

**"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 April 19, 2026, Resurrection Week 3, 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: Acts 2:14, 22-33 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 119

Psalm: Psalm 16 selected verses - responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: 1Peter 1:17-21 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 232

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 NRSV 2ND Testament page 90

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

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

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

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Veronica Floyd: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. This church is your Spiritual Service Station, and Faith Repair Shop, where our Loving Creating God is C.E.O., the owner of record is Jesus, the Christ, and the Operations Manager is The Holy Spirit. Our Congregation is a franchise location of the Body Of Christ, the Church. The Members and Friends are the working staff here today to facilitate your worship experience. Today is April 19, 2026, the start of the third week of the Season of the Resurrection.

Here are some ways we will assist you during your worship experience today. We will announce all instructions, pages, song numbers, and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

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

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



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

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



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

Ed Askins: (**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)

Ed Askins: 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 April 19, 2026, the start of the Third Week of the Season of the

Resurrection. There are 40 days from Resurrection Sunday to Ascension

Thursday. Acts 1:1-3 ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

(NRSVUE)

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

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

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

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



Lisa: Christ is risen and truly present with us this morning. Christ is alive and present within our hearts, in this assembly of believers, in this very room, in the entire world. We are here to give God thanks and praise in Christ, and through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. So now, we begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

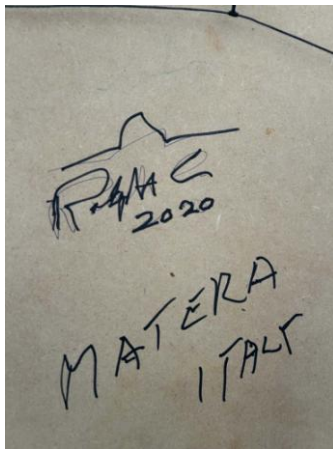
ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

Lisa: Our first song today is "For You Are My God" in the green Glory and Praise hymnal number 612, and in the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able for our first song, "For You Are My God."

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

Brother Benedict: Please be seated. We have a special event we want everyone to know about. On Wednesday, April 15, 2026, after Mass, Mr. Ralph A. Coppola donated an original painting he painted of a statue of Christ he has

seen in person in Matera, Italy. The painting is signed and dated 2020. Thank you, Ralph, your donation will be treasured.



+ The Candle Of Hope

Kaiden: Please 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 ▾
- Stories ▾
- Grove ▾
- Quilt ▾
- Programs ▾
- Our Supporters ▾
- Get Involved ▾
- Donate ▾





Kaiden: Now we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate the Truth Jesus promises us. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

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

Kaiden: Together:

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

Kaiden: Ray Of Hope started in part to form a Church with an intentional ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS. It is forty-three years later, and still, some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance. The World Health Organization reported nearly 40 million people were living with HIV globally in 2023. In 2024, the United Nations AIDS organization, UNAIDS, reported that the number had risen to 40.8 million people, and we are confident the number will continue rising in 2026. Therefore, to keep HIV and AIDS in the conscious prayers of people, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into over 50,000 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at the National AIDS Memorial. Please scroll the page to see the panels on block number 184.



These are the names on Block # 184

- Brian Gougeon (1)
- Bill Knox (2)
- Tony Trancoso Jr. (3)
- T. Klaverkamp (4)
- David McAlexander (5)
- Wood (6)
- Chaz (7)
- D. S. (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>)

Lisa Frost: Today's Gospel reading is the two disciples who have a very intimate encounter with Jesus during the day of Christ's resurrection. Jesus came up behind the men as they were discussing all the events of Holy Week. They did not recognize Jesus until he shared the Eucharist with them. Jesus opened their eyes, and they knew Him in the living Word and in the Blessed Sacrament, see Luke 24, verses 31 and 45. Jesus is ready to open our eyes to see, to know, to love, to understand Him in the Word, in the Sacraments, in the Beloved Community, as Dr. King described the Church. All we have to do is ask for this gift. Our second song is "Open Our Eyes," a new song for us and available only in the Electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing, "Open Our Eyes."

SECOND SONG: Open Our Eyes. Words and Music by Bob Cull. © 1976 CCCM Music; Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing. Distributed by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc. CCLI Song#1572. 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, our failures.

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

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

Veronica: Loving, Creating, and Eternal God, all life in the Universe continually comes from You, creating new life. Forgive us when we are self-absorbed and miss your promptings in our lives. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Veronica: Christ Jesus, you call us to present the Love of God to everyone we meet. The governments of the world lack the understanding that you have created all ethnicities on this planet. Our government leaders unquestioningly focus on their own ideals, even to the point of war. Broaden our concern for each other. Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Veronica: Holy Spirit, you desire to help us understand our circumstances and the world systems we live in. Society would have us prioritize everything over time for worship, time for private prayer, and devotional study of the Word. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Lisa Frost: We pray for forgiveness and renewal together.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Wayne Harris: Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

+ Opening Prayer

Wayne Harris: The Lord is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Wayne Harris: Together, we lift up our hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Wayne Harris: We make this exhortation together:

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

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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

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

The first reading is in the Book of Acts, chapter 2, verse 14, and verses 22-33. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 119 in the Second Testament. Psalm 16, the psalm that provides the text to For You Are My God, and is our psalm today, is embedded in this speech Peter is giving. See if you can recognize St. Peter's reference to Psalm 16. Here begins the reading:

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews^[a] and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

²² "Jesus of Nazareth,^[c] a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.²⁵ For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites,^[d] I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.³¹ Foreseeing this, David^[e] spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah,^[f] saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

³² "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.³³ Being therefore exalted at^[g] the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you see and hear.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [2.14](#) Gk *Men, Judeans*
- b. [2.22](#) Gk *Men, Israelites*
- c. [2.22](#) Gk *the Nazorean*
- d. [2.29](#) Gk *Men, brothers*
- e. [2.31](#) Gk *he*
- f. [2.31](#) Or *the Christ*
- g. [2.33](#) Or *by*
- h. [2.36](#) Or *Christ*
- i. [2.37](#) Gk *Men, brothers*
- j. [2.45](#) Gk *them*
- k. [2.46](#) Or *from House to House*
- l. [2.46](#) Or *sincere*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2&version=NRSVUE>) Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.

+ Psalm:

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

The Psalm today is number 16, with a responsorial verse. This is the psalm that the song For You Are My God is based on. Listen carefully to see if you can hear the verses used for the song. The response today is, "Alleluia, He is Risen, Christ lives among us. Alleluia."

R: "Alleluia, He is Risen, Christ lives among us. Alleluia.

- ¹ Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
- ² I say to you LORD: "You are my God.
My happiness lies in you alone."
- ³ You have put into my heart a marvelous love
for the faithful ones who dwell in your land.
- ⁵ O LORD, it is you who are my portion and cup,
it is you yourself who are my prize.
- ⁶ The lot marked out for me is my delight,
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me!

Alleluia, He is Risen, Christ lives among us. Alleluia.

- ⁷ I will bless you, LORD, you give me counsel,
and even at night direct my heart.
- ⁸ I keep you, LORD, ever in my sight;
since you are at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

Alleluia, He is Risen, Christ lives among us. Alleluia.⁹

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.

¹⁰ For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

Alleluia, He is Risen, Christ lives among us. Alleluia.¹¹

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

**Alleluia, He is Risen, Christ lives among us. Alleluia.
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 forever. Amen**

Psalm 16 (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #38587 All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

+ Second Reading

Marcus: **** **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 First Letter of Peter, chapter 1, verses 17-21. Today, we are reading the New King James version of the Bible. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 232 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading:

New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges (G2919 krino) according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your ^[a] stay *here* in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with ^[b] corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb

without blemish and without spot.²⁰ Christ indeed was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was^[c] manifest in **these last times** for you²¹ who through Him believe in **God, who raised Him from the dead** and **gave** Him glory, so that **your faith and hope are in God**.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [1 Peter 1:17](#) *sojourning, dwelling* as resident aliens
- b. [1 Peter 1:18](#) *perishable*
- c. [1 Peter 1:20](#) *revealed*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1%3A17-21&version=NKJV>) Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. The text from the New King James Version® (NKJV®) may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio), up to and inclusive of 500 verses or less without written permission... All rights reserved.

+ 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 Luke, chapter 24, verses 13-35. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 90 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 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.

The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk

along?" They stood still, looking sad.^[b] ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth,^[c] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.^[d] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah^[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us^[f] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- [24.13](#) Gk *sixty stadia*; other ancient authorities read *a hundred sixty stadia*
- [24.17](#) Other ancient authorities read *walk along, looking sad?*"
- [24.19](#) Other ancient authorities read *Jesus the Nazorean*
- [24.21](#) Or *to set Israel free*
- [24.26](#) Or *the Christ*
- [24.32](#) Other ancient authorities lack *within us*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSVUE>)

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(NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE))

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Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

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

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

=====SERMON NOTES: Brother ===4-19-26=====

DIGITAL AI and real Spirituality: [https://www.osvnews.com/vatican-theological-commission-warns-of-replacing-god-with-a-world-governed-by-machines/#:~:text=ROME%20\(OSV%20News\)%20%E2%80%94%20The,Christian%20anthropology%20and%20the%20Gospel.](https://www.osvnews.com/vatican-theological-commission-warns-of-replacing-god-with-a-world-governed-by-machines/#:~:text=ROME%20(OSV%20News)%20%E2%80%94%20The,Christian%20anthropology%20and%20the%20Gospel.)

<https://www.aol.com/articles/hegseth-invokes-bible-compare-reporters-165800469.html>

I want to clarify a few things in today's time allotted to the Pastor to speak. I have been troubled for many years over the common misconception that one person, the President of the United States, is "running the Country" all by a singular authority. I observe that most people are almost exclusively concerned with the two candidates at "the top of the ticket" when it comes time for the Presidential election. Even the media feeds into this larger-than-life misconception by identifying the current war as "Trump's War." The conflict with Iran started on March 1, 2026.

In fact, the Senate could force the ending of this conflict, or any other conflict. The President has limited authority to start a war alone, but only Congress has the power to authorize a war formally. The President is obligated to seek the approval of Congress. I want you to understand that the United States Senate has voted down four war powers resolutions aimed at restricting the President's

authority in this war. The dates of those four separate votes are March 4, 2026 (47-53); March 18, 2026 (47-52); April 15, 2026 (47-52); and April 16, 2026 (47-52). To be clear, these four separate votes on the War Powers Act indicate this war belongs to the Republican Party, not just one man, the President.

To be clear, if the Republican Party disagreed with the President, they have legal options at their command to stop the President, or even remove the President from Office. As we each go from this place today, use the facts of these four votes when talking to people who do not vote in elections at this time. The majority party in both the House and the Senate is the direct result of voting and counting ballots in our neighborhood polling places, the voting machines right here in the town where you and I live.

Another point I want to make today is that the media is reporting there is an ongoing discussion of Religion's role in the function of war, in fact, this war, particularly, and our national response. Many people who identify as "moderates" in religion and in politics are not paying attention to the slow and very steady progress the Christian Nationalists, and the postmillennialists are making, which is easy to measure and verify.

<https://www.aol.com/articles/hegseth-invokes-bible-compare-reporters-165800469.html> The following ideas are from this article:
 "escalating feud between President Trump and Pope Leo."
 "images on social media of Jesus embracing him and Trump himself as a Jesus-like figure."
 "Hegseth, whose Christianity has become a focus of his tenure as the head of the Pentagon, used his opening remarks at a Pentagon briefing on the Iran war to reflect on a Sunday sermon..."
 "In recent days, Hegseth and Trump have repeatedly turned to Christian language to discuss the war,.."
 "Hegseth, at a prayer service last month, prayed for troops to be able to deliver "overwhelming violence of action against those who deserve no mercy."
 "U.S. presidents and administrations have throughout history invoked Christian faith in times of war. But the Trump administration as set itself apart in its use of stark,

unequivocal religious language, said John Fea, a history professor at Messiah University who has written extensively about evangelicals and politics."

Pope Leo: "Woe to those who manipulate religion and the very name of God for their own military, economic, and political gain, dragging that which is sacred into darkness and filth."

=====READINGS =====

Acts 2:24 God raised Jesus, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. Then Psalm 16 is quoted.

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

Peter goes on to say, this is not about David, we have his tomb. This is about Jesus, raised by God and living forever.

Second Reading 1Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ Christ indeed was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was [□] manifest in **these last times** for you ²¹ who through Him believe in **God, who raised Him from the dead** and **gave** Him glory, so that **your faith and hope are in God**.

Gospel

Last Sunday, remain faithful to the Apostles' Teaching, to the prayers, to the community, and to the Eucharist.

This Sunday, we have the outline of the Liturgy
gather
study the word
testify
offer
Eucharist
go and tell everyone..

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

Pope Vs. President

Altar Vs. Alcohol

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, Tennessee dropped "pride" from June and renamed it "Nuclear Family Month." (<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/tennessee-pride-nuclear-family-month-b2958328.html>)

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

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

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

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

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

=====

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

=====

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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

Christina McLaughlin: 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 ask you to grant your will in their lives. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Ed Askins: We pray for all people who are sick, those in any form of treatment, for people who lack food, lack safe drinking water, and lack other necessities. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Christina McLaughlin: We pray for all people who care for the sick, and all who support those delivering care and their families. We ask the Holy Spirit to inspire caregivers to turn to Christ for support and strength to do the difficult work of caring for others. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Wayne Harrison: 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.

Wayne Harrison: 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. We do have some special needs at this time. Our cash flow is very low due to unexpected repairs we had to address during the first four months of 2026. 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."

Veronica: As we set the Table of the Lord here in the chapel and in your homes, we are going to sing: "Glorify Thy Name." The music is available in the worship notebook (number 19) and in the electronic Music Edition. Please sing along as we set the Table of the Lord.

OFFERTORY: #19 Notebook Glorify Thy Name

Words and Music by Donna Adkins **Glorify Thy Name.**

Words and Music by Donna Adkins CCLI Song #1383 ©1976, 1981 CCCM Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. By Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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

Ruth: 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.

Ruth: 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.

Ruth: 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.

Lisa Frost: We continue our prayers now by singing together: "All Creation Worships You," words and music by Jim Mills and Kirk Dearman. The words and music are in the electronic Music Edition, and they may be on the screen once the music starts. Please rise as you are able to sing "All Creation Worships You."

COMMUNION SONG: All Creation Worships You. Words and Music by Jim Mills, Kirk Dearman ©1988 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Administered by Integrity Music) CCLI Song # 190469 All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152 with accompaniment recording: All Creation Worships You. Album: The Cup of Life. Songs of Worship for the New Millennium. Track 5 | Length 4:49 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2026

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

General Fund opening balance at the beginning of February was \$612.71. Regular donations to the General Fund were \$2,754.48. Payments out of this account were: Pastoral compensation of \$2,060.00, Verizon \$62.75, a reimbursement for communion kits to Ed Askins purchased on Amazon \$26.99. Larger bills monthly allotment was moved to savings in the amount of \$153.00 and Paypal charges were \$36.48 and I transferred \$83.34 to savings for February Self-Employment tax for the Appointed Pastor. After

these were paid the balance of this account at the end of the month was \$944.63. There were no undeposited funds for February.

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

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

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

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

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

Credit Card

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

Balances as of March 20, 2026

General fund: \$705.78

Building fund: \$149.93

Building Improvement fund: \$457.36

Savings: \$1,556.21

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

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

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

General Offering for the week of March 22, \$800.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday Tuesday March 24 - 5, Wednesday, March , Mass - 7

General Offering for the week of March 29, \$1,295.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday Wednesday, April 8, Mass - 7, Holy Thursday, April 2 - 10, Good Friday, April 3 - 10

General Offering for the week of April 4 &5 \$1,655.00 Attendance 12 at the Vigil Wednesday, April 8, Mass - 8,

General Offering for the week of April 12, \$00.00Attendance 11 on Sunday Wednesday, April 15, Mass - 9

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

DISHWASHER / APPLIANCE ROOM: MARCH:

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

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

HOT WATER TANK: \$100.00 by Katrina Lourdiane

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

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

**** Special Gifts made these last two weeks:** On April 2, Brother made a \$648.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you Brother. On April 2, Ed Askins made a \$80.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you Ed.

**** Recent Special Gifts made in addition to offering plate gifts.** On 3-20-26 Brother made a \$150.00 donation to the Building Improvement Fund to help with the electric repairs. On 3-18-26 Brother made a donation to the Building Fund of \$350.00, thank you. As mentioned above, on 3-20-26 Deanna Caputo and Jason Ramboz made a \$320.00 donation to the Building Improvement Fund, thank you both. \$50.00 donated to the Building Fund by Marcus on 3-8-26, thank you Marcus. Thank you to Brother Benedict for a gift of \$350.00 received for the Building Fund on 3-8-26.

In the week of February 22 through March 1, we received a total of ****\$2,480.00**** including the

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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS
4-9-26 Colby Dense

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.

Unexpected Building Equipment Malfunctions since January 1, 2026

Repair #2) Electric repaired. Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day, washing machine and dryer - MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE, we can't thank you enough. With this repair paid for, we completely spent our Building Improvement Fund, and some private donations were given at the last minute.

Repair #3) After Bible Enrichment, Tuesday night, March 17, we noticed the Hot water tank malfunctioned at 10:30 p.m. Isaac's had it by Wednesday night, March 18. The total was \$1,850.00. We have paid \$555.00 from the Building Fund. We have \$1,295.00 due on this project.

**** We want to express our thanks to Wayne Harris & Glen Rathbun, and Marcus & Tracy for all the rides they provided to the residents of the Monastery this week while I was unable to drive. Thank you very much for your extra help during this time of special need. ****

April 21, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment- The Book of Revelation

April 22, Wednesday, 2026 NOON ecumenical Mass.

April 23, Music Ministry Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:30 PM

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

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

Ed Askins: SAINTS: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Ed Askins: 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

Ed Askins: 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)

Lisa Frost: 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.

Lisa Frost: Please rise as you are able for our final song, "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today," number 378 in the Glory and Praise Hymnal, and also in the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today."

LAST SONG:G&P 378 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Alleluia

Text: 77 77 with alleluias; Verse 1, Latin, 14th cent.; para. in Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Verses 2-3, *The Compleat Psalmist*, ca. 1750, alt.; Verse 4, Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Later form of melody fr. Lyra Davidica, 1708. Contributors: EASTER HYMN, Lyra Davidica, Lyra Davidica. Glory and Praise Second Edition #378 Onlicense # 84000 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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

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

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We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.
We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.
We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or

RECONCILING CONGREGATION for you.

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

WE ARE YOU!

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

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

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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NRSVEUE and the NRSVEUE-CA

(NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE))

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

(New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (NRSVCE))

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

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

October 3, 2025

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

Dr. Hugh Page Jr., chair of the **NCC's Bible Translation and Utilization Committee (BTU)**, said, "I am delighted that the

NRSVue, Catholic Edition has received the imprimatur from the USCCB. Such ensures even wider engagement of this update as well as the intellectual and spiritual riches contained therein. We are deeply grateful to the USCCB for its careful review and endorsement."

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Statement of Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, "A Call to Conscience" March 7, 2026](#)

Calling up the Draft. On March 10, Karoline Leavitt, the White House Secretary, stated there is no "current plan" for a draft, but also noted the administration "wisely keeps its options on the table" for Operation Epic Fury. (Source: [https://www.military.com/daily-news/2026/03/11/could-us-bring-back-draft-who-would-be-called-first-and-who-qualifies.html#:~:text=Comments%20From%20the%20White%20House,\(Archives.gov\)](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2026/03/11/could-us-bring-back-draft-who-would-be-called-first-and-who-qualifies.html#:~:text=Comments%20From%20the%20White%20House,(Archives.gov)). See also **People.com:** <https://people.com/karoline-leavitt-says-trump-not-ruling-out-military-draft-amid-iran-war-11921874>)

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

Project 2025 Unitive Executive Branch

Lukewarm Church

Women: Rev. Sandra Crouch:

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

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

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

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

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

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

