



**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 Fortieth year of Ministry.**

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor,  
and make disciples of every person

everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

"It is time to put our faith into action."

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:14-26)

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B, Appointed Pastor

We extend a very 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)

Everyone is invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as they feel 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 May 14, 2023, Resurrection Week 5, Year A

Mother's Day and Foundresses Day

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."***

**Scripture Readings for this worship event:**

**First Reading:** 2 Timothy 1:1-13 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 211 \*\* special reading for Mother's / Foundresses Day.

**Psalm:** Psalm 66 selected verses in this bulletin

**Second Reading:** 1Peter 3:15-18 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 234

**Gospel:** John 14:15-21 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 109

\*We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament. The NRSV Bible 1st Testament numbers are in the front, and the 2nd Testament numbers are in the back of the book. 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 for a social time before the Bell is rung.

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

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured that 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) The bell is rung 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 \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. 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. In this Church, each person decides to participate in some or all the parts of the worship event as they feel comfortable. We also assist people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page, and song numbers and using a psalm response verse.

To be added to our email list, email [rayofhopechurch@aol.com](mailto:rayofhopechurch@aol.com) and

Visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box on the wall.

**Leader-2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You are not required to be a member here or in any church to receive Holy Communion with us today. We celebrate the Lord's open table. Viewers at home, please bring the following items to your table at this time to prepare for the Holy Communion portion; 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:** The bulletin order of worship and the music supplement for today are available in three ways. On Facebook Live, right-click the "Featured Links" in the window. On Skype, right-click the "Order of Worship" and "Music Supplement" posted in the Chat window. Finally, on our website, find the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com).

Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly. Ed Askins will play a prelude titled "Create In Me A Clean Heart," words and music by Keith Green. We invite everyone to listen attentively, and keeping silence to enjoy this prayer time. Thank you.

**Music Prelude played by Ed Askins. "Create In Me A Clean Heart"**

**Words and Music by Keith Green.** © 1984 For The Shepherd Music. CCLI Song # 3113130. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



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

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



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

**Leader – 2:** Thank you for spending time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. 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:** Glorify God by introducing yourself and welcoming the people around you. \*\*While we are still observing COVID safety protocols, we may wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

**Pastor:** 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:** Alleluia! Praise the Lord.

**ALL: Praise the risen Lord, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Pastor:** We come here to pray. Each person is an equal and active partner in all

we do in the next 90 minutes. At Ray Of Hope, the worship event is not a spectator's activity where people come to hear some good music and a teaching/lecture. Instead, each person's primary responsibility is to pray during each section of the "service" actively. The definition of the word liturgy is the prayer-work of the people. The people lead, serve, organize, and facilitate this public time of assembly to worship and experience God and one another. The people are actively praying and serving each person present and God.

Today is the sixth of six Sundays of the season of the Resurrection. We are in the Great 50 days from Resurrection to Pentecost. Today is the 36th of the fifty days. Every Sunday is Resurrection Celebration Day, the Lord's Day, in this 40-day season, taking us to the celebration of the Lord's Ascension which would be this coming Thursday, May 18. We will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord on Sunday, May 21. The following Sunday is May 28, Pentecost Sunday, when the Great 50 Days are over. On Pentecost, we pray for a renewal of the Holy Spirit.



Today, May 14, is Mother's Day, and the day we celebrate the Foundresses of the Elmira Chapel.

On Mother's Day we celebrate the feminine in the Divine. In Matthew 23:37 Jesus says: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!"

Isaiah 66:13 "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."

**BR.** You asked if our congregation celebrates Mother's Day. Yes we do. We also include a celebration of the women who started the Elmira chapel, so we call it Foundresses Day as well. And, of course we weave into it a celebration of May dedicated to the Mother of Jesus as the model of perfect Motherhood and the radical yes to God's Will in one's own life. We all share the motherly person of God many times in life when we are nurturing someone, when we hold a hurting person or animal, when we show that compassionate motherly love. All of us are capable of loving like a mother because being female is part of being made in the image of God who made us in Their Image: Male and Female. (Genesis 1:26, 27) All of us share and show Divine Motherhood, and we repeat this programming on Father's Day. All men mother not only for their own offspring, if they have any, but towards all hurting persons, or on birthday celebrations, or mourning loss with death experiences, all moments of tragedy, trauma, happiness, joy over a rainbow or the gut-laughter after a huge thunder boom. We all share the Motherhood of God with others in all experiences of life. In our society we honor the idea of women being strong, especially when they show strength in the day to day life of a family. We honor their strength when they problem solve in a family crisis, such as a flat tire on the way to taking the children to school, or when they manage money, or the incredible schedules they often juggle, or when they have to confront someone and show leadership. It is honorable on our society when a woman shows strong attributes. **HOWEVER** We shame men when they show softer qualities when they comfort, hug, sit and take time to listen and understand the hurt feelings of someone else, when they listen first and speak second, etc.

These are the errors of flawed society and have made both men and women sick and mentally ill and spiritually bankrupt. We would all do well to enjoy the whole person of God and accept the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to each as the Holy Spirit wills. (1 Cor. 12:11) The Holy Spirit gives Gifts from the Person of God, a Self Revelation of God; therefore it will embrace the entire spectrum of male / female.

There are unique qualities on both ends of the spectrum for sure but to be strictly binary in our definitions of our lived experiences is to limit the joy of the Spirit and the flow of our lived experience as reborn saints. I have enjoyed many very feminine men and many very masculine women in my life and then thousands who are all over on that spectrum. I hope to be a person who can be as strong as a Lion and gentle as a butterfly, seriously.

Upset me and you will hear me roar, but a mother's caress is shortly behind. And everyone walks away scratching their heads, LOL.

## **FOUNDRESSES DAY AT THE ELMIRA CHAPEL OF RAY OF HOPE CHURCH.**



Our Elmira Chapel Foundresses pictures are hung 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.](#)

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

Today we are celebrating the **twenty-ninth Sunday** in our 40<sup>th</sup> year of ministry. Welcome to the **"WOKE"** Church of Elmira, NY, and the World.

**Romans 13:11 "Now is the time to WAKE from your SLEEP."**

We are proud to be known as the **"WOKE"** Church of Elmira and Central NY. Popularized by African-American young men, **"WOKE"** is: having or being marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, a liberal progressive

orthodoxy, especially promoting inclusive policies or ideologies that welcome and embrace ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities. Awake and aware.

Source: Dictionary.com: <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/woke>

In Theological terms: Awakened by the Holy Spirit, alive in Christ, actively supporting persons of all Religions and faiths and those with no faith or religion.

See the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose for more information. Right Click Here:

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm>

**Pastor:** With our whole heart, mind, and soul, 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: "Holy Spirit, Come"** NTBK #25 Text and Music by Jack Hayford. © 1988 Annamarie Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI Song # 65068 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

## + The Candle Of Hope

**Leader -1:** Please be seated. Now we celebrate our faith, our trust, in the promised "Blessed Hope," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life by lighting our Candle Of Hope. Continuing our celebration of the Resurrection of Christ, we remember these words of Jesus with joy in our hearts. 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:** As we light the Candle of Hope, we read the names on the [Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt](#) to

remember people who died of AIDS. In 1983 Ray Of Hope Church started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Even after all these years, some churches, religions, and countries continue to reject sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. Therefore, we continue to read over 10,000 names sewn into the Quilt aloud.

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

Looking up at the screen, we see the panel names on  
Block # 73

- David Kreamer (1)
- Bob Parsons (2)
- Wayne Campbell (3)
- Steve McCool (4)
  - Gomer (5)
  - Kurt Pulver (6)
- Minnesota Victims of AIDS (7)
- Uncle Frank (8)

**Leader -2:** In silent prayer, we remember the names of our family and friends who have died from COVID-related illness and other causes of death. We pray for their families as they remember their loved ones. 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**

(NAMES Project website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 100,000 names on the Quilt virtually:

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

**SECOND SONG: Priestly People** Words and Music by Lucien Deiss

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## WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

### + Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

**Leader -2:** Please be seated. (wait) So far, we gathered together, greeted one another, and praised God in song. Ray Of Hope Church now provides another service, God forgiving our sins.

**Leader – 3:** Hear the Word of God in First John, Chapter One, verses 8-10: "<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE>  
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**Leader -2:** In silent prayer, we now reflect on our relationships with God and other people. Now is the opportunity to confess our faults, sins, and failures silently. Christ is present and listening to receive our silent confession, and He promises to forgive our sins immediately.  
(silent prayer)

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

**ALL:** I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended 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 \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

Our Planet, Earth, takes care of us like a Mother. We often speak of her life and ways as Mother Nature. However, we humans continue making choices that Scientists have proven are contributing to the declining health of our planet; therefore, we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** Jesus is present in His Church, which He said He would build. We have these words in Matthew Chapter 16, verse 18. Yet, the Church is also called the Bride of Christ in Ephesians Chapter 5, verse 32 and we are said to be married to Christ in Romans Chapter 7, verse 4. Christ is here viewed both as masculine (the builder) and motherly. The church is sometimes referred to as Holy Mother Church to remind us of the feminine person we are in Christ with us. Recognizing we have not always loved others with a motherly love that we have in the Body of Christ, the church; we pray, Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** We have the examples of so many luminous women and feminine men who through the ages have cared for the poor, cared for the sick, suffering, and guided so many people through the hours of their death. They each showed the Divine power of motherhood as they cared for others. The witness of this agape love is particularly bright when we think of Mary the Mother of Jesus and the example she gave of the total trust in the power of the words, "Yes, Lord." That we would embrace the opportunities to show the presence of God's maternal love and not be afraid; we pray, 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 united in God's Kingdom without the loss of 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 -4:** Through the ministry of confession and forgiveness, we have prepared our hearts to accept the renewal offered to us when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. The Church now provides us with the service of praising God together.

**Pastor:** Please rise as you are able to give God thanks and praise for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria. The Church has prayed this prayer since the earliest records of worship services.

**Spoken:**

Glory to **God** in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on Earth.  
You are the One God, Sovereign of the Universe,

Only Holy God, we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

**Lord Jesus Christ**, the only begotten Son of God,  
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.

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 the  
Holy Unity of God. Amen.

**+ Opening Prayer**

**Leader 5:** O Loving, Eternal, and Creating God, lead us to the truth, your Word. As we listen to your Word, help us initiate action and change in our lives so we are transformed and equipped for service.

**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

### + First Reading

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

The first reading is in the Second Letter to Timothy, chapter 1, verses 1-13. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of © 2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 211 in the Second Testament. In this reading, chosen specially for today, we hear Paul celebrating the faith of Timothy's grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. Timothy's grandmother and mother successfully raised him in the Faith. We see here the witness of these good women of faith, and how their faith has been passed down to us through Saint Timothy. Here begins the reading:

### **Salutation**

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

**2** To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Thanksgiving and Encouragement**

**3** I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. **4** Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. **5** I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. **6** For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through

the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup> for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>10</sup> but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>[b]</sup> who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup> For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, <sup>[c]</sup> <sup>12</sup> and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard the deposit I have entrusted to him. <sup>[d]</sup> <sup>13</sup> Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**Read full chapter**

**Footnotes**

- a. 1.9 Gk lacks *began*
- b. 1.10 Other ancient authorities read *Christ Jesus*
- c. 1.11 Other ancient authorities add *of the gentiles*
- d. 1.12 Or *the deposit he has entrusted to me*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+1&version=NRSVUE> )

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**+ Psalm**

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

\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_.

Today's Psalm is number 66, selected verses with a responsorial verse. The response today is, " Alleluia. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy."



**R. Alleluia. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,  
sing praise to the glory of God's name;  
and proclaim glorious praise to the Lord.  
Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds!"

**R. Alleluia. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

"Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you,  
sing praise to your name!"  
Come and see the works of God,  
the tremendous deeds among the children of Adam.

**R. Alleluia. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

The Lord has changed the sea into dry land;  
through the river they passed on foot;  
therefore let us rejoice in the Lord.  
God rules with might forever.

**R. Alleluia. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare  
what the Lord has done for me.  
Blessed be God who refused me not  
my prayer or his kindness!

**R. Alleluia. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

**+ 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 First Letter of Peter, chapter 3, verses 15-18. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 234 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading:

Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. <sup>15</sup> <sup>b</sup> Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, <sup>[a]</sup> those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered <sup>[b]</sup> for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you <sup>[c]</sup> to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

### Footnotes

- a. [3.16](#) Other ancient authorities read *when they malign you as evildoers*
- b. [3.18](#) Other ancient authorities read *died*
- c. [3.18](#) Other ancient authorities read *us*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+2%3A4-10&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.

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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 John, chapter 14, verses 15-21. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 109 in the second testament.

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

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

### **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep<sup>[a]</sup> my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,<sup>[b]</sup> to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be<sup>[c]</sup> in<sup>[d]</sup> you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Read full chapter

**Footnotes**

- a. 14.15 Other ancient authorities read *me*, keep
- b. 14.16 Or *Helper* or *Comforter*
- c. 14.17 Other ancient authorities read *he is*
- d. 14.17 Or *among*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A15-21&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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are as follows:

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!



**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**

The season of the Resurrection lasts for 40 days, to the day Jesus Ascended into Heaven, THIS THURSDAY, MAY 18 and is followed by ten more days to arrive at the Feast of Pentecost. Today's Gospel promised the gift of the Holy Spirit.

First reading: The faith of grandmother and mother developed the faith of Timothy and we have his testimony in the first and second letters ascribed to him.

Second Reading: Be ready to share your faith. At the watercooler, in line at the store, at the Pride Festivals.

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

[http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Founders\\_Foundresses.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Founders_Foundresses.htm)

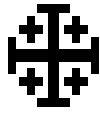
<sup>10</sup> **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)**

**"There are 32 ongoing conflicts in the world right now, ranging from drug wars, terrorist insurgencies, ethnic conflicts, and civil wars." Source: website: Countries Currently at War (<https://wisevoter.com/country-rankings/countries-currently-at-war/> )**

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**SPECIAL MUSIC** Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: **"Take Me To The King"** Words and Music by Kirk Franklin © 2012 Aunt Gertrude Music Publishing LLC (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI Song# 6363389 Accompaniment Take Me To The King (Made famous by Tamela Mann) [Karaoke Version] Off The Record 2012, Source: Sing It Now Records, Inc. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### + (optional) Profession Of Faith

#### Creed #1: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in the One Eternal, Loving, Life-Giving,  
Forgiving, Good, and Gracious God,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus the Christ, the only Begotten Son of God,  
our Lord and Saviour.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God.

Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who is equal with God and the Son.

I believe in the one, holy, Christian Church, the Body of Jesus Christ  
that is universal/catholic, and apostolic.

I believe in the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen

(Revised 10-31-20 Br. Benedict)

### + The Prayers of the People

**Leader – 3:** Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ  
through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit with communal and shared  
prayers. Our response after each prayer will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader – 3:** The war in Ukraine continues past the 444th day. Additionally, there are currently thirty-two countries with conflicts and war, as noted above. We continue to pray for the children and people of all ages whose lives have been changed forever by war anywhere in the World. So, again we pray and ask You, God, to heal and strengthen the people traumatized by conflict; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 2:** We pray for people we know who need healing, support, and encouragement as they go through stages of healing and recovery. We continue praying for people fighting cancer, including Heather's mother, Henrietta Bower, Sue Lemak, Portia Rawles, Bernell Hooker, our Ray Of Hope members Cheryl Allen, April Struhm, and others we are thinking of right now. We add those persons needing general healing; Richard Tripp, Lisa Frost, Allena McGlaughlin, Kaiden Hall, Ed and Phillipa Askins, and Brian DeLafayette. Who else???? \_\_\_\_\_. We also pray for everyone in our Congregation who has requested our prayers. With all these people in mind, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide the doctors, medical teams, and scientists as we seek healing and wholeness. Finally, we thank God for each day of life we have together. We trust in God's presence today and always; we pray to the Lord.

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

[\(https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/02/02/fact-sheet-on-one-year-anniversary-of-reignited-cancer-moonshot-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-end-cancer-as-we-know-it/\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/02/02/fact-sheet-on-one-year-anniversary-of-reignited-cancer-moonshot-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-end-cancer-as-we-know-it/)

**Leader – 2:** We ask for your blessing on people suffering from the effects of climate change, especially the loss of food, clothing, heat, water, shelter, healthcare, the homeless, the elderly, and people who are lonely and secluded. We pray the leaders of the World will respond to this emergency with awareness, empathy, compassion, and plans for the short- and long-term. We pray to the Lord.

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

**Veronica:** At this time, everyone may add silent prayers for yourself or others, thanksgiving, praise, or whatever is on your mind. If you share a

prayer aloud, please speak loud enough so everyone can hear you. We begin with \_\_\_\_\_

**Veronica:** Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

**ALL: Amen**



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

### **+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion Altar/tables.**

**Leader:** 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. Every organization has actual expenses, including but not limited to utilities, building upkeep, insurance, taxes, and so on. In the United States, each Church is a private organization and does not receive public funding. Together, we keep this ministry available to our local and International participants by keeping it financially viable.

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation. In the Chapel, use the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event. In addition, donation envelopes are available on the hospitality table by the door.

Internet participants may use the [PayPal link](#) in your bulletin, or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. Additionally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and on our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.



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

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

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

( \*\* Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. \*\* Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local Church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you can join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (\*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.\*) )

### **SONG: Give thanks Words and Music Henry Smith**

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**Leader -2:** (\* **Improvise a prayer for the offerings received, giving thanks and praise.**\*) (When your prayer is complete, please say:)

" Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology."

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

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



**WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

**Leader:** Please gently hold the communion kit for the following two prayers. Viewers 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.

**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; the Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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### **+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit**

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

**ALL:** O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful

**ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for **our physical and spiritual** wellbeing. 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**

**(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 Reception of Holy Communion**

**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:** Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion.

This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together...

**Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I 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, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

## **+ 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**

## **+ 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:** The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Veronica Floyd:** 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.

**Veronica Floyd:** 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.

### A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, your death brought life to the World. By your

holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

**A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:** Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy.

This prayer is known as the Fatima Prayer. It is prayed thousands of times every day by people praying the Rosary. Looking closely, one can see it is a very gracious prayer that prays for the Salvation of all people. Read more of my commentary on this prayer: [Click Here](#).



**General Offering** for the week of April 16 \$138.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of April 23 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8

**General Offering** for the week of April 30 \$1,743.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

**General Offering** for the week of ApMay 7 \$171.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

**\*\*Special Gifts recently given.\*\***

Thank you to Ed Askins for the \$185.00 special gift toward the liability insurance.

Thank you to April Struhm for donating another computer for broadcasting from the Carley Room.

**We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts given. We appreciate the special gifts being made at this time.**

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**

**\*\* See the QR Code on last page.\*\***

Tuesday, May 16, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

(Ascension is Thursday, May 18, the 40<sup>th</sup> day.)

Sunday, May 21, Ascension of the Lord Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 23, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 28, Pentecost Sunday, the Great 50<sup>th</sup> Day, HOLY SPIRIT

RENEWAL SUNDAY (25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lisa and Steve)

Tuesday, May 30, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, June 3, SAVE THE DATE: Elmira Pride**

Sunday, June 4, Trinity Sunday, the Anniversary of the 20<sup>th</sup> year of worship services in the Elmira Chapel, Pride Month First Sunday.

Tuesday, June 6, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, June 10, SAVE THE DATE: Southern Finger Lakes Pride in Corning. We are going to have an information table and talk about the Church.**

Sunday, June 11, Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ, Renewal of Servants Of The Eucharist for one year of service.

Tuesday, June 17, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 18, Celebration of Juneteenth, Father's Day and the 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination

Tuesday, June 20, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 25, NYC Stonewall Pride 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pride Protest, and the 53<sup>rd</sup> Parade Anniversary

Tuesday, June 27, NO Bible Enrichment

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**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Pastor:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Pastor:** (a prayer is said) .... In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**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.**

**SONG:** **Walking Up The King's Highway** Words and Music Mary E. Gardner | Thomas A. Dorsey © Words: 1940. Renewed 1967 Unichappell Music, Inc. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Music: 1940. Renewed 1967 Unichappell Music, Inc. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) CCLI Song # 78385 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**POSTLUDE:** Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation  
WESTMINSTER ABBEY Text: 87 87 87; Angularis fundamentum, 11th cent., tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: Henry Purcell, 1659–1695. OCP Octavo/Bonus Music 747 Onelicense Song # 84081 Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Performed by Rev. Clyde McLennan. As from October, 2015, I, Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer in this collection, have assigned my performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted.

**Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser: <https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1> Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.**

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Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching

5-14-23 Resurrection Week 6 Foundresses and Mother's Day Year A Page 36 of 40  
using drywall mud. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please let Brother know with advanced notice so the necessary supplies will be ready.

**\*\*\* Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord**

<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

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

=====**Who can receive the Holy Spirit**=====

**Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.**  
Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)

=====**WHO SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, THE EUCHARIST, AT RAY OF HOPE CHURCH?**=====

Everyone may receive Holy Communion, also known as The Eucharist, The Lord's Table, or The Blessed Sacrament at Ray

## Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

You are not required to be a member of this Church or any other church, to receive Holy Communion at / or with Ray Of Hope Church.

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive it or right after, so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

Unfortunately, through the centuries, many institutional churches have established rules, teachings, and practices that exclude people from Holy Communion. There has been an almost endless list of reasons to exclude people from the Blessed Sacrament. Yet, together, during the worship service, we recite the very words of Jesus, the Words of Institution, "This is my body. This is my blood," and we rehear Christ present with us saying: "Take this, all of you and eat; Take this all of you and drink" of this gift.

After extensive consideration, I take these words, "Take this, all of you.." as a command to the Church to give and bring the Eucharistic Gift to everyone who will receive. This approach also requires us to educate people about this gift. I have said **it is uniquely and deliberately the work of Christ in His Church** to offer the necessary education, guidance, and practices that help people live a life centered and purposed on finding and sharing the Will of God. The Lord's Table is central to that life.

The Eucharist belongs to the Church. The Blessed Sacrament is Christ in, through, with us, and made known in breaking the Bread of Life and drinking the Cup of Salvation. We are to take this gift to the whole World.

We begin by inviting those on the fringe of Society, those pushed

aside, poor, not accepted, sick, and who need God's help in extraordinary ways.

We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to everyone told "no, you cannot" go to Communion in any other church; hear us, "yes, you can" at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or, as we like to say as one of our mottos when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien, "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

Come to the Table of the Lord. There is a place set for you too. (Excerpted from the Pastoral Report given at the Annual Meeting 34 on January 28, 2018, by Pastor Br. Shawn F. Benedict, updated 3-6-21, revised 3-3-2023)

Visit our page on the Sacraments. [Right Click Here](#).

See this in a PDF format from our website, share it with others, or download it to your computer / device. [Right Click Here](#).

## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here..](#) Visit our Facebook page [Click Here.](#) We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here.](#)

Our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs](http://www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

