

**"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 24, 2026, Pentecost Sunday, Year A

Memorial Day and Representative Barney Frank 3/31/1940 - 5/19/26

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 2:1-21 NRSV 2nd Test.pg. 119

Psalm: 104 selected verses with responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 174

Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:12-15 2nd Testament pg. 110

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

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

Bell's 1st ring. As 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. 1st 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 24, 2026, and we are celebrating the Feast of Pentecost - the Gift of the Indwelling Holy Spirit - the birth of the Church. We are also honoring our Veterans on this Memorial Day weekend, and honoring Representative Barney Frank, the first openly gay member of the House of Representatives, who passed away this week on Tuesday, May 19. We hope everyone enjoys this rich day of prayer and remembrances.

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. 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 2nd 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.

We have arrived at Pentecost Sunday, a journey that started with Ash Wednesday, February 18, ninety-six days ago, and fourteen Sunday worship events have come and gone. We observed and celebrated the forty days of Lent, then Holy Week, then the Great Fifty Days, which took us through Ascension Day and brings us to Pentecost today. These ninety-six days moved at the pace of one day for a day, meaning the church calendar slowed down to actual time to remind us that these events we have been talking about were lived by real people in real time and space.

In our worship this morning we will pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we will honor our Veterans, and we will honor Representative Barney Frank.

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 as He

promised. 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 "Holy Spirit, Come," words and Music by Jack Hayford, Number 25 in the white Worship notebook, and in the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing "Holy Spirit, Come." With this song we have our first prayer of the morning, asking for the Holy Spirit to come, fill, and indwell us.

FIRST SONG: Holy Spirit, Come.

"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

Kaiden: I invite you to be seated at this time.



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: Today, we light the Candle Of Hope in honor of our Veterans who have served our Country, and in Honor of Congressman Barney Frank.

Veronica: Barney Frank, a Congressman for 32 years, elected in 1980, who served from 1981 to 2013, and the first openly gay Congressman, died at the age of 86 in his home in Maine on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Barney Frank served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives beginning in 1972. When he took office in the United States House of Representatives in 1980, there were no protections for people concerning sexual orientation. In fact, there were some prohibitions at the Federal Level. "Gay" people could not join the Army or receive a security clearance, and of course, there was no marriage equality. By the time Congressman Frank retired in 2011, there were many protections for people of all sexual orientations and gender expressions, and marriage equality was beginning to roll toward the finish line in 2015. Congressman Frank came out as gay, voluntarily, in 1987, becoming the first member of Congress to do so.

Congressman Frank often said he wished he had come out earlier, and even put the time as sometime in 1983.

Congressman Frank served sixteen terms in the United States Congress. Suggested sources for more information:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barney_Frank [Barney Frank, gay rights icon and architect of bank rules, dies at 86](#)
[Former Rep. Barney Frank, champion of Wall Street reform and gay rights trailblazer, dies at 86](#)

Ed: Today, we also honor our Deceased Veterans, especially Veterans who have served while being out of the closet as LGBTQSIANE2ss+ individuals or who supported the rights of others to serve. With each annual observance of Memorial Day, we remember the cost of defending freedom with one's life. This Memorial Day is perhaps more significant as it comes within the year of our 250th anniversary as a Nation. We thank God for people who are willing to defend our Democracy in the line of defense. We pray for a blessing on the families and associates of those who paid the ultimate price. May the peace of God continue to offer you comfort and care.

Kaiden: There are a few blocks of panels on the AIDS Memorial Quilt dedicated to Veterans who died of AIDS. One such block is number 2471. Please scroll down to see Block #2471.



These are the names on Block # 2471

- Remembering Veterans with AIDS (1)
 - Peter Lawrence Bañuelos (2)
 - Rexford Spinney (3)
 - Pauline Teal-El (4)
 - Steven Ray Lancaster (5)
 - Gregory C. Ward (6)
 - Tom Esway (7)
 - Andrew Sanders, Jr. (8)

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

Kaiden: Also, the Facebook page Stand Up To Jewish Hate, posted the following in honor of Harvey Milk, who would have been 96 years old this week on May 22, 2027, had he not been assassinated on November 27, 1978.

Ian: The Facebook post by Stand Up To Jewish Hate reads: "Harvey Milk often spoke about the importance of equality, proclaiming, 'Gay people, we will not win our rights quietly in our closets...we are coming out to fight the lies, the myths, the distortions.'" Milk was a firm believer that the best way to change the

hearts and minds of the American people was through empowering people to come out as who they are.' When we all stand against hate and intolerance, we are stronger. Let's honor Harvey Milk by courageously standing up for the fair and equal treatment of everyone."



<https://www.facebook.com/standuptojewishhate>

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 "The Spirit Is A-Movin'," words and music by Carey Landry. The song is in the green Glory and Praise hymnal, number 408, and in the Electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing, "The Spirit Is A-Movin'."

SECOND SONG: Glory and Praise #408 The Spirit Is A-Movin'

Words and Music by Carey Landry © 1969, 1979, Carey Landry and OCP. All rights reserved.
Onelicense Song #80506 Glory and Praise 2nd Edition 408 Used with permission. Onelicense #81048
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WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins, our failures.

Christina: At this time, 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 "Sweet Wind" by Deacon Ray Defendorf. This song, "Sweet Wind," helps us see and confess some of our faults and failures. Then, we ask for the sweet wind, the Spirit of God, to fill up our souls. Please turn in the Worship White notebook to song number 130. The words are printed below. The song is also in the electronic music edition. Please rise as you are able to sing, "Sweet Wind."

CONFESSION SONG: LYRICS - Words only

SWEET WIND OF LOVE (Sweet Wind) Words and Music by Deacon Ray Defendorf

Verse 1

Sweet Wind of love,
blow down on me,
Give me the will to live in peace.
I have scarred my world

with unkind words and deeds.
And charity I've left as just a word.

Refrain

Spirit of love, fill up my soul.
Channel your grace to lead me on.
And I'll serve my Lord all the days of my life.
With you by my side my fears are gone.

Verse 2

Sweet Wind of hope,
banish my doubts.
Let me look up to the sky.
See through my darkness.
Open my eyes,
To look for tomorrow's rising sun.

Refrain

Spirit of love, fill up my soul.
Channel your grace to lead me on.
And I'll serve my Lord all the days of my life.
With you by my side, my fears are gone.

Verse 3

Sweet Wind of Faith,
enlighten my mind.
The puzzle of this life is much too hard.
But you hold the key that will open the door.
And finding God will be its own reward.

Refrain

Spirit of love, fill up my soul.
Channel your grace to lead me on.
And I'll serve my Lord all the days of my life.
With you by my side, my fears are gone.

Sweet Wind. Words and Music by Deacon Ray Defendorf. (Sweet Wind of Love) © 1973 Deacon Ray Defendorf, Celebrate Life Songs, 110 Creekside Drive, Apt. 106, Painted Post, NY, 14870.

From Deacon Ray's CD – "Gentle Spirit". www.deaconray.com. email: deaconraydefendorf@gmail.com All rights reserved. Permission granted to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. for use and performance granted on Thursday, May 21, 2026. page 3 of 3

(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 _____.

Our first reading is the Book of Acts chapter 2, verses 1-21 on page 119 in the back of the ©1989 NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible, published in ©2007. Here begins the reading:

2 :1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room.² Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting.³ Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one.⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them.

⁵ Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven,⁶ and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native languages being spoken.⁷ They were amazed and astonished: “Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans!⁸ How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue?⁹ We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt

and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome—¹¹ all Jews, or converts to Judaism—Cretans and Arabs, too; we hear them preaching, each in our own language, about the marvels of God!”

¹² All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others said mockingly, “They’ve drunk too much new wine.”

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd: “Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! ¹⁵ These people are not drunk as you think—it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! ¹⁶ No, it’s what Joel the prophet spoke of:

¹⁷ ‘In the days to come—
it is our God who speaks—
I will pour out my Spirit
on all humankind.
Your daughters and sons will prophesy,
your young people will see visions,
and your elders will dream dreams.
¹⁸ Even on the most insignificant of my people,
both women and men,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

(**Brother notes: here ends the prophecy for the church age. The following verses will take place in the future during the end of the Great Tribulation, the seven years under the earthly rule of the Anti-Christ.**)

¹⁹ And I will display wonders
in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below:
blood, fire and billowing smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned into darkness
and the moon will become blood
before the coming of the
great and sublime day of our God.

²¹ And all who call upon the name
of our God will be saved.'

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(Acts 2:1-21. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 2928-2929). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 717. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

+ Psalm:

lan: (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is _____
and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The Psalm today is 104 with selected verses. Our response today is: "Come Holy Spirit, refresh our souls, and renew our understanding."

R: Come Holy Spirit, refresh our souls, and renew our understanding.

¹ Bless the LORD, my soul!

LORD God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,

² wrapped in light as in a robe!

²⁴ How many are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your riches.

R: Come Holy Spirit, refresh our souls, and renew our understanding.

³¹ May the glory of the LORD last for ever!

May the LORD rejoice in creation!

³² God looks on the earth and it trembles;

at God's touch, the mountains send forth smoke.

R: Come Holy Spirit, refresh our souls, and renew our understanding.

²⁹ You hide your face, they are dismayed;
you take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.

³⁰ You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

R: Come Holy Spirit, refresh our souls, and renew our understanding.

³³ I will sing to the LORD all my life,
make music to my God while I live.

³⁴ May my thoughts be pleasing to God.
I find my joy in the LORD.

R: Come Holy Spirit, refresh our souls, and renew our understanding.

Give praise to the Living God.

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

To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.

Both now, and forever. Amen.

Psalm 104 In Praise of God the Creator. (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England).
Psalm (103) 104 Onelicense Song #31115. All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by
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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 Book of the First Letter to the Corinthians chapter 12, verses 1-13. The reading is on page 174 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

Spiritual Gifts

Now dear sisters and brothers, I want to instruct you on the matter of spiritual gifts. ² Remember how, when you were still nonbelievers, you

were drawn to mute idols and led astray by them? ³ It is for this reason that I want you to understand that no one can be speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit and say, “Curse Jesus”; by the same token, no one can say, “Jesus Christ reigns supreme,” unless under the influence of the Holy Spirit. ⁴ There is a variety of gifts, but always the same Spirit. ⁵ There is a variety of ministries, but we serve the same One. ⁶ There is a variety of outcomes, but the same God is working in all of them. ⁷ To each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one, the Spirit gives wisdom in discourse, to another, the word of knowledge through the same Spirit. ⁹ Through the Spirit, one person receives faith; through the same Spirit, another is given the gift of healing; ¹⁰ and still another, miraculous powers. Prophecy is given to one; to another, power to distinguish one spirit from another. One receives the gift of tongues; another, that of interpreting tongues. ¹¹ But it is one and the same Spirit who produces all these gifts and distributes them as she wills. ¹² The body is one, even though it has many parts; all the parts—many though they are—comprise a single body. And so it is with Christ. ¹³ It was by one Spirit that all of us, whether we are Jews or Greeks, slaves or citizens, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(1 Corinthians 12:1-13. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pg. 745, location 46421 to 46432). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 756. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is on page 110 in the back of the ©1989 NRSV Bible. I will read it in The Inclusive Bible, published in ©2007. The reading is the Gospel of John, chapters 15, verses 26-27, and 16:12-15.

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 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.**

Chapter 15:26. Jesus said: When the Paraclete comes—
the Spirit of Truth who comes from Abba God,
whom I myself will send from my Abba—
she will bear witness on my behalf.

²⁷ You too must bear witness,
for you've been with me from the beginning.

Chapter 16:12 I have much more to tell you,

but you can't bear to hear it now.

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes,
she will guide you into all truth.
She won't speak on her own initiative;
rather, she'll speak only what she hears,
and she'll announce to you
things that are yet to come.

¹⁴ In doing this, the Spirit will give glory to me,
for she will take what is mine
and reveal it to you.

¹⁵ Everything that Abba God has
belongs to me.
This is why I said that
the Spirit will take what is mine
and reveal it to you.

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

(John 15:26-27; 16:12-15). Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (p. 2907; 2908-2909). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 712. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

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

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+ Sermon

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

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 ===5-24-26=====

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.

Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, a gift from God. Below is a rendering of John 16:7 by the translators of the Amplified Bible, which I find particularly enlightening. This verse gives many of the attributes of the Holy Spirit in English that are packed and hidden in the original Greek Word parakletos. Each of the capitalized words in the verse below tells us how the Holy Spirit is ready to help us. All we have to do is ask with a short prayer like this:

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

Here is the verse in the Amplified Bible

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

Did you realize the Holy Spirit is with you to bring you all those actions of God? Understanding the Real Presence of God with us in

Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, we will experience more confidence, love ourselves and our neighbors, and feel better about our lived experience. You can have all this and more. Start with that simple prayer above.

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

Things learned from today's readings;

1) We are "in the last days" as announced by St. Peter. When the Holy Spirit was outpoured on those who had been waiting and praying since the day of the Ascension, Peter stood up to explain what was happening. He quoted Joel 2:28 - 32.

Joel: (Joel 2:28-32)

¹⁷ **'In the last days** it will be, God declares, Therefore, yes, Ray Of Hope Church is a "last days" church because the very day the Church began, it was explained to all who would listen that the "last days" had officially begun. Discussing Eschatology is central to understanding the Church and the relationship the Age of the Church has to the rest of the testament.

2) The holy Spirit is poured out on everyone and is available to all.

that I will pour out my Spirit upon **all flesh**,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my servants, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

In my opinion, the church has never completed these verses. With these verses, the full ministry of the church is open to all people, regardless of ethnicity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

3) The rest of this prophecy happens from the start of the Tribulation Period and has not begun during this Church Age.

(**Brother notes: here ends the prophecy for the church age. The following verses will take place **in the future during the end of the Great Tribulation**, the seven years under the earthly rule of the Anti-Christ.**)

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious
day.

4) Whoever calls upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved. Churches have turned this into, whoever calls upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved. That is a true sentence; however, at the time Joel wrote, "the LORD" was understood to be God. Paired with John 5:24, we have a rationale for teaching that salvation is based on believing in God.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

(**Brother notes: the Name here, LORD, would have been understood by the people in Joel's day: 9th, 5th, or 4th Centuries B.C., depending on whose research you read. Certainly, hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Therefore, anyone who calls on the **Name of God shall be saved**.** This is very significant for the message of Ray Of Hope Church: **ANYONE** who calls upon the **Name of God** is saved. Jesus also said this in John 5:24. **Salvation belongs to God, not the institutional church**. End of Brother's notes. **)

5) With the psalm, we begin our prayer for the Holy Spirit to come and renew the face of the earth. We know society will never become obedient to the Holy Spirit until the years when Jesus will rule over His Kingdom on Earth as prophesied in the Book of Revelation. Anyone or a group may pray this prayer at any time.

6) In the second reading is in the Book of the First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12, verses 1-13,

We pray the words, Jesus Is Lord, under the influence of the Holy Spirit. (vs. 3b)

There are many gifts, probably an infinite number of Spiritual Gifts, but the same Holy Spirit gives all. (vs. 4)

There are many ministries, but all are given to serve the One True God. (vs. 5)

** There are a variety of outcomes, but the same God is working in all of them.** (vs. 7)

** It is the same Spirit who produces all the gifts and distributes as she wills." (vs. 11)

We are all baptized into one Spirit, and we drink of the Living Waters of the same Holy Spirit. (vs. 13)

This is a much broader view than what most of us learned from our denominational churches, which had a strict list of what constitutes a Spiritual Gift and how to use them.

7) We learn in John 15:26 that the Holy Spirit is Truth and testifies on behalf of Christ. To listen to the Holy Spirit is to listen to the authority of Christ among us. The Holy Spirit is the Vicar of Christ.

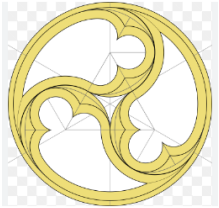
8) In John 16:12-15, we understand that the revelation of Christ and what Christ communicates to and through the church comes through the Holy Spirit. We also understand that the Holy Spirit continues to give revelation, guidance, and to lead the church into ongoing and even new truths. Figuring out what the Holy Spirit is saying becomes a ministry all by itself called discernment.

At our workshop meeting last week, we decided to put forth a model for our immediate future and growth: engagement and discernment.

9) If Time allows - some vocabulary:

Perichoresis - a word often used of the Holy Trinity to describe how the three persons of the Trinity move in, around, through, with, above, and below each

other in constant movement. Perichoresis is used to describe the dance of the colors of fire, red, orange, yellow, blue, and some see other colors too. While the colors are discernible, they are also constantly interacting with one another. While this symbol is often used to describe the Trinity, I also like to use it to describe our living relationship with the Trinity. Jesus prayed, "May they be one in us as we are one, etc." Therefore, we are part of the movement too. There are many symbols in Art to show Perichoresis, see here: [RIGHT-CLICK Here](#).



Often, this Perichoresis may be seen in stained-glass window configurations in Churches. There is such a window at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Elmira, NY.

Anamnesis

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

*)- CONTINUING REVELATION * * * **Keeping Watch** * * * On Sunday, January 19, 2024, I wrote the following in the bulletin. Finally, a hopeful thought to close with: on Friday, January 17, 2025, President Biden announced the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is the law of the Land because all of the required votes of the States have been received. The American Bar Association agrees that all requirements have been met. The National Archivist, Colleen Shogan, only has to certify and publish the 28th Amendment.

(Source: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-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 *****



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)

Leader – 4: Having heard the Word Of God we bring our prayers to God in
Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit

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, we seek the outpouring of your Holy Spirit in every way that we engage with ministry. May everything we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your saving help. 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.

Lisa: 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.

Ed: 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.

Veronica: 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.

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 2026. 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: "Spirit Of The Living God," Words and Music by Daniel Iverson. The Music is in the electronic Music Edition. The words are printed below. Please sing along as we set the Table of the Lord.

OFFERTORY:

[Spirit Of The Living God](#)

Chorus

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall fresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall fresh on me.
Melt me mold me.
Fill me. Use me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall fresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall fresh on us.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall fresh on us.
Melt us mold us.
Fill us. Use us.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall fresh on us.

"Spirit Of The Living God " Words and Music by Daniel Iverson. © Words: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Music: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI Song # 24388. 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!

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.

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

+ Sign Of Peace

Katrina: 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.

Katrina: 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.

Katrina: 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: "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."

COMMUNION SONG: Ntbk # 129 Canticle of the Three Young Men.

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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 1st 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 26, \$320.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday
Tuesday, April 28 - 5 Wednesday, April 29, Mass - 9

General Offering for the week of May 3, \$1,490.00 Attendance 8 on Sunday
Tuesday, May 5 - 6 Wednesday, May 6, Mass - 9

General Offering for the week of May 10, \$590.00 Attendance 17 on Sunday
Tuesday, May 12 - 5 Wednesday, May 13, Mass - 8

General Offering for the week of May 17, \$230.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday
Tuesday, May 19 - 7 Wednesday, May 20, Mass - 10

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:** \$30.00 from Wayne and Glenn from their rummage sale to the General Fund, Thank you. Brother made a \$100.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you.

**** Recent Special Gifts made in addition to offering plate gifts.** The week of May 11, Brother made a \$355.00 donation to the Building Fund, Thank you. 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 be added to our email list, fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject box.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR



MAY BIRTHDAYS

* * * * We want to thank Kaiden for adding page 130, "Sweet Wind," to the white Notebooks this last week. Thank you, Kaiden. * * * *

* * * * Thank you to the Chapel Assistants Committee: Katrina, Wayne, Glenn, and Kaiden, for changing the Chapel paraments to Red this week.

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

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

June 12, Friday - Brother goes for foot surgery. NAACP EVENT:


ELMIRA/CORNING NAACP
57TH ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND AWARDS
CELEBRATION

**“NAACP: Thriving and Surviving
During Uncertain Times”**


FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026
6:30PM MIXER & CASH BAR
7:00 – 10:00PM DINNER, AWARDS, SPEAKER
RADISSON HOTEL, 125 DENISON PARKWAY, CORNING, NEW YORK



Speaker
Dr. Terence L. Finley
President
SUNY Corning Community College
Corning, NY



ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
COLORED PEOPLE
1909



Honorary Chair
and Mistress of Ceremony
Miss Ebony Lewis
WETM 18 News Reporter

Tickets \$80.00 Adults / \$40.00 Youth Ages 6-11 / 5 & Under Free
Each Ticket Includes: An Organization Membership

For Ticket Information Call:
(607) 962-8398, (607) 936-6770, (607) 962-5362, (607) 733-7963

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026



**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 15, 1996)

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)

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.

=====



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: Okay, we are going out with a celebration, singing "Glorify The Lord," words and music by Sandra Crouch. The words are printed below, and in the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing and celebrate "Glorify The Lord."

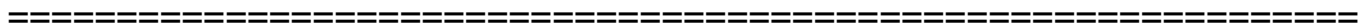
LAST SONG: Glorify The Lord

Words and Music by Sandra Crouch

Chorus

Glorify the Lord
Praise His holy name
Let the trumpet sound
Let the bells ring
We've been redeemed
By the blood of the Lamb
Come on and praise His holy name
Ev'rybody sing
God is holy and He's worthy
And we worship we worship Him

Sandra Crouch. © 1985 Bud John Songs, Inc.; Sanabella Music. CCLI Song#15544. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



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.

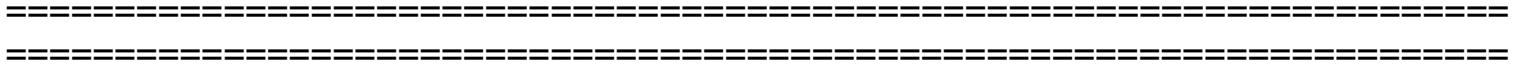
Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization**, **survival**, and **sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive**, **train**, and **transplant** 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.

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019



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

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.

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. 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. 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.

Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

