

**"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 3-9-25, The First Sunday of Lent Year C, Women's History Month Week Two.
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: Deut. 26:4-10 NRSV First Testament pg. 180

Psalm: 91 selected verses with responsorial.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 160

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13, Second Testament pg. 61

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

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

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

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

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. To facilitate your full participation, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship, and Music Supplement 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. 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 LGBTQIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

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



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

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: Today is 3-9-25, the First Sunday of Lent in Year C, Today is also the Second Sunday of Women's History Month.

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.

At this time I direct your attention to the new banner and quilt that was given to us by Alida Schamel, who is a Member at First Presbyterian Church of Elmira. Alida will also be at the Ash Wednesday Service as a Communion Servant. We thank Alida for thinking about us and we pray that God will return her generosity to her as healing grace and love.



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: 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

+ The Candle Of Hope

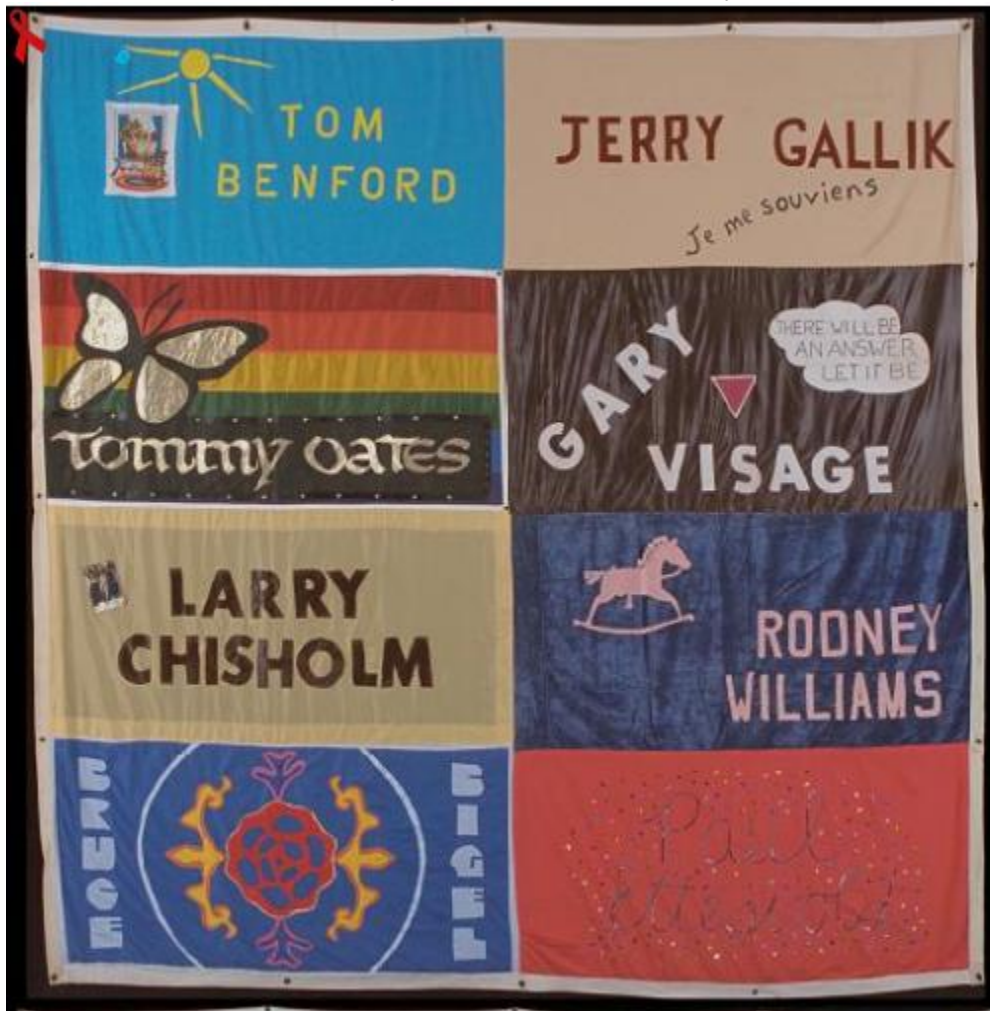
Leader - 2: Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our Faith

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 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 141.



These are the names on Block # 141

- Tom Benford (1)
- Tommy Oates (2)
- Larry Chisholm (3)
- Bruce Bigel (4)
- Jerry Gallik (5)
- Gary Visage (6)
- Rodney Williams (7)
- Paul Ettesvold (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:

As The Deer Words and Music by Martin Nystrum

Verse 1

As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

Verse 2

You're my friend and You are my brother
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything

Verse 3

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joygiver
And the apple of my eye

Words and Music Martin Nystrom© 1984 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI Song # 1431 *For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com* Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



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)

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: 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.

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"

© 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.

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

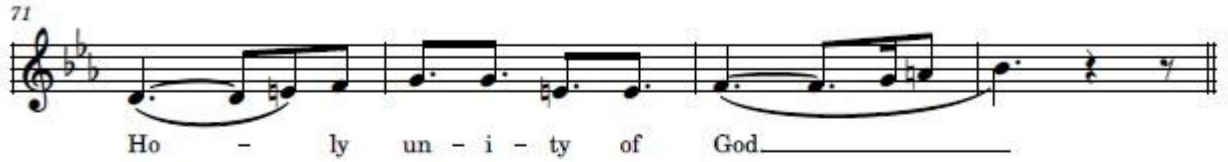
 You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, With the Ho - ly

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



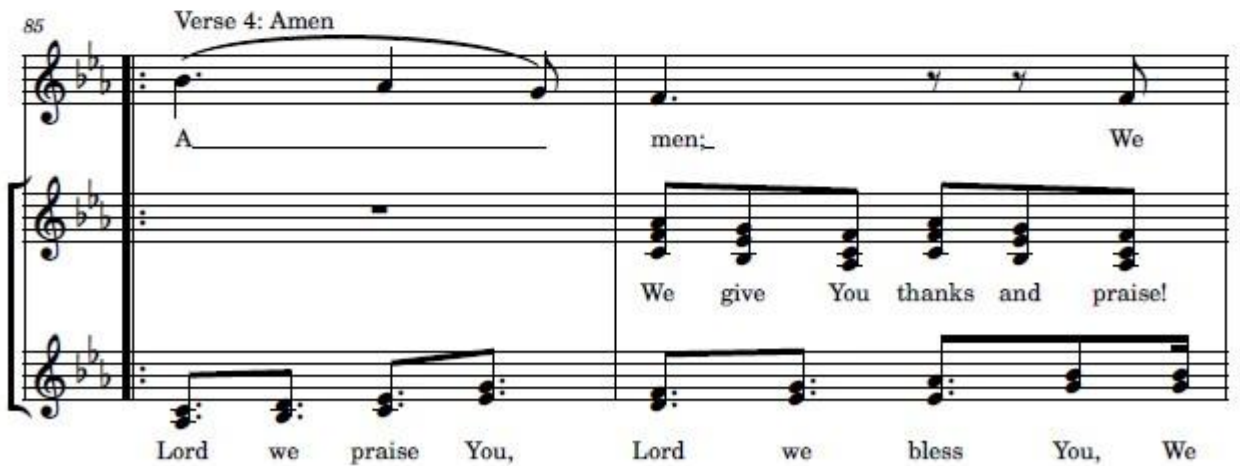
Glo-ry to God in the high-est_ We give you thanks_ and praise. Al-le-lu_ia

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 thnks, We give You praise We give You thnaks 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, Alleluia!

ALL: And also with you, Alleluia!

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: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Our first reading is in the Book of Deuteronomy chapter 26, verses 4-10. You will find this on page 180 in the front of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

⁴ The priest will then receive the basket from you and will set it in front of the altar of YHWH. ⁵ Then you will declare before YHWH, “My ancestor was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien. There they became a nation great, strong and numerous. ⁶ When the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed us, imposing hard labor upon us, ⁷ we cried to YHWH, the God of our ancestors, who heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil and our oppression. ⁸ YHWH brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders; ⁹ YHWH gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ Therefore, I have brought now the first fruits of the products of the soil that you, O God, have given me.” Then you must set them

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

** “wandering Aramean” see (<https://matts bibleblog.wordpress.com/2016/09/25/my-father-was-a-wandering-aramean-deuteronomy-265/>)

(Deuteronomy chapter 26:4-10 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 451-452). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 115. 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: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The Psalm today is 91 with selected verses. Our response today is; “Lord, you are with me even in difficult times.”

R: Lord, you are with me even in difficult times.

¹ Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High
and abide in the shade of the Almighty

² say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!"

R: Lord, you are with me even in difficult times.

¹⁰ Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.

¹¹ For you God has commanded the angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

R: Lord, you are with me even in difficult times.

¹² They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

¹³ On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

R: Lord, you are with me even in difficult times.

¹⁴ You set your love on me so I will save you,
protect you for you know my name.

¹⁵ When you call I shall answer: "I am with you,"
I will save you in distress and give you glory.

¹⁶ With length of days I will content you;
I shall let you see my saving power.

R: Lord, you are with me even in difficult times.

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 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13. 14-16 The Power and Holiness of God. (inclusive language - 1993)
©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense Song #31109. All rights reserved. Published
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Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Brother Shawn F. Benedict

+ Second Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in
the State of _____. Our second reading is found in the Book of Romans,
chapter 10, verses 5 through 13. You will find this on page 160 in the back, the
second testament of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible.
Here begins the reading:

Paul was teaching, saying;

⁵ Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law:
"Those who do these things will live by them." (Leviticus 18:5) ⁶ But
the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Don't say in your
heart, 'Who will ascend to heaven?' "—that is, to bring Christ down—⁷
"or 'Who will descend into the underworld?' "—that is, to bring Christ
up from the dead. ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, on
your lips and in your heart." (Deut. 30:12-14) This is the Word of
faith. ⁹ For if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Sovereign and
believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be
saved. ¹⁰ Faith in the heart leads to being put right with God,

confession on the lips to our deliverance. ¹¹ Scripture says, "No one who believes in God will be put to shame." ¹² Here there is no difference between Jew and Greek; all have the same Creator, rich in mercy toward those who call: ¹³ "Everyone who calls on the name of the Most High will be saved." (Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21)

Inclusive Bible

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(Romans 10:5-13 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 3020-3021). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 741. 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.)

+ 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 - ia! 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 on page 61 in the back of the NRSV Bible. I will

be reading from The Inclusive Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-13.

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.**

4:¹ Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit, and she led him into the desert ² for forty days, where he was tempted by the Devil. Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished. ³ The Devil said to Jesus, "If you are God's Own, command this stone to turn into bread." ⁴ Jesus answered, "Scripture has it, 'We don't live on bread alone.' " (Deut. 8:3) ⁵ Then the Devil took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant. ⁶ The Devil said, "I'll give you all the power and the glory of these nations; the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Prostrate yourself in homage before me, and it will all be yours." ⁸ In reply, Jesus said, "Scripture has it: 'You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.' " (Deut. 6:13)

⁹ Then the Devil led Jesus to Jerusalem, set him up on the parapet of the Temple and said, "If you are God's Own, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for scripture has it, 'God will tell the angels to take care of you; ¹¹ with their hands they'll support you, that you may never stumble on a stone.' " (Psalm 91:11-12) ¹² Jesus said to the Devil in reply, "It also says, 'Do not put God to the test.' " (Deuteronomy 6:16 and Psalm 95:9) ¹³ When the Devil had finished all this tempting, Jesus was left alone. The Devil awaited another opportunity.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
 December 31, 1995

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

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+ Sermon

NOTES

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

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

OUT OF CONTEXT as far as chronology goes. Jesus fasted and prayed in the desert before the start of His public ministry. We are thinking about that experience as our lead up to Holy Week, the end of His public ministry. In this case, the Lectionary puts the event into a different context as a pastoral decision. The pastoral decision allows us to relate to the experience in the desert during our carved out time, the Season of Lent, where we reflect and hopefully with God's help, effect change.

** “wandering Aramean” see (<https://matts bibleblog.wordpress.com/2016/09/25/my-father-was-a-wandering-aramean-deuteronomy-265/>)

[The Word Brings Salvation](#)

...¹⁰For with your heart you believe and are justified, and with your mouth you confess and are saved. ¹¹It is just as the Scripture says: “Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Greek: The same Lord is Lord of all, and gives richly to all who call on Him,...

[Berean Standard Bible](#) · [Download](#)

Cross References

[Matthew 4:8-9](#)

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. / “All this I will give You,” he said, “if You will fall down and worship me.”

[Revelation 13:2](#)

The beast I saw was like a leopard, with the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

[John 12:31](#)

Now judgment is upon this world; now the prince of this world will be cast out.

[2 Corinthians 4:4](#)

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

[Ephesians 2:2](#)

in which you used to walk when you conformed to the ways of this world and of the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now at work in the sons of disobedience.

[1 John 5:19](#)

We know that we are of God, and that the whole world is under the power of the evil one.

[Revelation 12:9](#)

And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

[Daniel 4:17](#)

This decision is the decree of the watchers, the verdict declared by the holy ones, so that the living will know that the Most High rules over the kingdom of mankind and gives it to whom He wishes, setting over it the lowliest of men.’

[John 14:30](#)

I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming, and he has no claim on Me.

[1 John 3:8](#)

The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the very start. This is why the Son of God was revealed, to destroy the works of the devil.

[Revelation 20:3](#)

And he threw him into the Abyss, shut it, and sealed it over him, so that he could not deceive the nations until the thousand years were complete. After that, he must be released for a brief period of time.

[Job 1:6-12](#)

One day the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. / “Where have you come from?” said the LORD to Satan. “From roaming through the earth,” he replied, “and walking back and forth in it.” / Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one on earth like him, a man who is blameless and upright, who fears God and shuns evil.” ...

[Job 2:1-6](#)

On another day the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before Him. / "Where have you come from?" said the LORD to Satan. "From roaming through the earth," he replied, "and walking back and forth in it." / Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one on earth like him, a man who is blameless and upright, who fears God and shuns evil. He still retains his integrity, even though you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause." ...

[Isaiah 14:12-15](#)

How you have fallen from heaven, O day star, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the ground, O destroyer of nations. / You said in your heart: "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of assembly, in the far reaches of the north. / I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." ...

[Ezekiel 28:12-17](#)

"Son of man, take up a lament for the king of Tyre and tell him that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. / You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every kind of precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald. Your mountings and settings were crafted in gold, prepared on the day of your creation. / You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for I had ordained you. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ...

[The Temptation of Jesus](#)

...⁵Then the devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶"I will give You authority over all these kingdoms and all their glory," he said. "For it has been relinquished to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish. ⁷So if You worship me, it will all be Yours."...

Cross References

[Isaiah 28:16](#)

So this is what the Lord GOD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will never be shaken.

[1 Peter 2:6](#)

For it stands in Scripture: "See, I lay in Zion a stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone; and the one who believes in Him will never be put to shame."

[Isaiah 49:23](#)

Kings will be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. They will bow to you facedown and lick the dust at your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who hope in Me will never be put to shame."

[Psalms 25:3](#)

Surely none who wait for You will be put to shame; but those who engage in treachery without cause will be disgraced.

[Joel 2:32](#)

And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has promised, among the remnant called by the LORD.

[1 Peter 2:7](#)

To you who believe, then, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

[Isaiah 45:17](#)

But Israel will be saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation; you will not be put to shame or humiliated, to ages everlasting.

[John 3:16](#)

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

[John 6:37](#)

Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away.

[John 11:25-26](#)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me will live, even though he dies. / And everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

[Acts 2:21](#)

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

[Acts 10:43](#)

All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

[1 John 5:10-13](#)

Whoever believes in the Son of God has this testimony within him; whoever does not believe God has made Him out to be a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given about His Son. / And this is that testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. / Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ...

[Psalm 22:5](#)

They cried out to You and were set free; they trusted in You and were not disappointed.

[Psalm 34:22](#)

The LORD redeems His servants, and none who take refuge in Him will be condemned.
The Devil offers all the authority of the world.

Women's History Frances Perkins:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frances_Perkins

Title: "[Pentagon Begins Forcibly Discharging Trans Service members.](#)" By John Riley, 2/27/25 MetroWeekly.com

Title: "[Republicans in 9 States Push to Overturn Gay Marriage](#)" by John Riley, 2/27/25

Title: "[Supreme Court Leaves Tennessee's Drag Ban in Place](#) by John Riley, 2/27/25

"Trump fires Gen. Charles Q. Brown as chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, other senior officers."

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-fires-gen-charles-q-brown-as-chair-of-the-joint-chiefs-of-staff-nominates-lt-gen-dan-razin-caine/> "respected officer as part of a campaign to rid the military of leaders who support diversity and equity in the ranks." and "the second Black general to serve as chairman," Both quotations from the article by CBS cited above.

[US aid cut leave 80 Afghan women stranded in Oman ...](#)

[Afghan women students in Oman face expulsion after ...](#)

[Afghan women, who escaped Taliban, face horror of ...](#)

[US funding cuts confirmed, ending lifesaving ... - UN News](#)

<https://observerdiplomat.com/over-80-afghan-female-students-face-deportation-after-u-s-aid-cuts/>

<https://observerdiplomat.com/afghan-families-forced-to-sell-children-to-survive-as-trump-cuts-usaid-funding/>

***** 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>



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

=====

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

=====

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, Henrietta

Bower, Michael Austin, Ruth Goyette, Glenn Rathbun, Annie Houser and Gary Davis, Ed Askins, Phillipa Askins, Marty Grinolds, Cheryl Allen, Louisa Lourdiane, the Baptist community of Elmira, 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.



Pieta statue painted by Wayne Harris. Gift from Wayne and Glenn. Last week, Wayne also painted the St. Francis statue, a gift from Lisa Frost and Michael Quinnell many years ago. Thank you, Wayne.



(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.)

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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 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.

Kaiden: 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.

Kaiden: 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

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+ The Lord's Prayer

Kaiden: 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.

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!

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Kaiden: 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 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: **On Eagle's Wings** by Michael Joncas. Text: Based on Psalm 91. Text and music © 1979, OCP. Onelicense #80468 All rights reserved. **G&P #598** Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

WORDS ONLY:

On Eagle's Wings
by Michael Joncas

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings your refuge,
his faithfulness your shield.

3. You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.

4. For to his angels he's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Final Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.
And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

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Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2025

General Fund opening balance at the beginning of January was \$2,178.68. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$3,022.28. This included special donations of \$500.00 towards Brothers' self-employment tax. Pastoral compensation of \$2,080.00 was paid plus \$1,000.00 towards his 2024 Self Employment tax, January Self-employment tax was transferred to savings of \$83.34. The following payments were made from this account: Verizon \$62.47, CCLI annual payment of \$387.00, One License annual payment of \$198.00 and communion set expense of \$126.44. After these were paid the balance of this account at the end of the month was \$1,263.71.

Building Fund opening balance was \$903.71. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$640.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month were the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$56.87, electric \$223.35, gas bill \$253.00, Elmira City Sewer tax \$36.20. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,374.29.

Building Improvement Fund opening balance on this account was \$1,220.63. Ian and Christina donated \$450.00 during January. The ending balance on the account \$1,670.63

Savings (Council) Account opening balance \$443.65. I transferred \$83.34 for Brother's Self Employment tax to this account. The ending balance is \$526.99.

There were no undeposited funds for January.

Here are the bank balances as of 2/21/2025

General Fund: \$1,960.37, Building Fund \$790.21, Building Improvement Fund \$ \$864.36 and Savings account \$610.33 which includes \$166.68 of Brother's Self Employment tax. We have no bills due at this time.

Many thanks to God for His faithfulness and to all of you for your donations.

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 February 2 \$1,400.00 Attendance 8 on Sunday
Wednesday, February 5, Attendance 7

General Offering for the week of February 9 \$625.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday
Wednesday, February 12, Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of February 16 \$360.00 Attendance 7 on Sunday
Wednesday, February 19, Attendance 5

General Offering for the week of February 23 \$572.00 Attendance 7 on Sunday
Wednesday, February 19, Attendance 5

General Offering for the week of February 23 \$572.00 Attendance 7 on Sunday
Wednesday, February 19, Attendance 5

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

** Special Gifts made this week: Thank you to everyone who made my birthday very special this week. Everything you did was very appreciated, thank you. Thank you, Lisa for a \$50.00 donation for communion kits.

Thank you to Ian and Christina for a \$450.00 donation to the Building Fund.

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

** 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, Wayne and Glenn for paper products.

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 and write "email list" in the Subject box.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

Tuesday March 11 Bible Enrichment 7:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Wednesday March 12 The Feast of St. Joseph Noon Mass

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. Worship and Common Threads

Inquiries Class #3 Friday March 28, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Polity & Practice (Liturgical Calendar +)

March 27, 2025 Council Meeting 6:30 PM.

Inquiries Class #4 Friday April 4, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

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

??? APRIL COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE GREAT VIGIL MEMBERSHIP SO, APRIL 10????

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, 2023 GREAT VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OUR EASTER EVENT
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: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Text: CM; Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898, alt. Music: The Whole Psalmes in Foure Partes, 1563, alt. Contributors: ST. FLAVIAN Onelicense Song# 84254 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

Small Church Music smallchurchmusic.com

Organist: Clyde McLennan, organist, producer of "good quality accompaniments for congregational singing available at no cost. As from October, 2015, I, Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer in this collection, have assigned my performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted. For permission to use them for any other purposes, please contact manager@hymnary.org."

(<https://www.smallchurchmusic.com/About-New.php>)

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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. Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public, the way it used to be from 7:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. daily, as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in to pray, read, or visit The Blessed Sacrament. 1-607-280-0374 Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel, live on Skype and Facebook. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Recordings of most of our Worship events are on our Facebook page, to see [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

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

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

