



**Ray Of Hope**

**Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."**

(Isaiah 56:7)

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

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor, and make disciples of every person everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19) "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:10,33)

April Struhm, Moderator

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.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (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 2, 2026, Holy Thursday, Year A

**Holy Week, 2026, celebrating the week that changed everything.**

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)

Special Scripture Readings for this worship event:

**First Reading:** 1 Peter 2:1-8 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Test. page 233

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 2:9-10 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Test. page 233

**Psalm:** 116: 12-18 with a responsorial

**Gospel:** Mark 14:12-26 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Test. page 51

\*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 latter portion. If this confuses you, ask someone nearby for help. Thank you.

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

**Bell's 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** As the 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.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, 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 in 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

**Lisa Frost:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Welcome to HOLY WEEK, 2026, with 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. Our Faith Community is your Spiritual Service Station and Faith Repair Shop, where The One Creating and Loving God is C.E.O, the owner of record is Jesus, the Christ of God, and the Operations Manager is The Holy Spirit. Our Congregation, Ray Of Hope Church, Inc., is a franchise location of the Body Of Christ, the Church. The Members and Friends are the working staff here this evening, facilitating this worship event. Here are some ways we will assist you during your worship experience tonight.

We will announce all instructions, pages, song numbers, and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment. To those who are with us online, to participate fully, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship, and Music Supplement available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. In Zoom, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP INFORMATION** at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com).

**Marcus Coppola:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good evening, and welcome to our Holy Thursday worship. (\*\* Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.\*\*) Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second part of this worship event. We celebrate the Lord's open table, where Membership in this or any church is not required to receive Communion. People participating on the Internet, please bring the following items to your table at this time so you are prepared: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



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

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



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

**Welcome: Veronica Floyd:** Everyone is welcome to the continuation of our celebration of Holy Week, "the week that changed the world." Ephesians 5:16 calls us to redeem the time, and tonight, we will do just that together. This evening, we celebrate the tremendous gift of the Blessed Sacrament, our holy and satisfying Eucharistic feast, the banquet of God's love in Christ spread out to welcome all people. Ray Of Hope Church is committed to welcoming everyone to this Sacred Gift at Christ's Table. At the same time, we also remember this holy night was the night of Christ's agony in the garden, the betrayal, the arrest, the denial, the illegal trial with its predetermined and unjust verdict. Even as we celebrate this sacred feast, we recognize the real beginning of the Passion itself.

**Kaiden Benedict:** Before we proceed with this night's festivities, we will take a few moments to share a Holy Greeting and Holy Welcome. Please introduce yourself to those you do not know by first name, and welcome everyone! \*\*To observe COVID protocols, we may wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

**FIRST SONG: At That First Eucharist Before You Died G&P 511**

Text: William H. Turton, 1859 – 1938, alt

**Lisa Frost:** All are welcome to this Holy Table. There is a place setting and a name card for everyone. Jesus is our host and High Priest. Together, we pray this opening prayer:

**ALL: O Loving God, who was and is and who is to come, we accept your invitation to this banquet of love with grateful hearts. We have come here tonight with expectant faith. We are ready to experience the refreshing gift of yourself anew in the breaking of the bread and in the cup of salvation. On this holy night, we remember your giving us this spiritual food and going to the garden to pray for us. Once again, we present ourselves to you as servants of the Gospel. We renew our commitment to be your holy people, the Church. In the name of God and of the Christ and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

**Br. Benedict:** On this night, we give God all the praise as we rise together to sing "The Gloria." Please find a bell under your chair and ring it on the refrain.

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

**WORDS ONLY HERE. FOR THE 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.

## + Opening Prayer

**Ed Askins:** O Loving, Eternal, and Creating God, lead us to the truth, your Word, and help us initiate action and change in our lives, so we are transformed and equipped for service.

**ALL: AMEN.**

**Ed Askins:** Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

### + First Reading

**Veronica Floyd:** (\*\*If you have already introduced yourself, skip this part, please.\*\*)  
Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_.

Our first reading is in the Book of the Letter of Peter, chapter 2, verses 1-8. You will find this on page 233 in the back of the ©1989 NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible of ©2007. Here begins the reading:

2 :1 Therefore, never be spiteful, deceitful, hypocritical, envious or critical of each other. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, be hungry for nothing but milk—the pure milk of the word that will make you grow into salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have "tasted that our God is good." <sup>4</sup>(Psalm 34:8) Come to Christ—a living stone (Christ is the stone see note 2:8)(Christ the Stone is a Chain Reference), rejected by mortals but approved nonetheless, chosen and precious in God's eyes. <sup>5</sup> (Psalm 118:22) And you are living stones as well: you are being built as an edifice of spirit, to become a holy priesthood (see verse 9 ), offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For scripture has it, (Isaiah 28:16)

"See, I am laying a cornerstone in Zion;

an approved stone, and precious.

Those who put their faith in it

will not be shaken."

<sup>7</sup> The stone is precious for you who have faith. But for those without faith,

"The stone which the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone," (Psalm 118:22)

and, at the same time,

<sup>8</sup> "an obstacle and a stumbling block." (Isaiah 9:14)

Those who stumble and fall are disbelievers in God's word;

it is their destiny to do so.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

(1Peter 2:1-8. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 3182-3183). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 782. 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.)

Pastor Benedict Short Explanation:

2 :1 Therefore, never be spiteful, deceitful, hypocritical, envious or critical of each other.

**\*\* This is the conduct we are all called to if we are an authentic church.**

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, be hungry for nothing but milk—the pure milk of the word that will make you grow into salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have "tasted that our God is good." <sup>4</sup>(Psalm 34:8)

**\*\* As a church, we HUNGER for the Word. We serve the public, and one another, by providing a public reading of Scripture according to the Lectionary - set readings to assure balance, and announce when we do otherwise. (Psalm 34:8) "Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who trust in the Lord."**

Come to Christ—a living stone (Christ the Stone is a Chain Reference that starts at Genesis 49:24 and ends at 1 Peter 2:8 with the summary. \*see page 1754 for list of references.)

**Christ Is The Rock Summary page 1693 1 Peter 2:8**

**Christ as the Stone page 1341 Matt. 21:44**

**The Keys of the Kingdom, page 1332, Matt. 16:19**

, rejected by mortals but approved nonetheless, chosen and precious in God's eyes. <sup>5</sup> (Psalm 118:22)

**"The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone." Do notice the growing rejection of Christ as truly present in the World. Christ is being relegated (at best) to a teacher of religion who may have lived around 2,000 years ago to teach ethics to society. His Divine presence among us is being dismissed, as evidenced by the choices even our government makes for war, violence, and the lack of ethical principles in our**

process of governance.

And you are living stones as well: you are being built as an edifice of spirit, to become a holy priesthood (see verse 9 ), offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ.<sup>6</sup> For scripture has it, (Isaiah 28:16)

We are living spiritual stones in the house, the temple of the Holy Spirit. This is a new concept that is unique to this Dispensation of the Church. Jesus is building the Church, the Body of Christ, and we are the living stones.

"See, I am laying a cornerstone in Zion;  
an approved stone, and precious.  
Those who put their faith in it  
will not be shaken."

<sup>7</sup> The stone is precious for you who have faith. But for those without faith,

"The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone," (Psalm 118:22)  
and, at the same time,

<sup>8</sup> "an obstacle and a stumbling block." (Isaiah 9:14)

Those who stumble and fall are disbelievers in God's word; it is their destiny to do so.

**Kaiden Benedict:** 1 Peter 2:9-10 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Test. page 233

**Reader:** (\*\*If you have already introduced yourself, skip this part, please.\*\*)

Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_.

Our second reading is in the Book of the First Letter of Peter, chapter 2, verses 9-10. You will find this on page 233 in the back of the ©1989 NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible of ©2007. Here begins the reading:

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are a "chosen people, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart" (Exodus 19:5-6; Deut. 7:6-7; Rev.1:6, Rev. 5:10) to sing the praises of the One who called you out of the darkness into the wonderful, divine light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were "not a people," but now you are the people of God; once there was "no mercy for you," but now you have found mercy.

**Kaiden Benedict: This is the Word of the Lord!**

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

(1Peter 2:9-10. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 3183). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 783. 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.)

Pastor Benedict's summary. First Letter of Peter, chapter 2, verses 9-10.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are a "chosen people, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart" (Exodus 19:5-6; Deut. 7:6-7; Rev. 1:6, Rev. 5:10)

Exodus 19:5-6 <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. <sup>6</sup> And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." (NKJV)

Deuteronomy 7:6-7 <sup>6</sup> "For you *are* a <sup>[a]</sup>holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; (NKJV)

Revelation 1:5,6 To Him who <sup>[a]</sup>loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us <sup>[b]</sup>kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (NKJV)

to sing the praises of the One who called you out of the darkness into the wonderful, divine light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were "not a people," but now you are the people of God; once there was "no mercy for you," but now you have found mercy.

**\*\*\* Notice, we access the mercy of God regularly at the start of most of our services. Notice, too, that we are a people**

because God has called us together as the church in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our duty, our lives as the royal priesthood of Christ, is to as verse 9 reads, to sing the praises of the One who called you out of the darkness into the wonderful, divine light.

In our second Gospel acclamation, we clap with praise as we sing, "You called us out of darkness, into your marvelous Light. Your Word is our joy."

### + Psalm

**Lisa Frost:** (\*\*If you have already introduced yourself, skip this part, please.\*\*)  
Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_.

The Psalm today is 116, verses 12-18. Our response today is: "Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ." (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:16)

### R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

<sup>12</sup> How can I repay the LORD  
for his goodness to me?

<sup>13</sup> The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the LORD'S name.

### R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> My vows to the LORD I will fulfill  
before all the people.

<sup>15</sup> O precious in the eyes of the LORD  
is the death of the faithful.

### R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

<sup>16</sup> Your servant, LORD, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.

<sup>17</sup> A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;  
I will call on the LORD'S name.

**R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

<sup>18</sup> My vows to the LORD I will fulfill

before all the people,

<sup>19</sup> in the courts of the house of the LORD,

in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

**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 116 (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense Song #30990 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.)

**+ 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

6 truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your

11 Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our

16 hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

**Reader:** The Gospel reading is Mark, chapter 14:12-26, on page 51 in the back of the ©1989 NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible of ©2007.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be in our (+) minds that we will understand it, on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and in our (+) hearts that we will love it.**

<sup>12</sup> On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the paschal lamb, the disciples said to Jesus, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover supper for you?" <sup>13</sup> He directed two of the disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and you will come upon a man carrying a water jar. Follow him <sup>14</sup> into a house he enters and say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks, "Where is my guestroom? I want to eat the Passover meal there with my disciples.'" <sup>15</sup> Then you will be shown an upstairs room, spacious, furnished, with everything in order. That is the place you are to get ready for us." <sup>16</sup> Then the disciples went off. When they reached the city, they found it just as Jesus had told them, and they prepared the Passover supper. <sup>17</sup> As it grew dark, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. <sup>18</sup> They reclined at table, and in the course of the meal Jesus said, "The truth is, one of you is about to betray me—one who is eating with me." <sup>19</sup> They were very upset at these words, and one by one they said to him, "Surely it's not me!" <sup>20</sup> Jesus replied, "It is one of you Twelve—one who dips into the dish with me." <sup>21</sup> The Chosen One is going the way the scriptures foretell. But woe to the one by whom the Chosen One is betrayed! It were better had that person never been born." <sup>22</sup> During the meal Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them saying, "Take this and eat. This is my body." <sup>23</sup> He likewise took a cup, gave thanks and passed it to them, and they all drank from it. <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "This is my blood, the blood of the Covenant, which will be poured out on behalf of many." <sup>25</sup> The

truth is, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until the day I drink it anew in the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup> After singing songs of praise, they walked out to the Mount of Olives.

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 2759-2760). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

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

(Mark 14:12-26. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 2759-2760). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 674. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

## Gospel Acclamation

### Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sus the Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God! You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more! For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!"



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. 5:10**

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## + Sermon:

### Holy Thursday - the scandal of the Church, of the Eucharist, of Holy Thursday

Order of Events: (Scofield Reference Notes Matthew 26:20)

The order of events on the night of the Passover supper appears to have been:

- (1) The taking by our Lord and the disciples of their places at the table;
- (2) the institution of the Lord's Supper or Eucharist;
- (3) the feet washing;
- (4) the contention who should be greatest;
- (5) the identification Judas as the traitor;
- (6) the withdrawal of Judas;
- (7) the words of Jesus while still in the room Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:35-38; John 13:3-35; Matthew 14:1-31
- (8) the words of Jesus between the room and the garden Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:26-31; John 15:16; John 15:17 it seems probable that the high-priestly prayer John 17:1-26 was uttered after they reached the garden;
- (9) the agony in the garden;
- (10) the betrayal and arrest;
- (11) Jesus before Caiaphas; Peter's denial.

Veronica's Sermon Notes are here for further study: [RIGHT CLICK HERE](#).

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."***

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 <sup>5</sup> It is not ourselves we preach, but Christ Jesus as Sovereign, and ourselves as your workers for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts, so that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ.

<sup>7</sup> But this treasure we possess is in earthen vessels, to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us

## **Jesus completes the Aaronic Priesthood and establishes the Priesthood of all believers.**

I recommend that each person carefully read Hebrews Chapter 7, especially verses 11-24, on pages 1671 and 1672.

Also read THE NEW TESTAMENT PRIESTHOOD, SUMMARY, page 1694



### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

#### **+ Pastoral Renewal of Promises**

**(\*\*Lisa and Ed, please go to the microphone at the Altar/Table.)**

**Ed Askins, Council Member, Treasurer:** It is our privilege to help our clergy renew their vows to God, and to the Church of Jesus Christ, which we know is Christ's Body, living and truly present in this world. Therefore, we begin –

**ALL: Do you promise with the help of God, to be faithful to God, to the Gospel of Jesus the Christ, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit?**

Clergy: Yes, I promise and renew my commitment to be faithful to God, to the Gospel of Christ, and to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and I ask God to help me in my weakness.

**ALL: Do you promise with the help of God, to faithfully teach the Sacred Scriptures, the Word of God, as the literal truth and inspired writing of God?**

Clergy: Yes, I promise and renew my commitment to faithfully present the Holy Scriptures as the literal Word of God, given to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I ask God to help me in my weakness.

**ALL: Do you promise with the help of God, to always teach Jesus the Christ as the Name above all names, the Only Begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of Almighty God; being God from God, Light from Light, and True God from True God?**

Clergy: Yes, I promise and renew my commitment to teaching all the Doctrines regarding Jesus the Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, and I ask God to help me in my weakness.

**ALL: Do you promise with the help of God, to remain faithful to the Sacraments, teaching them as expressions and manifestations of God's literal grace present in the world?**

Clergy: Yes, I promise and renew my commitment to be a faithful servant of Christ, Who is truly present in all the Sacraments. I recognize a real hunger for deep experiences with the Holy and the Spiritual in our society, especially these days. Therefore, I will do my best to educate and accompany people to the sacramental manifestations of God's literal grace in the world. I ask God to help me in my weakness.

**Lisa Frost:** Now we pray together.

**ALL: O God, we thank you, and we praise you for the Church, and all those you call to serve you in the Church. Having heard these promises of faithful service to you, we ask you to accept these promises and bless your servant all the days of his life. We ask this in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; Amen, and thanks be to God.**

**+ The Prayers of the People**

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

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

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

**Wayne Harris:** We pray for all who are in danger because of acts of war, especially children, the elderly, those in hospitals, nursing centers, schools that the weapons of war have leveled or severely damaged, and for all military personnel of any Nation and their families. We pray to the Lord,

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

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

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

**Marcus:** We pray for all who are sick, all who are in any form of treatment, all who care for the sick, and all who support those delivering care and their families. (\*\*pause for a moment of silence.\*\*)  
We pray to the Lord,

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

**Marcus:** 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.**

**Brother:** At this time, we invite everyone to add their own prayers now in silent prayer. (\*\*wait for silent prayers\*\*) Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers, and we ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

**ALL: Amen**

**Veronica Floyd, Moderator:** Our annual Holy Thursday financial gifts are dedicated to the expenses for worship supplies during the year. There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation. Anyone may



use the QR code or press control + click or tap on this link: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#) in the bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St., Elmira, NY 14901. People in the Chapel may use the envelopes and the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event.

At this time, we also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Internet viewers, please turn to page three and follow the instructions highlighted in yellow.

We still use individual communion kits in the Chapel as part of our COVID safety protocol.

Everyone may help set the Chapel Communion Table, and you may walk to the donation box during this time.

( \*\* Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. \*\* Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local Church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, yield to the Holy Spirit's direction. Hopefully, you can join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (\*This practice policy

corrected after worship event 4-2-26 Holy Thursday Year A Page 25 of 37  
was changed on Gaudete Sunday,  
December 13, 2020.\*) )

**OFFERTORY SONG: For You Are My God G&P 612 Words and Music**

**John B. Foley, S.J.** Text based on Psalm 16. Text and music © 1970, John B. Foley, S.J. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense Song # 81275 Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

**Ed Askins, Treasurer:** (\* **Improvise a prayer** over the offering, giving thanks and praise.\*) (When your prayer is complete, please say:) " Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a 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:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, and 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 bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), and 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), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

(Other titles include the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54- 57), the Cup of the

corrected after worship event 4-2-26 Holy Thursday Year A Page 26 of 37  
New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1  
Corinthians 11:25)

**Pastor:** Please set down your communion kit.

**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:** It is truly right and just....

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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## + We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

**Leader:** At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts that 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. As we sing "Remember Me," Marcus, please show the Cup, and Wayne, please show the Bread.

**+ 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:** 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.

**Brother:** 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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**Veronica Floyd:** 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.**

### 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 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 Goyette:** The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Ruth Goyette:** 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.

**Kaiden Benedict:** 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. Please turn now in the Worship Notebook to number 110, the Hymn of Glory, also in the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing the Hymn of Glory.

#### **COMMUNION SONG: Hymn of Glory.**

Text and music: Charles Christmas, © 1974, Word of God Music.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS BEFORE MEDITATION AND BENEDICTION

Good Friday Breakfast tomorrow morning

Chapel Assistants at Noon

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.



### Holy Thursday Night Benediction

**Pastor:** God did not send the Only Begotten Son into the world to condemn the world,

**ALL: but that the world be saved through Him. (John 3:17)**

**Pastor:** Christ is with us always, as He promised in Matthew 28:20.

**ALL: Christ is present in the faith community, in the Scriptures, and in the Sacraments.**

**Pastor:** We now give thanks for Christ with us by adoring Him present in the Holy Eucharist.

**ALL: We adore You, most holy Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all Your churches throughout the world, and we praise You because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

**Pastor:** You have given us the Bread from Heaven.

**ALL: Giving salvation to all who receive it and believe.**

**Pastor:** You have given us the Cup of Salvation.

**ALL: Giving salvation to all who receive it and believe.**

**Pastor:** After giving us this most holy and blessed Sacrament of your Body and Blood to sustain your Church until you come again in glory, you went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray for us and all who would believe in your most Holy Name.

**ALL:** So now, we come here to sit and pray on this Holy Thursday night as you prayed for us. We ask you to receive our prayers and adoration. Amen.

**\*\* SILENT ADORATION BEGINS for fifteen minutes.\*\***

**\*\* 8:30 p.m. BELL RINGS TO CALL EVERYONE TO BENEDICTION\*\***

**Pastor:** You may sit or kneel as you are comfortable. We come to worship and to adore. Together, we pray:

**ALL:** I adore you, Jesus, true God, and true man, present in the holy Eucharist, the bread and fruit of the vine of Holy Communion. Kneeling before you and united in spirit with all the faithful on earth and all the saints in Paradise, I come in gratitude for such a great blessing. I come to you with praise and thanksgiving. I love you with all my heart, dear Jesus, for you are worthy of all praise and adoration.

**Pastor:** Please continue in silent prayer for a few moments.

\*\*\*\*\*silent prayer at this time\*\*\*\*\*

**Pastor:** It is time for the Benediction. Please maintain a prayer posture that is most comfortable for you. You may sit or kneel during the blessing. You may make the sign of the Cross if you choose to, or fold your hands in prayer, or extend your hands in

## **BENEDICTION IS NOW GIVEN**

### **Closing Prayer**

**Pastor:** Please rise as you are able, and we pray together.

**ALL:** Lord Jesus Christ, you have given us the Blessed Sacrament as the Most Holy Food of your Real Presence to sustain us as we wait for You to gather your People at the end of the Church Age. May our worship of your Body and Blood, the Gift you have given us, help us experience the salvation you have won for us and the peace of Paradise where you live with God The Creator, and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Pastor:** We go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

(Tonight, we leave in silence. The Chapel is available for silent prayer a few minutes after the final prayer.)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Saturday, April 4, 2026, 7:45 p.m. Vigil of the Resurrection - Rite of Membership for Marcus Coppola.**  
No events scheduled for Sunday, April 5, 2026

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

**Elmira Worship-** Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery .  
Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 a.m.  
**Syracuse Worship-** looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information  
[Click Here](#).

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

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

**Policy Concerning Minors at Events**

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

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public 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 and pray. Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

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

(Optional) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

—————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)

