

**"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."  
(Isaiah 56:7)**

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

**MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor, and make disciples  
of every Person everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)**

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

We extend a special welcome to our visitors.  
You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.  
In Romans 15:7 the Scriptures exhort us to:  
"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God" (NABRE – 2011)

Participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable.  
We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in  
our Joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is May 17, 2026, Resurrection Week 7, Year A  
The Ascension of Jesus

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 192

**Gospel:** Matthew 28:16-20 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** As our bell rings, please find your seat and pray silently for the next few minutes. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

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



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

### **+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Veronica Floyd:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. This church is your Spiritual Service Station, and Faith Repair Shop, where our Loving Creating God is C.E.O., the owner of record is Jesus, the Christ, and the Operations Manager is The Holy Spirit. Our Congregation is a franchise location of the Body Of Christ, the Church. The Members and Friends are the working staff here today to facilitate your worship experience. We invite you to participate in as many or as few parts of this worship event as you feel

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

Today is May 17, 2026, and we are celebrating the Ascension of Jesus to Heaven, the start of the seventh and final week of the Season of the Resurrection.

**Katrina Lourdiane:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and welcome. (\*\* Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.\*\*) To all who are online or may view this recording later; to facilitate your participation, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship, and the Music Supplement available in three locations: on Facebook Live, and right-clicking the "Featured Links" icon. On Zoom, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). The Zoom link is also posted on the website.

If you are online, you may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. To participate in Communion, please bring to your table 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, and 3) a second cup with some water and a side napkin. We will use these in the second half of the worship service. Now, gather all these items, and we will start shortly.



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

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



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

**Ian McLaughlin:** (\*\*PLEASE wait for the second bells to ring, and remember to look up at the people and smile.\*\*) Good morning, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you for choosing to spend time with us today. In Romans, Chapter 15, verse 7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

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

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

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

living in us. Amen.

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

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

**Brother:** Welcome to your Spiritual Service Station and Faith Repair Shop, where we promise to do our best to help everyone worship God in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. At Ray Of Hope, we embrace a free-thinking standard, meaning, in part, that what you believe is between you and God. You are welcome here from any faith tradition, and even if you have no faith at all. God will take care of the relationship between God and you. We are here to welcome, love, and affirm all of who you are.

Today is May 17, 2026, the start of the Seventh and final week in the Season of the Resurrection. There are 40 days from Resurrection Sunday to Ascension Thursday, May 17. St. Luke explained this in Acts 1:1-3; <sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (NRSVUE)

Then, it was ten days later, at the end of the Omer, the counting of the 50 days from Passover to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit in-filled the believers and Church was born. We completed the forty days between the Resurrection and the Ascension on Thursday, and today would be part of the ten days of prayer to Pentecost, which we will celebrate next Sunday.

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

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

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

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



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

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

**Lisa Frost:** Our first song today is "Hymn of Glory," words and Music by Charles Christmas, Number 110 in the white Worship notebook, and in the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing "Hymn of Glory."

**FIRST SONG: Hymn of Glory.**

Text and Music: Charles Christmas, © 1974, Word of God Music. Onelicense Song #114026. Songs Of Praise Volume 1, number 34. Administered by The Copyright Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

**+ The Candle Of Hope**

**Kaiden:** I invite you to be seated at this time. Please scroll down this page, and you will see a picture of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt, with over 50,000 12-foot-by-12-foot blocks of six panels each, displayed on one screen. We turned this picture into a link for you to use at home to visit the virtual search tool for the Quilt. People may still add 3-foot-by-6-foot panels to the Quilt in someone's honor. (\*\*Please pause to let people look at this picture.\*\*)



- About ▾
- Stories ▾
- Grove ▾
- Quilt ▾
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**Kaiden:** Now we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate the Truth Jesus promises us. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

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

**(\*\*Light the candle here.\*\*)**

**Kaiden:** Together:

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

**Kaiden:** Ray Of Hope started in part to form a Church with an intentional ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS. It is forty-three years later, and still, some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance. The World Health Organization reported nearly 40 million people were living with HIV globally in 2023. In 2024, the United Nations AIDS organization, UNAIDS, reported that the number had risen to 40.8 million people, and we are confident the number will continue rising in 2026. Currently, funds are being cut back for essential medications to help people living with HIV maintain undetectable levels of the virus, and thus not be able to infect others. The rolling back of these essential medications is sure to open the door to an increase in new infections. Therefore, to keep HIV and AIDS in the conscious prayers of people, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into over 50,000 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at the National AIDS Memorial. Please scroll the page to see the panels on block number 188.



These are the names on Block # 188

- Tommy Brown (1)
- Chuck Frank (2)
- John Bishop (3)
- Bill Gluck (4)
- Carl Grant (5)
- Arthur Wilfield (6)
- Jerry Shatzer (7)
- Bill (8)

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

**Kaiden:** In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have preceded us in death. **(\*\*pause for silent prayer.\*\*)** May our candle's flame help bring to mind the Joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the promise of the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over

48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually:  
<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

**Ian:** Our second song is "Hail Thee Festival Day," Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams. This piece of Music famously celebrates the ascension of Jesus, and the season of Spring, a time of being thankful for new life present and to come. The song is in the white worship notebook, number 64, and in the Electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing, " Hail Thee Festival Day."

### **SECOND SONG: Hail Thee, Festival Day**

Text: 79 77 with refrain; Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, ca. 530–609; tr. composite. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958. Contributors: SALVE FESTA DIES, Ralph Vaughan Williams from The English Hymnal. Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Onelicense song #57066 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.



### **WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

**Christina:** Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ is truly present among us and forgives our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today, we will make our confession as we sing "An Evening Prayer." This song, "An Evening Prayer," was a favorite sing with our Foundresses. It will be our confession and Lord Have Mercy prayers for today. Please turn in the Worship White notebook to song number 81. The song is also in the electronic music edition, and you may sit or stand as you are comfortable to sing "An Evening Prayer."

**CONFESSION SONG:** An Evening Prayer Words and Music by C. Maude Battersby, Charles Hutchinson Gabriel. 1911 **Notebook #81**

Verse 1

If I have wounded any soul today  
If I have caused one foot to go astray  
If I have walked in my own willful way  
Dear Lord forgive

Verse 2

If I have uttered idle words or vain  
If I have turned aside from want or pain  
Lest I myself shall suffer thro' the strain  
Dear Lord forgive

Verse 3

If I have been perverse or hard or cold  
If I have longed for shelter in Thy fold  
When Thou hast given me some fort to hold  
Dear Lord forgive

Verse 4

Forgive the sins I have confessed to Thee  
Forgive the secret sins I do not see  
O guide me love me and keeper be amen

C. Maude Battersby, Charles Hutchinson Gabriel 1911  
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**(\*\*After the song..\*\*)**

**Christina:** The Lord has heard our confession and has granted forgiveness, and so we declare together:

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

**Christina:** The Church now provides the service of praising God together in thanksgiving as we sing the Traditional Glory Be.

**ALL: Glory be to the One God,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.**

**Wayne Harris:** Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

**+ Opening Prayer**

**Wayne Harris:** The Lord is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Wayne Harris:** Together, we lift up our hearts.

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

**Wayne Harris:** We make this exhortation together:

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

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



**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**+ First Reading**

**Veronica Floyd:** Hello. My name is\_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of in the State of \_.

The first reading is in the Book of Acts, chapter 1, verses 1-11. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles

have a similar reading on page 118 in the Second Testament. 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 <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering<sup>[a]</sup> he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> While staying<sup>[b]</sup> 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; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with<sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

## The Ascension of Jesus

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> 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:

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

The Psalm today is 47 with selected verses. Our response today is: “Alleluia. Christ is ascended in victory, alleluia.”

**R: Alleluia. Christ is ascended in victory, alleluia.**

<sup>2</sup> All peoples, clap your hands,

cry to God with shouts of joy!

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

**R: Alleluia. Christ is ascended in victory, alleluia.**

<sup>6</sup> God goes up with shouts of joy

the LORD goes up with trumpet blast.

<sup>7</sup> Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

**R: Alleluia. Christ is ascended in victory, alleluia.**

<sup>8</sup> God is king of all the earth,

sing praise with all your skill.

<sup>9</sup> God is king over the nations;  
God reigns enthroned in holiness.

**R: Alleluia. Christ is ascended in victory, alleluia.**

**Give praise to the Living God.**

**To God's Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.**

**To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.**

**Both now, and forever. Amen.**

**Psalm 47 God goes up with shouts of joy.** Psalm (46) 47. (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense Song #75614. All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Response verse and Doxology by Brother Shawn F. Benedict.

## + Second Reading

**Ed Askins:** \*\*\*\* **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 <sup>17</sup> 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, <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God<sup>[a]</sup> 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, <sup>[b]</sup> <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> 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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**Ian:** In response to this awesome reading about our being Church in the fullness of the gifts of the Spirit and all this means for us, we are going to sing a setting of the "Canticle of the Three Young Men," words and Music by Michael Gilligan and Patricia Uhl. The composer Michael Gilligan has permitted us to sing his Music in worship. We are very grateful. You will find the song in the white worship notebook, number 129, and in the electronic Music edition. Please rise as you are able to sing, "Canticle of the Three Young Men."

**SECOND READING RESPONSE: Ntbk # 129 Canticle of the Three Young Men.**  
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## + The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

**Lisa Frost:** 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!

**Reader:** The Gospel reading is Matthew, chapter 28, verses 16-20. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 34 in the second testament.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Lisa Frost:** 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 Commissioning of the Disciples

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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 <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." <sup>[a]</sup>

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

[Read full chapter](#)

### Footnotes

- a. 28.20 Other ancient authorities add *Amen*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28%3A16-20&version=NRSVUE> )  
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**(NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE))**

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## Gospel Acclamation

### Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

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

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### + Sermon

**Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.**  
 The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.  
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 43 years. October 31, 2025 - 42nd Anniversary now in our 43rd year in Ministry.

**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me has not been in vain.**

**1 Cor. 15:10**

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves (workers, servants, assistants) for Jesus's sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (NRSVUE)

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

=====SERMON NOTES: Brother ===5-17-26=====

Two weeks ago, we ended the Sermon with these statements. The Church is the assembly of people called out for the praise and worship of the One and only Alive God, who then serve each other as together we serve God.

The biblical word DIAKONIA means to serve, and this action is ordained of God and calls all of us into the depths of what it means to be of service.

We are looking for coordinators of education: Teachers

We are looking for coordinators of discernment: Prophets (serving the Council)

We are looking for coordinators of telling others the good news: Evangelists

We are looking for coordinators of leading us to Word and Worship: Pastors

We are looking for servants in pastoral ministry: Servants of the Eucharist

We are looking for coordinators of Church in but not of the World: Apostles

We are looking for coordinators of care, help, and service: Deacons

### IT IS TIME TO EXPAND OUR SERVICES

We are the church. We do not go to church. So, church, let's ask ourselves, what service are we being individually called to do? Then, start doing it, and when we see it and recognize it, we will gladly let you know.

### IT IS TIME TO EXPAND OUR SERVICES

The Lord is calling and saying, " Whom shall I send? Who is willing? Who is listening? Who will serve? "

Today's readings, May 17, 2026, fit with our previous thoughts because if we are going to respond to the gifts of the Holy Spirit we have been given by putting them into action, then we need the power of the Holy Spirit to use the service gifts.

The promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-5. <sup>4</sup> While staying<sup>[b]</sup> 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; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water,

but you will be baptized with<sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Is this the time for the restored Kingdom to Israel?

Under Roman occupation. How did they know about the Kingdom promised and its connection to the Messiah?

Acts 1:6-8:

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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."

They knew about the promised restored Kingdom of Israel from many Scripture verses that foretold it.

The disciples on the road to Emmaus said to Jesus: <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. (Luke 24:21 NRSVUE)

Acts 1:7-8

<sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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."

Here, Jesus indicates four Doctrines, that is, unchangeable truths: 1 - God has the plan, and it may be different from what we think it is. 2 - The Holy Spirit provides the power we need to be witnesses of Jesus. 3 - The kingdom of Christ would be set up in some future time, but the agenda until then would be spreading the gospel of Jesus to the ends of the earth, i.e. to be the church Jesus would establish and build. 4- The Kingdom is not canceled; it is for a future time.

===== The physical Ascension=====

A cloud took Jesus out of their sight and into the heavens. (Acts 1:9) There are many eyewitnesses to this event. This is one of many references in the Bible where God speaks and does things with, through, and in clouds. The rainbow appears in the clouds, and God promises to remember the Covenant with all Creation. (Genesis 9:13 +). God tells Moses God plans to speak in a cloud:

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so

that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after.”

(Exodus 19:9) The led the people with a pillar of cloud by day:

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way,(Exodus 13:21). The heavens open at the Baptism of Jesus when the voice of God is heard speaking. We imagine this included clouds opening (Matthew 3:16, 17). The cloud is very important on the Mountain of Transfiguration, as it surrounds Peter, James, John, and Jesus. In this cloud, which is related to the Shekinah Glory presence in the Holy of Holies in the first testament, earth and heaven are together, and God is speaking, see Matthew 17, Mark, and Luke chapter 9. There are many other examples of the clouds and the Real Presence of God.

So, Jesus ascends to heaven in the clouds. He will also come on the clouds, and gather us into the clouds with Him and all the Saints, at the first part of His Second Coming known by the nickname, "the rapture." (see 1 Thess. 4:16,17). There are many verses in The Book of Revelation in which clouds play a role in the presence of God and Christ. Revelation 1:7

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him,

and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. (NRSVUE)

When I talk about rainbows, people always express a natural love for them. Think about this: we are also drawn to the clouds. In fact, the clouds are our first indicators of so many things in our weather systems. We all look to the clouds, and we read emotional responses into what we see. Oh, those clouds look so peaceful, or those clouds look like they are about to dump a huge storm on us, etc. Weather forecasting is very dependent on cloud formations. One of the many things I learned about my mother, Jane, when she lived here in the Monastery, is that she loved looking at the clouds. When we would take her outdoors in the final weeks of her life, she would spend the entire time on the porch, looking up at the clouds. Jane was drawn to the clouds, and they brought her much joy. Today, Ascension Sunday, I suggest we are drawn to the clouds in part because God designs clouds to speak to our inner spirit, our person, our psyche.

These are some of the reasons I personally have no problem at all with the concept of Jesus being taken up to the right hand of God on the clouds. Clouds are divine, just as all of Creation is filled with the divine presence of God, the Real Presence, and this includes people, which raises many other issues we do

not have time for today.

Jesus was taken to Heaven out of their sight, on clouds. (Acts 1:9). In verse 11, we are assured Jesus will come on the clouds in the same way He was taken to Heaven.

Acts 1:11 <sup>11</sup> 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."

See Christ's Two Advents, Summary on page 1493 in the Scofield III NKJV Bible.

## THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 1:4-5. <sup>4</sup> While staying<sup>[b]</sup> 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; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with<sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Show "Christian Initiation and Baptism In The Holy Spirit" Evidence from the First Eight Centuries. Authors, Kilian McDowell and George To, Montague. © 1991, 1994 by The Order of St. Benedict, Inc., Collegeville, Minnesota.

Book: "Baptized In The Spirit" A Global Pentecostal Theology. Author. Frank D. Macchia. ©2006 by Frank Macchia. Published by Zandervan.

## SECOND READING:

Paul prays that God will give us, and that we will receive, " a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power." (Eph. 1:17b - 19 NRSVUE)

1) a spirit of wisdom

2) a spirit of revelation - pull back the curtains

3) enlightenment of heart and mind

4) perception of the "hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,

5) The immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, it is God's great power.

6) God raised Jesus from the dead and seated Jesus at the right hand in heavenly places (vs 20)

7) Jesus is seated "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." <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things (vs. 20-22)

8) Jesus is head of the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Vs. 22, 23)

God fills all in all. In the context of being the Church, being the very Body of Christ, we have within us a reality that is beyond description, that God is all and in all. All life comes from God, is sustained in God, and will find its fullness in the shared ever-being God. There is no possibility of an actual secular state; all is for, all is through, and all is in God. We have to adjust our thinking and align our priorities to the reality of God with and in us.

There is nothing ordinary about the Church. The Church is the most extraordinary organism in our society and world system today.

With these promises and assurances, we, the Church, have everything we need to be this living organism, this Body of the Living Christ among us.

The church is not just another organization among organizations in our society. The church is the Divine Presence, the assembly of those who are devoted to hearing the voice of Christ, understanding the guidance of Christ, and applying the living action of Christ among and in us, by the working power of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing ordinary about this goal. The Body of Christ is above every other institution and organization in the world system. Therefore, we come together to seek this wisdom and discernment promised so that we may continue to respond to the fullness of Christ among us.

Matthew 28:19-20

<sup>19</sup> 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 <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." <sup>[a]</sup>

The Commission to the church, and the Promise, which I see as the key of the Church Age: Jesus said, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. We have the constant reminder of this central doctrine every time we say, "The Lord is with you, and also with you."

Going back to our Sermon on May 3, which was all about diakonia, service and

being servants. We ended with these sentences:

We are looking for coordinators of education: Teachers

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We are looking for coordinators to lead us to Word and Worship: Pastors

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#### IT IS TIME TO EXPAND OUR SERVICES

We are the church. We do not go to church. So, church, let's ask ourselves, what service are we being individually called to do? Then, start doing it, and when we see it and recognize it, we will gladly let you know.

#### IT IS TIME TO EXPAND OUR SERVICES

The Lord is calling and saying, " Whom shall I send? Who is willing? Who is listening? Who will serve? "

The Council of Ray Of Hope held an informal workshop on Thursday, May 14, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. The workshop was open to everyone as we wanted to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to all attendees. As you know, Ed Askins has asked to step aside (we do not step down or up to the Council) from his responsibilities as Treasurer and Council Member due to his health. First, we all want to thank Ed, many times over, for the outstanding job as our Treasurer and Council member.

We heard many wonderful ideas during the workshop, including these: 1) Many of us need to broaden our concept of the Council. We learned last week that many attendees are under the impression that, to be on the Council, each person must be one of the four Officers: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer, and Clerk. In fact, we aim to seat nine members on the Council. With nine members, four are Officers, one is the Appointed Pastor, and four other Members serve on the Council.

2) We want to rebrand the Council into a place for engagement and discernment, to work with the people.

3) We want to see the Council be the place where many ideas come forward from many different perspectives, where we make sure everyone is heard.

Here is the plan at this time. The Council can rotate Officer roles as needed. The plan is that Ian McLaughlin will serve as Moderator. Christina McLaughlin will continue serving as Vice Moderator. Veronica will serve as Treasurer. The Appointed Pastor will continue on the Council. The ByLaws do provide for filling

a Council seat when it is vacant during a term. We are looking to adopt a committee approach to our ministries so that people do not have to be on the Council formally to help with its tasks. We could use some assistance with the Clerk's ministry.

I felt very encouraged by the discussion and direction of the Thursday workshop. We left the workshop excited by what the Spirit is saying to Ray Of Hope Church. So, now we would like to hear from Ian as he discerns his call and role as our next Moderator.

Everyone is asked to pray and discern regarding these Officer shifts and the vacant seat. This announcement is being made twelve days before we make these changes. Pray and speak up, in support or to suggest another direction for our Congregation. Now we pray and discern.

## **[A Brief History of Civil Rights in the United States](#)**

This guide offers a history of various movements by citizens in the United States to gain political and social freedom and equality. It highlights resources available through HUSL Library and HU Libraries, as well as a selection freely accessible Internet resources with a focus on authoritative content from civil rights organizations and government entities.

### **[Supreme Court paves the way for largest-ever drop in Black representation in Congress](#)**

APRIL 30, 2026 5:00 AM ET  
HEARD ON [MORNING EDITION](#)

## **[Supreme Court rules for Christian counselor in 'conversion therapy' ban case](#)**

by [Zach Schonfeld](#) - 03/31/26 10:16 AM ET

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

\*)- CONTINUING REVELATION \* \* \* **Keeping Watch** \* \* \* On Sunday,

5-17-26 Resurrection Week 7 Ascension Year A Page 26 of 50  
January 19, 2024, I wrote the following in the bulletin. Finally, a hopeful thought to close with: on Friday, January 17, 2025, President Biden announced the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is the law of the Land because all of the required votes of the States have been received. The American Bar Association agrees that all requirements have been met. The National Archivist, Colleen Shogan, only has to certify and publish the 28th Amendment.

(Source: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20\(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment.\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment.))) NPR story on the ERA  
<https://www.npr.org/2025/01/17/nx-s1-5264378/biden-era-national-archivist-constitution>

\*\*\*\*\*OPEN MICROPHONE \*\*\*\*\*

## PRAYER FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Prayer for our Congregation: (revised, 5/28/2023)

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 full of possibilities and potential. Guide our lives; we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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

**Christina McLaughlin:** We hold up to You, oh God, all who have asked us to pray for them and those for whom we have promised to pray. We ask you to grant your will in their lives. We pray to the Lord,

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

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

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

**Ian:** Lord Jesus, you ascended into heaven, and you instructed the Apostles and Disciples to pray and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost next Sunday, renew in us a desire for the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord,

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

**Ian:** Lord, your disciples were to be as wise as serpents and as simple as doves; through your Holy Spirit, teach us prudence and simplicity. We pray to the Lord,

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

**Kaiden:** We pray for people who suffer oppression and discrimination, especially when it is based on poverty, social status, ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, and gender expression. We ask your Holy Spirit to reveal to them your Presence as you walk alongside each person through the difficulties of life. We pray to the Lord,

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

**Kaiden:** Lord, look with kindness on those who are slow to enter into a relationship with you, those who do not recognize your presence. Reveal yourself to them so they, too, will welcome you as their Savior. We pray to the Lord,

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

**Katrina:** We pray for all people who are sick, especially Marcus, Deacon Ray Defendorf, Ed Askins, and those in any form of treatment. We pray that the challenges of living in this world will not tarnish or dim the light of faith. We pray to the Lord,

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

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

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

**Wayne Harrison:** We pray that all people throughout the world, especially the lukewarm of faith, and those in most need of your mercy, O God, would turn to You and accept your guidance. We pray to the Lord,

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

**Wayne Harrison:** God, grant that today we may put aside all friction and jealousy, and show greater concern for others' needs, give us the grace to bear with each other's burdens and to be instruments of your peace. We pray to the Lord,

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

**Pastor concludes the Prayers of the People.**

(For more information on government statistics regarding some of the populations mentioned above, see the following source: [https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20250728/samhsa-releases-annual-national-survey-on-drug-use-and-health#:~:text=Among%20people%2012%20or%20older%2C%2016.8%25%20\(or%2048.4%20million.2021%20to%209.8%25%20in%202024](https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20250728/samhsa-releases-annual-national-survey-on-drug-use-and-health#:~:text=Among%20people%2012%20or%20older%2C%2016.8%25%20(or%2048.4%20million.2021%20to%209.8%25%20in%202024) ).




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

**Ian McLaughlin:** Worship is our primary activity as a church. We are grateful to all the people over the last forty-two years of ministry who have given their help and assistance so that Ray Of Hope is here in 2024. Thank you to everyone who has contributed with your gifts "seen and unseen," may God bless you.

We are an independent organization founded and funded by anyone who appreciates what we offer. Your support is one way to give God thanks and praise for this unique ministry for all people. We do have some special needs at this time. Our cash flow is very low due to unexpected repairs we had to address during the first four months of 2026. There are many convenient ways



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

**Ian McLaughlin:** As we set the Table of the Lord here in the chapel and in your homes, we are going to sing: "Come Worship The Lord" (Psalm 95), Words and Music by John Michael Talbot. The Music is in the Glory and Praise Book, number 536, and in the electronic Music Edition. Please sing along as we set the Table of the Lord.

## **OFFERTORY:**

**G&P # 536 Come Worship The Lord (Psalm 95)** Words and Music by John Michael Talbot ©1980 Troubadour For The Lord Music (admin. in the U.S. by Music Services and elsewhere in the world by Capitol CMG Publishing). All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. CCLI Song#17511 AND original Performance Recording: **Come Worship The Lord (Psalm 95)** John Michael Talbot/Michael Card Album Name: Brother To Brother  
**Track 2 | Length: 5:21.** Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**Ed Askins:** (\*\*You may improvise a prayer or use this one.) God, we bless you and praise you for all the gifts we have received to support this ministry. We thank you for those who can give financially and by sharing their skills, prayers, talents, volunteering, and other forms of support. We bless you, Lord, for those who could not give at this time, and we pray that all their needs will be met. We dedicate all this to the Name of Jesus, Amen. Please rise as you are able **to sing and pray**

**the conclusion of the Service of the Word with the Doxology.**

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

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



**WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

**Pastor or?:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this Bread, which the Earth has given us, and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this Bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm

78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Pastor:** Please set down your cup.  
Truly present and risen among us, **SAINTS**, the Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts

October 31, 1993

Revised 8/2013

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
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.

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

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

**ALL:** O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this Bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and

**commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for our physical and spiritual well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

**Brother:** You may relax your arms and hands. Glenn, please show the Bread today, and Katrina, please show the cup. **Today, we pray together in song the words of Institution.**

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

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

### **+ The Lord's Prayer**

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

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

**and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

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



**The Reception of Holy Communion**

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

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

**Pastor:** Blessed are those who come to this table; everyone is welcome.

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

**Doxology/Amen!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

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

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

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

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**Marcus:** Please open your kit and receive Holy Communion now. Receive now the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Gift of God for the People of God. Receive these gifts of love to strengthen your resolve to serve others and God, and to fortify your Salvation. I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, and will be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

**ALL: Thanks be to God. (\*\*Please pause here to give people time to receive.\*\*)**

### PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

**Lisa Frost:** We understand that some of you watching do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine. We invite you to pray for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion, based on a prayer in the Prayer Book of the Episcopal National Cathedral. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together;

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

### + Sign Of Peace

**Marcus:** In Romans, chapter five, verse one, we read: 5:1 "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Friends in Christ, since we have this peace, we can share it with one another. Therefore, I proclaim, the Peace of the

Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Marcus:** 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.

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

**Katrina:** We continue our prayers now by singing together: "All Creation Worships You," words and Music by Jim Mills and Kirk Dearman. This prayer relates very well to the Canticle of the Three Young Men we sang earlier. The text is based on the first verses of the ancient prayer, The Te Deum. The words are printed here. The words and Music are the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing "All Creation Worships You."

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

**Chorus**

You are God and we praise You

(And we praise You)

You are Lord we acclaim You

(We acclaim You)

You are eternal Father

All creation worships You

All creation worships You

Amen

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

## **Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2026**

Blessings to everyone and thank you for your donations for the month of March 2026.

**General Fund** opening balance at the beginning of March was \$944.63. Regular donations to the General Fund were \$2,713.15. I transferred in from savings \$216.68. Payments out of this account were: Pastoral compensation of \$2,575.00, Verizon \$62.75, Bank charges for checks \$38.85, US Treasury was paid \$250.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter self-employment tax for the appointed Pastor, Corning Pride \$50.00, Rainah Barnes \$70.00. Larger bills monthly allotment was moved to savings in the amount of \$160.00 and Paypal charges were \$13.15 and I transferred \$555.00 to the Building Fund towards the hot water tank repair. After these were paid the balance of this account at the end of the month was \$99.71. There were no undeposited funds for March.

**Building Fund** opening balance was \$483.51. Donations to the Building fund were as follows: Ian and Christina McLaughlin \$450.00, Brother Shawn Benedict \$700.00, Marcus \$50.00, Ed Askins \$40.00. I transferred in from Savings \$483.00, from General fund \$555.00 and from Building Improvement fund \$1,175.00. Bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$52.67, electric bill \$352.92, gas bill \$812.86, Finger Lakes Casualty for insurance \$307.40, and Christian Kalwest, electrician \$1,175.00, water bill \$62.15, Bank charges for check \$31.25, Isaac's Plumbing and Heating \$555.00 toward hot water heater I transferred \$246.00 to saving toward the large bill allotment. Ending balance of this fund was \$341.26.

**Building Improvement Fund** opening balance on this account was \$1,212.36. Deposits to this account were Katrina \$100.00, Deanna Caputo \$320.00. I transferred in \$1,175.00 to the Building fund. The ending balance was in the account was \$457.36.

**Savings (Council) Account** opening balance in this account was \$2,039.21. Transfers to this account were \$160.00 from General Fund for large bills and \$246.00 from Building fund for large bills. Transfers out of this account was \$483.00 to the Building Fund which had been saved for the water bill and CCLI, \$166.68 to General Fund for the self-employment tax and \$50.00 to General Fund which had been saved for Pride applications. The balance at the end of the month was \$1,745.53.

Our year-to-date income is \$14,198.96 and our year-to-date expenses are \$17,550.38

**Upcoming bills:** Transfer to savings for General fund large bills \$160.00 and \$83.32 for the Appointed Pastor's April Self-employment tax, Isaac's Plumbing and Heating \$1,295.00 on the balance of the hot water heater and then a balance of \$726.15 on the boiler pump repair and also the \$453.00 that was charged on the credit card for the CCLI bill which was used towards the down payment for the hot water tank.

### **Credit Card**

The balance on the credit card is \$ 2,516.98. Available balance on the last statement was \$1,483.02

### **Balances as of April 24, 2026**

General fund: \$184.74

Building fund: \$316.72

Building Improvement fund: \$457.36

Savings: \$1,544.64

Savings breakdown is: Building fund large bills \$1,295.63 and General fund large bills \$249.01

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ed Askins, Treasurer.

Unexpected Building Equipment Malfunctions since January 1, 2026

Repair #2) Electric repaired. Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day, washing machine and dryer - MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE, we can't thank you enough. With this repair paid for, we completely spent our Building Improvement

Fund, and some private donations were given at the last minute.

Repair #3) After Bible Enrichment, Tuesday night, March 17, we noticed the Hot water tank malfunctioned at 10:30 p.m. Isaac's had it by Wednesday night, March 18. The total was \$1,850.00. We have paid \$555.00 from the Building Fund. We have ~~\$1,295.00~~ \$1,095 due on this project (\$100 was received from Katrina, and \$100.00 was received from Wayne and Glenn 5-14-26 designated to this balance. Thank you Katrina, Wayne and Glenn.)

**The single, and I suggest, the most effective way to help grow our Congregation at this time is to join the Music Ministry. I sincerely believe that every person's participation in the Music Ministry will enhance every aspect of our service to people who are not in this room today but will want to participate as they witness the growth the ministry in worship music will bring.  
2-6-26 Br. Benedict.**

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

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

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

**General Offering** for the week of April 19, \$195.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday  
Wednesday, April 15, Mass - 9

**General Offering** for the week of April 26, \$320.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday  
Tuesday, April 28 - 5 Wednesday, April 29, Mass - 9

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

**DISHWASHER / APPLIANCE ROOM:** **MARCH: 0** **APRIL: 0** **MAY:**

**Building Improvement Fund:** **MARCH:** \$50.00 donated by Marcus 3-8-26, thank you Marcus.  
March 20, 2026 - Deanna Caputo and Jason Ramboz \$320.00, thank you both. **APRIL:0** **MAY:**

**Exterior Building Improvement Summer, 2026 Fund:** We are looking to raise \$15,000.00 to repair siding, seal, prime and paint the siding on the exterior of the building.

**HOT WATER TANK:** \$100.00 by Katrina Lourdiane, thank you. \$100.00 by Wayne and Glenn, thank you.

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

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

**\*\* Special Gifts made this week:**

**\*\* Recent Special Gifts made in addition to offering plate gifts.** The week of April 19, \$20.00 was donated by Christina for the entry fee for Elmira Pride. Thank you, Christina. Lisa Frost donated \$350.00 to Building Fund for the annual fee on the Fire Alarm communicator board. Thank you, Lisa. Phillipa Askins made a \$100.00 donation to the Building Fund toward recent repairs. Thank you, Phillipa. Ian and Christina made a \$450.00 donation toward the Building Fund

On April 2, Brother made a \$648.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you Brother. On April 2, Ed Askins made a \$80.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you Ed. On 3-20-26 Brother made a \$150.00 donation to the Building Improvement Fund to help with the electric repairs. On 3-18-26 Brother made a donation to the Building Fund of \$350.00, thank you. As mentioned above, on 3-20-26 Deanna Caputo and Jason Ramboz made a \$320.00 donation to the Building Improvement Fund, thank you both. \$50.00 donated to

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR



## **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

\* \* \* \* We want to thank Kaiden for adding page 128 "In The Garden" and page 129 "Canticle of the Three Young Men" to the white Notebooks during this last week. Thank you, Kaiden. \* \* \* \*

Sunday, May 17, Ascension

May 19, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment- The Book of Revelation

May 20, Wednesday, 2026, NOON ecumenical Mass.

May 21, Thursday Music Ministry Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:30 PM

May 22, Friday, Chapel Assistants Committee 7:00 PM to redecorate the Chapel

**May 24, Sunday Pentecost - wear red, orange, yellow, bring flowers**

May 26, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment- The Book of Revelation

May 27, Wednesday, 2026, NOON ecumenical Mass.

May 28, Music Ministry Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:30 PM

May 29, Friday Council 6:30 PM - movement of Officers

May 31, Trinity, Memorial Sunday

June 2, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment- The Book of Revelation

June 3, Wednesday, 2026, NOON ecumenical Mass.

June 4, Music Ministry Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:30 PM



June 6, Saturday, Pride Elmira

June 7, Sunday, Corpus Christi - relicense Servants of the Eucharist

June 9, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment- The Book of Revelation

June 10, Wednesday, 2026, NOON ecumenical Mass.

June 11, Music Ministry Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:30 PM



**SOFLX Pride's 7th Annual Pride Festival Weekend: *We Bloomed Anyway* is June 12 - 13, 2026!**

Join us as we celebrate our community. This year's theme, *We Bloomed Anyway*, honors every queer and trans person who has grown, thrived, and found joy despite the horrors of 2025.

June 13, Saturday, Pride Corning

June 14, Sunday, 30th Ordination Anniversary

June 16, Tuesday, 7:15 PM Bible Enrichment- The Book of Revelation

June 17, Wednesday, 2026, NOON ecumenical Mass.

June 18, Music Ministry Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:30 PM

June 20, Saturday, Juneteenth in Elmira E.O.P.

June 21, Sunday, Father's Day, Juneteenth Celebration (19th), and 30th Ordination Anniversary

June 23, Tuesday, 7:15 PM Bible Enrichment- The Book of Revelation

June 24, Wednesday, 2026, NOON ecumenical Mass.

June 25, Music Ministry Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:30 PM

June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY

There is a sign-up sheet on the table for desserts during the after-worship fellowship time, and we are seeking volunteers to sign up for desserts. Kaiden will text the volunteer during the week to remind them they have signed up to provide snacks that week.

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**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Lisa Frost:** SAINTS: The Lord is with you!

**ALL:** And also with you!

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

**ALL:** Amen

**Lisa Frost:** 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)

**Ian McLaughlin:** 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.**

**Ian McLaughlin:** Please rise as you are able for our final song, "Holy Spirit Come," words and Music by Jack Hayford. The song is in the white worship notebook, number 25, and in the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing "Holy Spirit Come."

**LAST SONG: Notebook # 25 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.

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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**

**WE ARE YOU!**

**THIS is the Church where YOU belong.  
Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.**

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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NRSVEUE and the NRSVEUE-CA

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

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

**(New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (NRSVCE))**

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

[https://catholicbibletalk.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/NCC-Catholic-Imprimatur-for-NRSVue\\_Press-Release.pdf](https://catholicbibletalk.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/NCC-Catholic-Imprimatur-for-NRSVue_Press-Release.pdf)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**October 3, 2025**

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

Dr. Hugh Page Jr., chair of the **NCC's Bible Translation and Utilization Committee (BTU)**, said, "I am delighted that the NRSVue, Catholic Edition has received the imprimatur from the USCCB. Such ensures even wider engagement of this update

as well as the intellectual and spiritual riches contained therein. We are deeply grateful to the USCCB for its careful review and endorsement."

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

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

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

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

**OLD TESTAMENT NRSVUE**

Genesis  
 Exodus  
 Leviticus  
 Numbers  
 Deuteronomy  
 Joshua  
 Judges  
 Ruth  
 1 Samuel  
 2 Samuel  
 1 Kings  
 2 Kings  
 1 Chronicles  
 2 Chronicles  
 Ezra  
 Nehemiah  
 Esther  
 Job  
 Psalm  
 Proverbs  
 Ecclesiastes  
 Song of Songs  
 Isaiah  
 Jeremiah  
 Lamentations  
 Ezekiel  
 Daniel  
 Hosea  
 Joel  
 Amos  
 Obadiah  
 Jonah  
 Micah  
 Nahum  
 Habakkuk  
 Zephaniah  
 Haggai  
 Zechariah  
 Malachi

**APOCRYPHA - MORE HERE**

Tobit  
 Judith  
 Greek Esther  
 Wisdom of Solomon

**OLD TESTAMENT NRSVUE-CE**

Genesis  
 Exodus  
 Leviticus  
 Numbers  
 Deuteronomy  
 Joshua  
 Judges  
 Ruth  
 1 Samuel  
 2 Samuel  
 1 Kings  
 2 Kings  
 1 Chronicles  
 2 Chronicles  
 Ezra  
 Nehemiah  
 Tobit  
 Judith  
 Esther  
 1 Maccabees  
 2 Maccabees  
 Job  
 Psalm  
 Proverbs  
 Ecclesiastes  
 Song of Solomon  
 Wisdom  
 Sirach  
 Isaiah  
 Jeremiah  
 Lamentations  
 Baruch  
 Ezekiel  
 Daniel  
 Hosea  
 Joel  
 Amos  
 Obadiah  
 Jonah  
 Micah  
 Nahum  
 Habakkuk  
 Zephaniah  
 Haggai

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

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

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

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

Project 2025 Unitive Executive Branch

Lukewarm Church

Women: Rev. Sandra Crouch:

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

**Policy Concerning Minors at Events**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

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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)

