



**"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 4-27-25, The Second Sunday of The Great 50 Days C  
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:** 1 Peter 1:3-9 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 232

**Psalm:** 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 responsorial psalm in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** Revelation 1: 1-20 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 245

**Gospel:** John 20:19-31 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament Pg. 115

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

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.**

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

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



## **WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS**

**+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. This is your Spiritual Service Station and Faith Repair Shop, where our Loving Creating God is C.E.O, the owner of record is Jesus, the Christ, and the Operations Manager is The Holy Spirit. Our Congregation, Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. is a franchise location of the Body Of Christ, the Church. The Members and Friends are the working staff here today to facilitate this worship event. To participate fully, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship, and Music Supplement

available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at

[www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). For people watching on the Internet, we recommend you have two Internet devices on. Set one device on Facebook Live to listen to the Music. Right-click on this link to access our [Facebook page](#). Open the Skype meeting on the second device to interact with us. Right-click on this Skype Link: <https://join.skype.com/qt6Y1PQvj04I>.

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

**Leader-2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and welcome. (\*\* Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.\*\*) We invite you to participate in some or all of the parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable.

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second half of this worship event. You need not be a member of this church or any church to receive Communion with us if you choose to. To the people watching on the Internet, to participate in Communion, please also bring to your table 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, and 3) a second cup with some water and a side napkin. We will use these in the second half of the worship service. Now, gather all these items, and we will start shortly.



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

(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.**

**Leader – 2:** (\*\* Reader, look up at the people and smile.\*\*) Thank you for choosing to spend time with us today. In Romans, Chapter 15, verse 7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

**ALL: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." (NABRE)**

**Leader -2:** You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (\*\* Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.\*\*) Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **SAINTS** around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID-19 safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

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

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

**Pastor:** Good Morning, **SAINTS**! I ask you, in who's Name are we meeting?

**ALL: We meet in the name of God our Creator, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour, and in the name of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Pastor:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's love, and the Holy Spirit's fellowship is with you. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**ALL: And also with you, praise the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Welcome to your Spiritual Service Station and Faith Repair Shop. We promise to do our very best to help you worship God in Christ, with the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today is April 27, 2025, The Second Sunday of the Resurrection during the Great Fifty Days, Year C. A lot has happened since

we celebrated the Great Vigil of the Resurrection last Saturday. Pope Francis passed in the night after Resurrection Sunday and he has already been interred in less than seven days. I really enjoyed seeing his coffin on the back of a small pickup truck going through the streets of Rome. Well done!

RED Martyr dry martyr, wet martyr. People are feeling crushed under the weight of massive firings across the United States caused by the new President and His Administration. We will have more to say on this during the Sermon today. \*\*Good news: Federal Judges ordered the Executive Administration to reinstate all Federal Employees who have been fired since the start of this Administration. (Source:

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/13/politics/judge-opm-probationary-employees-fired-hearing/index.html>)

The theme for the moment is "This is the Day that the Lord has made, we rejoice and we are glad." Psalm 118:24 in today's Psalm.

**Pastor:** We begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

**ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.**



### **FIRST SONG: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks G&P 389**

Words and Music by Donald Fishel Text: Donald Fishel, b.1950, © 1973, Word of God Music. Tune: © 1973, International Liturgy Publications Text: © 1973, International Liturgy Publications. Oneliscence Song # 71342 Ritual Song 581 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

### **+ The Candle Of Hope**

**Leader - 2:** Today, we light our **Resurrection Candle Of Hope** to celebrate our Faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Those viewing at home may light a special candle and bring it to your table. Now, everyone, please join me and recite these words of Jesus to celebrate the Truth they promise us. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

**Leader -2:** In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a

unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS and to extend a radical welcome to all people to worship with us. Our witness to God's unconditional love for everyone is as relevant today as in 1983. Here we are forty-one years later, and still, some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance.

Therefore, at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people. Scroll the page to see the panels on block 146.



These are the names on Block # 146

- Bryce Holcombe (1)
- Jeff Lowery (2)
- Brian Hovey (3)
- Kyle Cittadin (4)
- German Arias (5)

- Fred Buckley (6)
- Peter Deaett (7)
- Henry Weitzer (8)

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

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

**(\*\*pause for silent prayer.\*\*)** May this candle's flame help bring to mind the Joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the promise of the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

**SECOND SONG: Easter Song.** Words and Music by Anne Herring

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**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

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

(silent prayer)

L-3: Filled with the Holy Spirit we are called to live a life of transformation and change to show forth the Christ of God. There are times we could speak out and stand up for the poor, the underpaid, and the homeless, but

we bypass the opportunity. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-3: With Christ living in us we are empowered to understand and act upon the will of God. We can do more to discourage war, lessen poverty, and advocate for education and employment to be more equitable. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

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

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -2:** We pray together:

**ALL: I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended God in any way. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

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

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

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



## WORDS ONLY HERE. MUSIC SCROLL DOWN

### "The Gloria"

From "Music for Worship"

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

89

A - men

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

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

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

**+ Opening Prayer**

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

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

**Leader-4:** We make this exhortation together:

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

**Leader-4:** Saint Origen, who lived from 185 – 254 A.D., wrote this prayer. His prayer is our prayer on this day. Please be seated now and listen with all your heart, soul, and mind as we open the Word of God.



## **THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD**

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

Our first reading is in the First Letter of Saint Peter chapter 1, verses 1-10. You will find this on page 232 in the front of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

FROM PETER, AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST, To those who live as resident aliens dispersed throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia—<sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Creator, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with Christ's blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance. <sup>3</sup> Praised be the Abba God of our Savior Jesus Christ, who with great mercy gave us new birth: a birth into hope, which draws its life from the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; <sup>4</sup> a birth to an imperishable inheritance incapable of fading or defilement, which is kept in heaven for you <sup>5</sup> who are guarded with God's power

through faith; a birth to a salvation which stands ready to be revealed in the last days. <sup>6</sup> There is cause for rejoicing here. You may, for a time, have to suffer the distress of many trials. <sup>7</sup> But this is so that your faith, which is more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold, may by its genuineness lead to praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ appears. <sup>8</sup> Although you have never seen Christ, you love Christ; and without seeing, you still believe, and you rejoice with inexpressible joy touched with glory, <sup>9</sup> because you are achieving faith's goal—your salvation. <sup>10</sup> This is the salvation the prophets were looking for and searching for so carefully; their prophecies were about the grace which has come to you.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

(1Peter Chapter 1:1-10. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 3180-3181). 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.)

## + Psalm

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

Today's Psalm is 118, verses 2-4, 13-15, and 22-24. Our response today is; "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia."

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

<sup>2</sup> Let the family of Israel say:

"God's love endures for ever."

<sup>3</sup> Let the family of Aaron say:

"God's love endures for ever."

<sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the Lord say:

"God's love endures for ever."

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

<sup>13</sup> I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,



but the Lord was my helper.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song;  
and has been my savior.

<sup>15</sup> There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just.

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

<sup>22</sup> The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the work of the LORD,  
a marvel in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad.

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**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 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24. A Processional Song of Praise. (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense Song #42089. All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Brother Shawn F. Benedict

**+ Second Reading**

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

Our second reading is in the Book of Revelation, chapter 1, verses 1 through 20. You will find this on page 245 in the back, the second testament of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

THIS IS THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, given by God to show the faithful what must happen very soon. God made it known by sending an angel to John, the faithful subject, <sup>2</sup> who in writing down everything he saw, bears witness to the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>

Happy are those people who read this prophetic message, and happy are those who hear it and heed what is written in it, for the time is near! <sup>4</sup> From John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you, from the One who is, who was, and who is to come, from the seven spirits before the throne <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the Firstborn from the dead, sovereign of the rulers of the earth. To Christ—who loves us, and who has freed us from our sins by the shedding of blood, <sup>6</sup> and who has made us to be a kingdom of priests to serve our God and Creator—to Jesus Christ be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! Christ is coming on the clouds

for every eye to see,

even those who pierced Jesus,

and all the peoples of the earth

will mourn over Christ. (a reference to Zechariah 12:10)

So be it! Amen. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says our God, "who is, who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

I, John, your brother, who share with you the trial, the kingdom, and the perseverance we have in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and bore witness to Jesus. <sup>10</sup> It was the first day of the week and I was in the Spirit, when suddenly I heard behind me a piercing voice like the sound of a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> which said, "Write on a scroll what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." <sup>12</sup> I turned around to see who spoke to me, and I saw seven lampstands of gold <sup>13</sup> and, among the lampstands, a figure of human appearance wearing an ankle-length robe with a golden sash across its chest. <sup>14</sup> The figure's head and hair were white as wool or snow, and its eyes were like a blazing flame. <sup>15</sup> Its feet were like burnished bronze refined in a furnace, and its voice was like the sound of crashing surf. <sup>16</sup> In its right hand the figure held seven stars, and out of its mouth came a sharp, double-edged sword. Its face shown like the sun at high noon. <sup>17</sup> When I saw it, I fell down as though dead. It touched me with its right hand and said, "Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last, <sup>18</sup> the Living One. Once I was dead, but now I live forever and ever. I hold the keys of death and the underworld. <sup>19</sup> Write down, therefore, everything you see—things as they are now, and things that will take place in the future. <sup>20</sup> The seven stars you saw in my right

hand, and the seven golden lampstands, are symbols: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

(Revelation 1:1-20. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 3209-3211). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 790. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

## + The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Reader: We sing an acclamation before and one after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

### Gospel Acclamation

**We Love Your Word!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993  
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the  
truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your  
Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al - le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our  
hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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

The Gospel reading is on page 115 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of John, chapter 20, verses 19-31.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

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

<sup>19</sup> In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, <sup>21</sup> who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you." <sup>22</sup> After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven.

If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained." <sup>24</sup> It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"—was absent when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!" Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound." <sup>26</sup> On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!" <sup>28</sup> Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus then said, "You've become a believer because you saw me.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." <sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs as

well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus' Name.

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

(John 20:19-31. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 2922-2923). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 716. 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

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

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### + Sermon

### NOTES

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

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

**has not been in vain. 1 Cor. 5:10**

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

SEASON OF THE RESURRECTION 40 + 10 = The Great 50 Days.

Ascension Thursday is May 29 – 40 days. We will celebrate Ascension on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, which is also the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the first public worship event in our chapel at 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St.

Ten days from the actual Ascension Day (May 29) is  
(Saturday, June 7 Elmira Pride)

Sunday, June 8 – the Feast of Pentecost – The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit  
(Saturday, June 14 Corning Pride)

June 15 – Trinity Sunday, Father's Day, and the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination

**READ** Saint Augustine (c.354-430) was born in Thagase, Africa. He did not receive Christian Baptism until he was 33 in 387. Augustine was ordained in 391, and four years later, he served as assistant to Bishop Valerius of Hippo. Augustine succeeded Bishop Valerius in 396. To put this into context, Christianity became the religion of Rome in 380, with the First Council of Constantinople being called in 381. Augustine was a Bishop fifteen years later, at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. Sermon 88, titled, "After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them."

**\*\*\* 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-](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)

[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 \*\*\*\*\*

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**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Brother: PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:**

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

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

We are an independent organization founded and funded by anyone who appreciates what we offer. Your support is one way to give God thanks and praise for this unique ministry for all people. There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation, including



this QRCode, this link in the bulletin: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#); other live links on [our website](#), the envelopes and donation box next to the door always available in the Chapel. Checks sent in the mail are also accepted. [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact information, including our street address. We always say, "Give what you can, but never give your last."

## **OFFERTORY SONG: OFFERTORY**

**All Creation Worships You. *Words and Music by Jim Mills and Kirk Dearman***

### **Chorus**

You are God and we praise You

(And we praise You)

You are Lord we acclaim You

(We acclaim You)

You are eternal Father

All creation worships You

All creation worships You

Amen

**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.

**Leader - 3:** (\*\*You may improvise a prayer or use this one.) God, we bless you and praise you for all the gifts we have received to support this ministry. We thank you for those who can give financially and with their skills, prayers, talents, and other ways. We bless you for those who could not give at this time and pray that all their needs will be met. We dedicate all this to the Name of Jesus, Amen.

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

**ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



## **WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

**Pastor or?:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this Bread, which the Earth has given us, and human



hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this Bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Leader 4:** Please set down your Bread. For those at home, pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then, add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

**Brother Benedict:** Now, please lift your cup with me as I pray this prayer. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

**Pastor:** Truly present and risen among us; **SAINTS** the Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Pastor:** As His Body, we lift up our hearts!

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

**Pastor:** As His Church, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

**ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Pastor: (An improvised prayer is said here.)**

May our voices be one with all the fabulous Faithful from every time and place as we sing our song and join their unending praise

hymns.

**Holy, Holy, Lord!**To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993  
Revised 8/2013

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
 5 might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the  
 10 high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.  
 16 Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 22 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
 27 san - na in the high-est.

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**+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit \*\*Epiclesis\*\***

**Leader - 3:** At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. This prayer asking for action by the Holy Spirit is called an Epiclesis prayer. We invite you to extend your hands forward over the Bread and fruit of the vine or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

**ALL:** O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this Bread

and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for **our physical and spiritual** well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen

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

**+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION SONG: Remember Me.** Words and Music by Gerrit Gustafson and Martin J. Nystrom © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. c/o Integrity Music, Inc., P.O. Box 16813, Mobile, AL, 36695. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. CCLI Song # 451177 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**+ The Lord's Prayer**

**Leader 3:** Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: Our Father, who Art in Heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on Earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily  
Bread; and forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us; and  
lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

Music setting information: **The Lord's Prayer Composed by Albert Hay Malotte.** ©1935 G. Schirmer, Inc. (Admin. by Music Sales Corporation) CCLI Song#1534 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



## The Reception of Holy Communion

**Pastor:** Please raise the Blessed Sacrament as a sign of praise and pray together:

**ALL:** Behold the Lamb of God. Behold the Christ truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this cup, though they die, they shall live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.

**Leader - 2:** Blessed are those who come to this table; everyone is welcome.

**ALL:** Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word, I am healed. It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

## Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to \_\_\_\_ You. Al - migh - ty

5  
God \_\_\_\_ world with - out end. \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia

11  
A \_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men! \_\_\_\_

**Leader 4:** 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 upon a prayer in a Prayer Book at the Episcopal National Cathedral. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together;

**Oh, My Jesus, I believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment. Still, circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

### **+ Sign Of Peace**

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Leader-1:** Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. \*\*During COVID, we wave across the room and into the

camera for the Internet.

**Leader-1:** Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of the crumbs are in your cup. Add some water and swirl it around inside the cup. Drink the water. Dry the cup with the side napkin. Clear your worship table and altar.

**COMMUNION SONG: O Sons and Daughters G&P 379**

Text: O filii et filiae; Jean Tisserand, d.1494; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Tune: O FILII ET FILIAE, 888 with alleluias: Mode III acc. by Richard Proulx, b. 1937

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

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**Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2025**

General Fund opening balance at the beginning of March was \$1,988.41. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$3,274.11. This included special donations of \$20.00 toward the cost of the Inquiries class notebooks. I also transferred in \$36.27 from the Building Fund. Payments out of this account were: Pastoral compensation of \$2,060.00, Verizon \$62.47, Corning Pride application fee of \$50.00, a

reimbursement to Brother for \$184.08 ( which was coded to the following accounts: Fire Alarm Maintenance for CO2 detector \$36.27, copy expenses for notebooks for inquiries class \$81.42, wine and grape juice purchase from Ash Wednesday service \$66.39) Appointed Pastor Self Employment tax was moved to saving in the amount of \$23.32 and Paypal charges for the month were \$30.26. After these were paid the balance of this account at the end of the month was \$2,888.66. There was undeposited funds in this account of \$1.99 and I recorded a \$90.00 Gift in Kind from Wayne and Glenn for dry cleaning of the choir robes.

Building Fund opening balance was \$1,481.44. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$648.00, Ian and Christina \$450.00 and Wayne and Glenn \$200.00. Bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$56.27, electric \$276.92, gas bill \$253.00, Liability Insurance \$275.60, water bill \$78.56 and I transferred \$36.27 to the General Fund to repay that account for the CO2 detector. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,802.82. Undeposited funds in this account was \$50.00 from Katrina Lourdiane.

Building Improvement Fund opening balance on this account was \$864.36. There was no activity on this account so the ending balance is \$864.36

Savings (Council) Account opening balance \$665.33. \$23.32 was transferred into this account from the General Fund towards the Appointed Pastor's self- employment tax.

The ending balance on this account was \$688.65. \$250.00 of this is the self- employment tax.

I wanted to add just a few additional notes.

I sincerely thank you all for your generous donations. God is and has been so faithful to us. Every gift the Church receives is so greatly appreciated as we press on to do what God has called us to do. You can see from the above report what is involved concerning finances alone to make the Church function. Our income for the first three months of 2025 totals \$14,204.20. Our expenses for the first three months of the year were \$12,654.39. I'm holding \$330.00 which was given for a specific expense, so figuring that in, we have a difference of \$1,219.81 of income over expenses. We are clearing expenses by about \$400 per month.

The credit card balance as of the last statement is \$2,399.94 with a credit limit of \$4,000.00. Our payment is \$53.00 a month with \$29.00 of that being interest.

As of today, April 10,2025. The balance in the General Fund is \$1,878.66, Building Fund \$1,232.30, Building Improvement Fund \$864.36 and Savings (Council) Account \$438.65.

Both NYSEG bills (electric & gas) have been paid this month in addition to the liability insurance and the Self-Employment tax payment due 4/15 has been paid. Also, the Real Property Tax Exemption Form has been completed and mailed in.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

**General Offering** for the week of March 23 \$721.45 Attendance 10 on Sunday  
Wednesday, March 26, Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of March 30 \$570.40 Attendance 13 on Sunday  
Wednesday, April 2, Attendance 13

**General Offering** for the week of April 6 \$896.40 Attendance 16 on Sunday  
Wednesday, April 9, Attendance 16

**General Offering** for the week of April 13 \$0.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday  
Holy Thursday Attendance 11 Special offering received for Liturgical Supplies: \$40.

**General Offering** for the week of April 20 \$100.00 Attendance 13 on Holy Saturday Vigil of the  
Resurrection

**\*\* Special Gifts made this week:** Katrina Lourdiane \$20.00 for Liturgical supplies, thank you. Brother made a \$648.00 donation to the Building Fund for April, thank you.

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

Wayne and Glenn donated \$100.00 to the Building Fund and an air conditioning unit for the Carley Room. Thank you to both of you, Wayne and Glenn. Ian and Christina McLaughlin donated \$450.00 (for March) to the Building Fund, thank you both.

Katrina made a \$50.00 donation to the Building Fund. Thank you, Katrina.

Brother made a \$648.00 donation to the Building Fund for March, thank you.

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

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

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

To be added to our email list, fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email [rayofhopechurch@aol.com](mailto:rayofhopechurch@aol.com) and write "email list" in the Subject box.

**UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**

April 29, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment. The flood of Lucifer and the flood of Noah session #3

April 30, Wednesday, 12:00 p.m. Noon ecumenical Mass.

May 2, Friday, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m Inquiries Class # 8 The Bible and Sexuality Part 2

May 4, Sunday Resurrection 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the Great 50 Days

May 11, Sunday, Mother's Day, and Foundresses Day

June 1, Sunday Ascension Sunday – 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the first public worship event in our chapel at 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St., the start of PRIDE MONTH

June 7, Saturday, Pride Elmira

June 8, Sunday Pentecost

June 14, Saturday, Pride Corning

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

June 22, Sunday Juneteenth Celebration (19th) at Ray Of Hope

June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Leader - 2:** We bless and praise you, God, for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and peace; (\*+\*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**Leader - 2:** We pray Romans Chapter fifteen, verse thirteen together, saying:

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

**Leader-4:** We go forth in peace and Love to serve all people and the Lord ...

**ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to God.**

**ENDING SONG: 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."



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.

We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.

We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or  
**RECONCILING CONGREGATION** for you.

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

**WE ARE YOU!**

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

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

### **Policy Concerning Minors at Events**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

—————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)

