



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 Sunday, May 12, 2024, ASCENSION Resurrection Week Seven, Year B
Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus.

St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."

Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 118

Psalm: Psalm 47 selected verses in this bulletin

Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 192

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20 NRSV 2ND Testament page 34

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

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

Bell's 1st ring. As 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. 1st 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

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. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. 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, 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.

Leader-1: Today's bulletin order of worship and music supplement are 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. 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) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

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



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

Leader – 2: (** Reader, look up at the people and smile.**) Thank you for spending time

with us. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

Leader -1: You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (** Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.**) Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **SAINTS** around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID-19 safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

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

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

Pastor:

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

Today is May 12, 2024, the Seventh and final Sunday of the Resurrection Season. We are celebrating Ascension Sunday, Mother's Day, and Foundresses Day. Calendars, sigh, so many things to be grateful for.

We are here to give God thanks and praise for these glorious events we have been educated in by the gifts of the Holy Scriptures, the Tradition of the Church, the deposit of faith, and the teaching power of the Holy Spirit. We thank God for Christ among us. (see 2Timothy 1:13-14:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+1%3A13-14&version=NRSVUE>)(see John 1:14:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A14&version=NRSVUE>)

FIRST SONG: All The Earth Proclaim The Lord. Words and Music by Lucien Deiss © 1965, World Library Publications. NTBK # 124 All rights reserved. Onelicense Song # 50169 Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. 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/AIDS. Forty-one years later, some churches, religions, and even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. In a letter from amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, we learn every minute someone somewhere contracts HIV. In the year 2023, 1.5 million people became newly infected, and 650,000 people, including some from the United States, died of AIDS-related causes.

HIV/AIDS is still with us; therefore, 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.

(for more information about amfAR: <https://www.amfar.org/about-amfar/>)

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 113.



Names on Block #113

- Garson Thomas (1)
- Michael Loneragan (2)
- Paul La Marca (3)
- Peter Mejic (4)
- Ray Jones (5)
- Carl Ferreira (6)
- Dale Hansen (7)
- Scott H. Pharis (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 "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: Hail thee, festival day! Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, Ralph Vaughan Williams
Tune: SALVE FESTA DIES by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) from The Hymnal 1940 with authorized inclusive language by The Hymnal Project, ©1990 MCC San Francisco used with exclusive permission to Ray Of Hope Church, Inc., **Ntbk #64**. Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Onelicense #57066 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) So far, we assembled, greeted one another, and praised God in song. Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ forgiving our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter twenty-four, verse forty-seven, Jesus instructed the Church "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Leader – 3: Hear the Word of God in First John, Chapter One, verses eight and nine: "⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, Jesus, who is present, faithful, and just, will forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE>
Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

Leader -2: At this time, in silent prayer, we consider our relationship with God and others, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, and receive immediate forgiveness.

(silent prayer for time to confess our sins.) (**Leader, please count to 20**.)

Leader -2: Now, 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 **anyone, and God**, in any way. Therefore, I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to forgive me and pray for me to the Lord our God.

Leader -4: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____.

While millions of people need food, water, medical supplies, shelter, and peace, governments continue to spend billions of dollars on weapons of war; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: When we discriminate, we exclude people and close our minds to Christ present in everyone. Christ among us requires us to include and welcome all people in recognition that the Holy Spirit has been poured out on all people. We pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: We sometimes become afraid, even embarrassed, to talk about Jesus and to spread the good news of what the Church has to offer; Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World, grant us peace.

Pastor: We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom without losing anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

Leader-3: Jesus told the Church to forgive sins in His Name. Jesus said:

ALL: If you forgive people their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive people their sins, neither will your Father forgive your sins." (Matt. 6:14-15) Jesus also told us to forgive our brothers and sisters from the heart. (Matt. 18:35).

Therefore, we, the faith community of Ray Of Hope Church, openly declare 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 to sing "The Gloria."

Ray of Hope Church, Inc. *The Gloria* Winds and Music
10th Annual Meeting Music for Worship 7/25/17
Handwritten: *Winds and Music Handwritten Liturgical Arts*
7/25/17
1/21/24

2. = 6/8 *Refrain*

GLO-ry to God in the high-est, AND
peace to all peo-ple on Earth
GLO-ry to God in the high-est
We give You thankS - and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
We give You thanks and praise

Verse 1

You are the One God, Sov-ereign of the
Uni-verse, On-ly Ho-ly God, We wor-ship You, We
give you thanks, We praise You for Your great glo-ry! (Refrain)

7/25/17, 1/1/24 *Handwritten Liturgical Arts by [unclear]*

2. = 6/8 *Refrain* *1/21/24*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, AND
peace to all peo-ple on Earth
Glo-ry to God in the high-est.
We give You thanks and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
We give You thanks and praise

VERSE 2 *The Gloria, Pg 2*

LORD, Jes-us Christ, The on-ly Be-got-ten Son of God, You are
LORD God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the
world: HAVE MER-cy on us; you are seated at the
right hand of God; re-ceive our prayer. (To Refrain)

2. = 6/8 *Refrain* *1/21/24*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, AND
 peace to all peo-ple on Earth
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est.
 We give You thanks and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
 We give You thanks and praise

Verse 3

For You a-lone are the hol-y one, You a-lone are the
 LORD of all, You a-lone are the Most High,
 Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly
 spir-it, in the glo-ry of God. In the
 Ho-ly spi-rits in the HO-ly un-i-ty of

(TO REFRAIN)
 © 7/25/17-1/1/24 Gaudes! Liturgical Arts *R. B. Benson*

$\frac{2}{4} = \frac{6}{8}$ *Refrain* $\frac{7}{24} / \frac{24}{7}$

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, AND
peace to all peo-ple on Earth
Glo-ry to God in the high-est
We give You thanks and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
We give You thanks and praise

Verse 4: Amen

The Gloria, Pg 3

ALL: A ————— men; we give you thanks and

We give you thanks and praise

LORD, we praise you LORD we bless you, we give you thank we give you praise

ALL: Praise!

A —————

We give you thank and praise

We give you thank and praise LORD, we praise you LORD we bless you

ALL: men

men al-le-lu-ia

mine
@ 7/25/17 - 11/24
Gaudete! - 11/24
Pete Behm

+ Opening Prayer

Leader-5: Eternal Word of God, speak to us as we listen to the Sacred Scriptures read aloud. Holy Spirit, open our minds to understand what we hear and apply it in our lives, giving honor and glory to God through Christ, our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader-5: Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.

ALL: We read God's Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. The first reading is the Book of Acts, chapter 1, verses 1-11. The text is on page 118 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated edition. Luke is the author of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. In this selection, Luke continues his thoughts from the Book of Acts. Here begins the reading.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering^[a] he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying^[b] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^[c] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is

not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [1.3](#) Or *death*
- b. [1.4](#) Or *eating*
- c. [1.5](#) Or *by*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1%3A1-11&version=NRSVUE>)

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+ Psalm

**** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is

___ I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

Today's Psalm is number 47, with selected verses and a responsorial verse. The response today is, "Alleluia. God mounts the throne of the Universe to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord."

R. Alleluia. God mounts the throne of the Universe to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

² All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!

³ For the LORD, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

R. Alleluia. God mounts the throne of the Universe to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

⁶ God goes up with shouts of joy;
the LORD goes with trumpet blasts.

⁷ Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

R. Alleluia. God mounts the throne of the Universe to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

⁸ God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.

⁹ God is king over the nations;
God reigns enthroned in holiness.

R. Alleluia. God mounts the throne of the Universe to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Glory to God, the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen.

Refrain and doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict. Psalm 47:2,3,6,7,8,9 Copyright ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Onelicense #75614 Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

+ Second Reading

Reader: ** If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The second reading is in the Letter of Ephesians, chapter 1, verses 17-23. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 192 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading:

Beloved, I pray ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the

riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God^[a] put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ^[b] ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [1.20](#) Gk *He*
- b. [1.20](#) Gk *heavenlies*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+1%3A17-23&version=NRSVUE>)
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+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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Reader: The Gospel reading is Matthew, Chapter 28, verses 10-20, on page 34 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version.

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

ALL: And also with you.

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

The section of this reading that is highlighted was added to the schedule for today by me, Brother.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Report of the Guard

¹¹ While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² After the priests^[a] had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Judeans to this day.

The Commissioning of the Disciples

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." ^[b]

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

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. 28.12 Gk *they*
- b. 28.20 Other ancient authorities add *Amen*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28%3A10-20&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

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 - 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!

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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 40 years. October 31, 2023 - 40th Anniversary now in our 41st 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

+ Sermon

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

God raised Jesus from the dead. Acts 3:15 ".. the author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. "

THREE-PART SERMON TODAY: Part 1 The Ascension. Part 2 Mother's Day and Foundresses Day - Lisa Frost is presenting. Part 3 Preparing for Pentecost

Part 1 The Ascension.

The season of the Resurrection lasts for 40 days, to the day Jesus Ascended into Heaven, celebrated on THURSDAY, MAY 9, and is followed by ten more days to arrive at the Feast of Pentecost next Sunday, May 19. Today's Gospel includes the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promise that Jesus is with us always.

First reading: The Promise of the Holy Spirit - Luke

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering^[a] he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying^[b] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^[c] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Second Reading: Spiritual Gifts "AND THEIR EYES WERE OPENED" Luke 24:31, 45 in the house in Emmaus see [Luke 24 13-48](#)

EPHESIANS 1: Beloved, I pray ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

Gospel:

Ascension Matthew 28:16-20

The Commissioning of the Disciples

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they **worshiped him**, but they **doubted**. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me**. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And **remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age**." ^[b]

Ascension Mark 16:19-20

The Ascension of Jesus

¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and **sat down at the right hand of God**. ²⁰ And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. ^[a]]

[Read full chapter](#)

a. [16.20](#) Other ancient authorities add *Amen*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+16%3A19-20&version=NRSVUE>)

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms **must be fulfilled**." ⁴⁵ Then he **opened their minds to understand the scriptures**, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah ^[a] is ^[b] to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that **repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem**. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses ^[c] of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am

sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.^[d] ⁵² And they worshiped him and^[e] returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple^[f] blessing God.^[g]

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [24.46](#) Or *the Christ*
- b. [24.46](#) Other ancient authorities read *written, and thus it was necessary for the Messiah*
- c. [24.48](#) Or *nations. Beginning from Jerusalem you are witnesses*
- d. [24.51](#) Other ancient authorities lack *and was carried up into heaven*
- e. [24.52](#) Other ancient authorities lack *worshiped him and*
- f. [24.53](#) Other ancient authorities add *praising and*
- g. [24.53](#) Other ancient authorities add *Amen*

Conclusion of part 1: We are not out here on our own. This is all the work of the Holy Spirit.

THEME OF THE AGE OF THE CHURCH: The Lord Is With You.

Part 2 Mother's Day and Foundresses Day - Lisa Frost is presenting.

Foundresses Special Music Selection: In the Garden Words and Music by C. Austin Miles Public Domain Onelicense Song # 94968 Worship and Rejoice 300 Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

Lisa Frost will share reflections and thoughts regarding our Elmira Chapel Foundresses.



Our Elmira Chapel Foundresses pictures are displayed above and become part of the Credence Table /Altar dedicated to the Incarnation of the Eternal Word and His Blessed Mother Mary.



+ Martha Cummings
born 5/18/1928
Member, 1997
Entered Paradise 2/15/2014



+ Margaret E. Walker
born 2/26/1918
Member, 1997
Entered Paradise 9/4/2006



+ Betty Lou LeHew Goodrich
born 1/31/1923
Member, 1997
Entered Paradise 4/26/2010



+ Jane Mc Dermott
born 3/12/1937
Member, 1997
Entered Paradise 10/1/2019



Lisa Cummings Frost

born 7/17/1957

Member, 1997

Visit our Foundresses, Founders, and Friends of the Congregation page on our website. [Right Click Here.](#)

Mother's Day from Wikipedia [Right Click Here.](#)

Part 3 Preparing for Pentecost

=====PREPARING FOR PENTECOST=====

Prayer for our Congregation: (revised, 2023)

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask that your Holy Spirit continue to move in our Congregation in new and refreshing ways. We open our hearts to be a dwelling place, a home, a temple of your Holy Spirit. Empower us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be used as servants of God, disciples of Christ, and witnesses of God's love and eternal plan. Come, Holy Spirit, and impassion us with your Divine Love. Stir and enkindle within us the flames of compassion, forgiveness, patience, empathy, Joy in believing, thanksgiving and praise, and love for God's holy Will. Build an expectant faith within us with a view of a church that is full of possibilities and potential. Guide our lives; we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.

Below is a rendering of John chapter 16, verse 7 by the translators of the Amplified Bible that I find particularly enlightening. This verse gives many of the attributes of the Holy Spirit in English that are packed and hidden in the original Greek Word parakletos. Each

capitalized word in the verse below tells us how the Holy Spirit is ready to help us. All we have to do is ask with a short prayer like this:

"Oh God, give me the awareness to know you are with me in all these ways through the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Here is the verse in the Amplified Bible Jesus taught, saying: "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor-Counselor, Strengthenener, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you]." John 16:7

Did you realize the Holy Spirit is with you to bring you all those actions of God? Understanding the Real Presence of God is with us in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, we will experience more confidence, love ourselves and our neighbors, and feel better about our lived experience. You can have all this and more. Start with that simple prayer above.

Signed: Pastor Benedict, 3-6-21, revised 5-20-23.

We are here because of those original fourteen people who clearly experienced the Risen Christ in their lives. They wanted to leave a living and vibrant witness to the fact that God loves all of us and God is responsible for the glorious spectrum of sexual orientation and gender expression. Speak up and speak out for God as you give witness to the fact that Christ is risen indeed and that He lives within our hearts.

=====

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

=====

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump vowed to reverse dozens of the Biden administration's environmental rules and policies at a meeting with top U.S. oil executives, where he also asked them to raise \$1 billion for his presidential campaign, the Washington Post reported on Thursday.

The Post, citing unidentified sources familiar with the meeting last month in Florida, said Trump promised to end President Joe Biden's emissions rules aimed at promoting electric vehicles and halt the Biden administration's freeze on permits for new liquefied natural gas exports, among other actions. (Source: <https://www.aol.com/news/trump-vows-target-electric-vehicles-122145727.html>) Movie: Who Killed the Electric Car? ([link on movie information](#))



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People

Leader – 4: Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today, we are using communal prayers. After each petition, please respond with, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Leader – 4: We pray for all women who bring us the feminine, motherly, grandmotherly, caring, and compassionate life of God present with us. We thank God for our mothers who brought us into the world and other women who have shown us the way from time to time. We thank God for the miracle of giving birth and sharing life through motherhood and parenting. We bless God that we are all allowed to exercise the spiritual gift of mothering and comforting others even when we are not cisgender females. We pray for mothers everywhere, and we bless God for the gift of motherhood; we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: We pray for all the people in parts of the world where wars are being fought. We pray for women in active war and battles as they make very difficult decisions, often putting their children and older people before their own needs, even when things are desperate. We pray that world leaders will acknowledge the loss of life, the suffering, loss of economic opportunities and make diplomatic decisions to end wars. We pray to the

Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: We pray for all people who feel left behind, alone, and abandoned in institutions where they are required to live. We pray that institutionalized people will be aware that Christ is truly present everywhere. We pray they will experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit and be encouraged by the promises of God. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: In silent prayer, we now lift to God those people we know who are ill and in need of healing, those who are facing poverty and need guidance, and anyone who comes to mind who needs God's grace. We pray together silently now. (**Silent prayer begins.** **Leader, please mentally count to about twenty.**) For all the people we have just prayed for, we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: 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.

Leader - 5: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry.

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 can be mailed, [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact information.

Also, at this time, we will set our altars and communion tables at home and in

the chapel. Those viewing at home, please turn to the highlighted text on page three of this bulletin to review the instructions for items needed for Holy Communion. In the Chapel here, everyone may assist in setting the Table of the Lord together. We begin now.

Offertory Song: Bless The Lord, O My Soul Composer is unknown as published in Songs Of Praise Volume 1, song 9,

A prayer of thanksgiving for the offering is said here.

(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 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

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

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Leader: 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

Leader: 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 -4: 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**

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The Reception of Holy Communion

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD BEHOLD HIM WHO TAKES BEHOLD THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP

Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word, I am healed.

Pastor: Open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. The Gift of God for the People of God....

Pastor: 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, be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Pastor: 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.

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together, we pray:

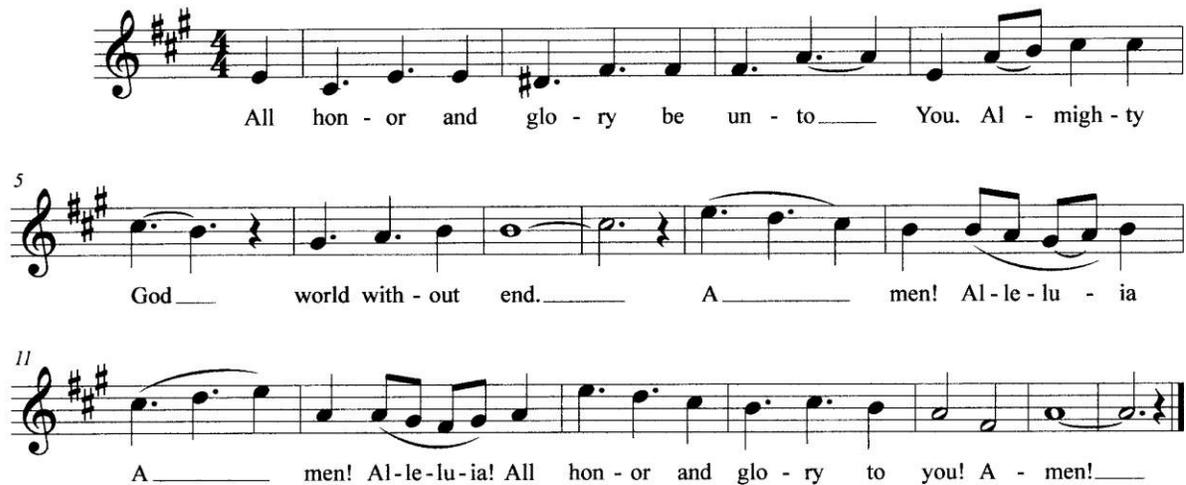
ALL: It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

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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+ Sign Of Peace

Veronica Floyd, Moderator: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: 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: 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.

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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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General Offering for the week of April 21 \$320.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday;
Wednesday, April 24, Attendance 4

General Offering for the week of April 28 \$820.00 Attendance 8 on Sunday;
Wednesday, April 24, Attendance 4

General Offering for the week of May 5 \$885.00 Attendance 8 on Sunday;
Wednesday, May 8, Attendance 5

(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

****Special Gifts****

Kaiden donated \$400.00 to the Building Fund. Thank you Kaiden. Lisa Frost donated \$330.00 to the annual fire alarm cellular transmission fee. Thank you Lisa.

****Recent Special Gifts****

Michael Austin reconditioned our lawnmower for the 2024 season. Thank you, Michael.

Ed Askins make a Gifts in Kind donation of \$115.84 which paid for the paint and polyurethane that was used for the Frasier room floor. Many thanks, Ed.

Brother donated \$640.00 to the Building Fund. Thank you Brother

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

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

** See the Q.R. Code on the last page.**

***** <https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/> Christians Against Christian Nationalism

May 12, Ascension Sunday **MOTHER'S DAY, FOUNDESSES DAY** AT THE ELMIRA CHAPEL

May 13, Monday, 4:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

May 14, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

May 15, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

May 19, Sunday, **Pentecost Sunday** - WEAR **RED, YELLOW, ORANGE**

May 20, Monday, 4:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

May 21, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

May 22, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

May 24, Friday, 2:00 PM **Council**

May 26, Sunday, Trinity Sunday

May 27, Monday, 4:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

May 28, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

May 28, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

June 1, Saturday, ELMIRA PRIDE, the actual 21st Anniversary of the first worship at 380.

June 2, Corpus Christi, relicense our Servants of the Eucharist, 21st Anniversary of the first Sunday worship service in the Monastery.

June 3, Monday, 4:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

June 4, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

June 5, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

June 8, Saturday, CORNING PRIDE

June 9, Sunday: The Start of our Juneteenth 10-day devotions **Introduction**.

June 10, Monday **JTDEVOTION#1** NOON; 3:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision Committee

June 11, Tuesday **JTDEVOTION #2** NOON; 6:00 p.m. NAACP **7:15 p.m.** Bible Enrichment

June 12, Wednesday **JTDEVOTION#3** **11:00 a.m.** NOON TRADITIONAL MASS

June 13, Thursday **JTDEVOTION #4** NOON

June 14, Friday **JTDEVOTION #5** NOON

June 15, Saturday, JUNETEENTH in Elmira **JTDEVOTION #6 8:00 p.m.**
June 16, Sunday, Father's Day, 28th Ordination Anniversary, **JTDEVOTION #7**
June 17, Monday, **JTDEVOTION #8 NOON**; 3:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision
Committee
June 18, Tuesday, **JTDEVOTION #9 NOON**; Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.
June 19, Wednesday, **JTDEVOTION #10 11:00 AM** Juneteenth; NOON
Traditional Mass



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

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

ALL: And also with you!

Leader - 2: We bless you 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.

CLOSING SONG: Great Is Thy Faithfulness. Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923, alt. Music: William Runyan, 1923. Copyright © 1923. Renewal 1951 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, Ill. 60188. All rights reserved. Reprinted under license No. 2500 The Hymnal Project, ©1989 MCC San

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

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

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

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

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

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public 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.

Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

