**Ian:** 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.**

**Ian:** 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: "Jesus Name Above All Names." The music is available in the electronic Music Edition, and the words are below. Please sing along as we set the Table of the Lord.

**OFFERTORY SONG TEXT ONLY: Jesus Name Above All Names words and music by Naida Hearn**

**Verse 1**

Jesus, name above all names,  
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us.  
Blessed Redeemer, living Word.

**Verse 2**

Jesus, loving Shepherd,  
Vine of the branches, Son of God.  
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor,  
Lord of the Universe, Light of the world.

**Verse 3**

Praise him, Lord above all lords,  
King above all kings, God's only Son.  
The Prince of Peace, who by his Spirit  
Comes to live in us, Master and Friend.

**Jesus Name Above All Names words and music by Naida Hearn**

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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**

**Ian McLaughlin:** 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.**

**Ian McLaughlin:** 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.

**Katrina Lourdiane:** 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: "Hosea." Please turn in the Glory and Praise Hymnal to #471. The music is in the Electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing "Hosea."

**COMMUNION SONG: 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. Onlicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

**Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2026**

Once again, I'm very grateful to you all for your generous donations. You will see in this report we definitely have some financial challenges. Please pray as we navigate through these challenges that God will direct, lead and supply.

**General Fund** opening balance at the beginning of January was \$1,618.80. Regular donations to the General Fund were \$1,961.33. I transferred into the account from savings \$200.00. Payments out of this account were: Pastoral compensation of \$2,575.00 Verizon \$62.75, One License for copyright \$200.00, Rainah Barnes \$70.00 for reimbursement for the QR code on Pride bookmarks. Larger bills monthly allotment was moved to savings in the amount of \$153.00 and Paypal charges were \$23.33 and I transferred \$83.34 to savings for January Self-Employment tax for the Appointed Pastor. After these were paid the balance of this account at the end of the month was \$612.71. There were no undeposited funds for January.

**Building Fund** opening balance was \$334.59 Donations to the Building fund were as follows: Ian and Christina McLaughlin \$450.00, Brother Shawn Benedict \$710.00 and Ed \$40.00 and Marcus \$400.00. I transferred in from Building Improvement Fund \$2,510.00. Bills that came out of the fund this month

was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$48.44, electric bill \$132.42, gas bill \$445.00 Isaac's Heating and Air Conditioning for laundry room boiler repair \$2,510.00 and also \$ \$373.71 for basement water repair, Sewer tax \$36.66 and I transferred \$246.00 to saving toward the large bill allotment. Ending balance of this fund was \$652.36.

**Building Improvement Fund** opening balance on this account was \$2,587.36. Deposits to this account were Katrina \$60.00, Deanna Caputo \$360.00 and Wayne and Glenn \$50.00. I transferred \$2,510.00 to Building Fund for the Isaac's bill. The ending balance in the account was \$547.36.

**Savings (Council) Account** opening balance in this account was \$1,454.53. 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 January and \$246.00 from Building fund for large bills. Transfers out of this account were \$200.00 to the General Fund towards One License bill. The balance at the end of the month was \$1,736.87.

Our donations for this month were \$4,031.33 and our expenses were \$6,477.31. The higher expenses were a result of the \$2,510.00 paid to Isaac's in the beginning of January which was funded by the money in the Building Improvement Fund. If you remove that our expenses would have been \$3,967.31... so within \$64.02. January donations in 2025 were \$4,512.28 about \$500 more than this year. That could simply be a timing issue. To explain this, some people might give me a donation the last week of January for their February giving. We record it when we receive it, regardless of what month it is intended for.

**Upcoming bills:** Bills due before the end of February: Transfer to savings for General fund large bills \$160.00, Appointed Pastor's self-employment tax for February \$83.34, transfer to savings for Building Fund large bills \$246.00.

Just a note of explanation. On the large bills, I have done a small spreadsheet on the large bills. From the General fund we have \$1,900.00 a year that is extra expenses from our regular monthly expenses and the Building Fund we have \$2,950.00 in extra expenses. So that is why I set this aside every month.

We have received our new NYSEG bills that are due March 8<sup>th</sup>. February as you know, was a bitterly cold month. February was also our last month of our current budget. With the payment I made in January, we were even with the budget. However, our Gas bill for February was \$812.86 due to the extreme cold. With this being the last month of the budget, it is all due on March 8<sup>th</sup>. I called them yesterday and they were very good to deal with. They said whatever we could not pay, we could enter into a 10 month payment agreement. It would be \$122.00 down and then 9 equal payments until it's paid in full with no interest. She did say they have already calculated our new budget and that is going to be \$367.00 per month. Any payment plan would be in addition to the \$367.00. So here is challenge #1. Our electric budget is \$352.92 each month, our gas without extra payments is \$367.00, our Liability insurance is \$307.00, the credit card runs about \$50.00 a month and the water bill about \$35.00 and our large bills transfer with water is \$246.00. The total of these monthly operating expenses without any extra building repairs or payment plan payments is \$1,357.92 Our current monthly donations for a 4 week month are \$1,138.00. That means a shortage of \$219.92 each month. Our giving to the Building fund has to increase in order to cover basic bills. Also, the NYSEG and insurance bills are all due before the 8<sup>th</sup> of each month. So we have \$1,026.92 coming out of the building fund that first week each and every month. Challenge #2 is how to pay this large electric bill, when we are already in a deficit with our current monthly bills. Discuss credit card here.

## Credit Card

The balance on the credit card as of the last statement is \$2,107.89. I did pay CCLI today online, which requires a credit card. That bill was \$453.00, so the church credit card was used. The balance on the card would now be \$2,560.89. There is available credit of \$1,439.11. Our interest rate on this card is

14.74% and we did receive an annual statement on the credit card, that we paid \$353.07 in interest on this card during 2025.

**Balances as of February 20, 2026**

General fund: \$958.72 (we have Rainah's check still outstanding from the end of January)

Building fund: \$197.04

Building Improvement fund: \$697.36

Savings: \$1,736.87

Savings breakdown is: Appointed Pastor's self-employment tax for January \$83.34, Dishwasher \$150.00, Building fund large bills, \$922.53, General fund large bills \$551.00, Water bill \$30.00.

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

**General Offering** for the week of February 15, \$523.00 Attendance 16 on Sunday Tuesday February 17 - 8, Ash Wednesday, February 18, Noon Mass -9 Ash Wednesday evening - 13

**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

**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:** see below at Special Gifts made recently.

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

**\*\* Special Gifts made this week:** 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 this week. 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.

Thank you to Brother Benedict for a gift of \$350.00 received for the Building Fund this week.

**\*\* Recent Special Gifts made in addition to offering plate gifts.** 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 donation to the General Fund, thank you Marcus. Ian and Christina made a \$450.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you both. Katrina Lourdiane made a \$100.00 donation on February 27, to the Building Improvement Fund for the building exterior projects, thank you Katrina. Brother donated \$140.00 for the Domain Name renewal for our website, thank you Brother.

Brother made a \$650.00 donation to the Building Fund in mid-February, thank you Brother. Wayne and Glenn listed above. Thank you to everyone who regularly bring food to the monastery to help us maintain an open table, including: Wayne and Glenn, Ed Askins, Katrina Lourdiane, Michael and Heather Austin, Christina McLaughlin, and Colby Dense. Katrina and Brother donated all costs for four new Membership Books. Thank you, both.

Ian and Christina made a \$450.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you both. Ed Askins made a \$40.00 gift to the Building Fund, thank you Ed. Marcus made a \$400 gift to the Building Fund.

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**



**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.

Sunday, March 8, 2026, 10:30 a.m. Women's History Week II, 3rd Sunday of Lent

Monday, March 9, 1:00 p.m. Inquiries Class #4 Polity & Practice, Human Sexuality and the Bible. \_\_\_\_\_ & Br. - abbreviated format

Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 p.m. NYS Homeland Security and Emergency Services Citizen Preparedness Corps: Training Program - see flyer



## SIGN UP FOR A FREE CLASS TO LEARN ABOUT PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

With severe weather events becoming more frequent and more extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters. The NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to normal conditions. This training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Each family that attends will receive one preparedness kit.

**WHERE:** Friendship Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
120 Pearl Street Ext.  
Corning, NY 14830

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026  
5:30 PM

**REGISTER:**

Registration is required to attend the event. To register visit [www.prepare.ny.gov](http://www.prepare.ny.gov) or scan the QR code



THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY GOVERNOR HOCHUL IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



Elmira-Corning NAACP, Friendship Baptist Church and Steuben-Chemung Counties LWV

Tuesday, March 10, **No Bible Enrichment Scheduled**


Wednesday, March 11, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. **Chapel Assistants change the chapel to pink.**


**??????????** Thursday, March 12, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. **Baptism Preparation Class #2**

Friday, March 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m. \*\*\*\*\***Music Ministry Rehearsal**\*\*\*\*\* Come and join the Music Ministry, all are welcome. No previous music experience is required.\*\*

Saturday, March 14, 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. NAACP Membership Banquet - Clarion Hotel



**ELMIRA-CORNING NAACP**




**36th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026**  
12:00 – 2:00 pm

The Clarion Inn • 760 E. Water Street • Elmira NY

**"MEMBERSHIPS: LIFE BLOOD IS DETECTED WHEN MEMBERSHIPS ARE SELECTED"**

Tickets: \$35 Adult • \$17 Youth Ages 4-10  
Ages 3 and under free



Speaker  
**Mr. Jonathan D. Mack, ACE CPT**  
Staff, Integrated Program Planner  
Lockheed Martin Corporation  
Owego, NY

**For Ticket Information Call:**  
(607) 962-8398, (607) 936-6770, (607) 862-5362, (607) 733-7963

**Sunday, March 15, 2026, 10:30 a.m. Women's History Week III, 4th Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday - Joy in Lent**

Monday, March 16, 1:00 p.m. Inquiries Class #5 Human Sexuality and the Bible. Veronica & Br. - abbreviated format

Tuesday, March 17, **St. Patrick's Day**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment - The Book of Revelation

Wednesday, March 18, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m. **Chapel Assistants change chapel to PURPLE**

????????? Thursday, March 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. **Baptism Preparation Class #3**

\*\*\*\*\* Friday, March 20, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. **Council Meeting online and in person**

Friday, March 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m. \*\*\*\*\***Music Ministry Rehearsal**\*\*\*\*\* Come and join the Music Ministry, all are welcome. No previous music experience is required.\*\*

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

Monday, March 23, 1:00 p.m. Inquiries Class #6 Ed & Br. - abbreviated format

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**

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.\*\*

=====PLANNING AHEAD=====

**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

**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**  
[www.ACTSTT.org](http://www.ACTSTT.org)

\* 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 - Baptisms, Membership**  
 No events scheduled for Sunday, April 5, 2026

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

Friday, March 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m.	Last rehearsal for Laetare - Joy Sunday 3-15-26
4 of 6 before Holy Week	Two of four Rehearsals before Holy Week Palm Sunday - The King of Glory Holy Thursday - songs about Eucharist Passion Friday - Music for the Stations of the Cross and Lift High The Cross Vigil Saturday - Psalms, Hymns, canticles, chant
Friday, March 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m.	Three of four Rehearsals before Holy Week Palm Sunday - The King of Glory Holy Thursday - songs about Eucharist Passion Friday - Music for the Stations of the Cross and Lift High The Cross Vigil Saturday - "The Easter Song," Psalms, Hymns, canticles, chant
Friday, March 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m.	Final rehearsal for Holy Week
6 of 6 before 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.

- 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.

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**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Katrina Lourdiane:** **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL:** And also with you!

**Katrine Lourdiane:** **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 Lourdiane:** Please rise as you are able for our final song, "Blessed Assurance," available in the electronic Music Edition, with the words below. Please rise as you are able to sing "Blessed Assurance."

**LAST SONG: WORDS ONLY**

**Blessed Assurance**, written by Fanny Jane Crosby and Phoebe Palmer Knapp  
Verse 1

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine  
O what a foretaste of glory divine  
Heir of salvation purchase of God  
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood

Chorus

This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long

Verse 2

Perfect submission perfect delight  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy whispers of love

Verse 3

Perfect submission all is at rest  
I in my Savior am happy and blest  
Watching and waiting looking above  
Filled with His goodness lost in His love

**Blessed Assurance** written by Fanny Jane Crosby and Phoebe Palmer Knapp

Text: 9 10 9 9 with refrain; Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915, alt. Music: ASSURANCE; Phoebe P. Knapp, 1839-1908.

Contributors: ASSURANCE, Phoebe Knapp, Fanny Crosby Onelicense Song#94239 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.

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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.**

**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 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](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> Facebook 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)

