

**"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 3, 2026, Resurrection Week 5, Year A  
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 6:1-7 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 123

**Psalms:** 33 selected verses in this bulletin

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 2:4-10 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 233

**Gospel:** John 14:1-12 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 108

\*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.

All Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. online presentations and accompanying bulletin programs are covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. Copyright credits and U.S. Copyright Fair Use statements are in the presented materials. We are making every effort to comply with all regulations. Please contact us with questions, concerns, and suggestions to improve our copyright practices. Thank you.



## **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. Today is May 3, 2026, the start of the fifth week of the Season of the Resurrection.

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.

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 on Facebook Live by 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 webpage.

**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.\*\*) We invite you to participate in as many or as few parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable. To people watching 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 3, 2026, the start of the Fifth Week of six weeks 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 are still in the forty days between the Resurrection and the Ascension.

**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.**

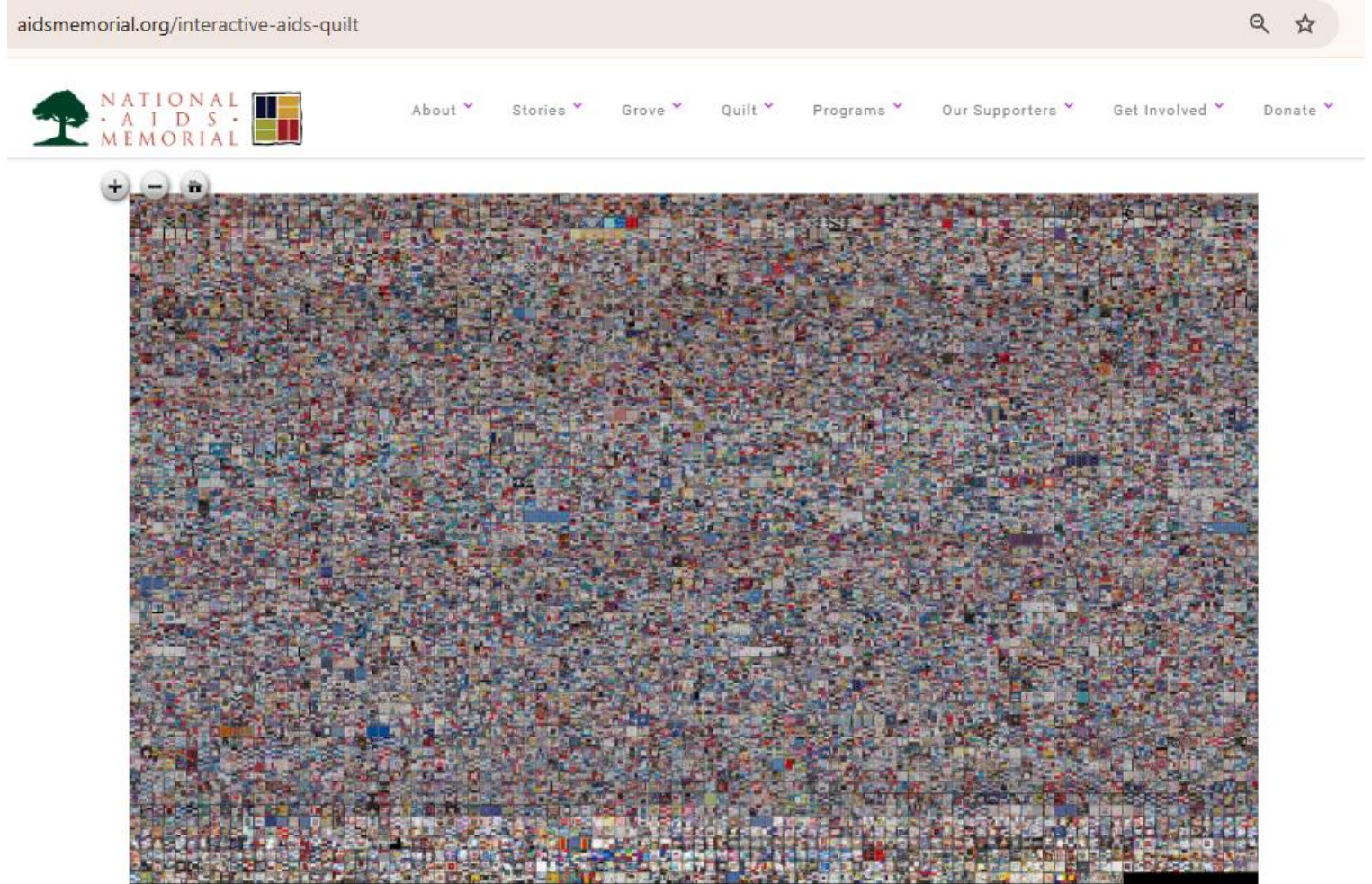
**Lisa Frost:** Our first song today is "Shepherd Of Souls" in the green Glory and Praise hymnal number 501, and in the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able for our first song, "Shepherd Of Souls."

**FIRST SONG: Shepherd Of Souls.** Refresh and Bless Glory and Praise Number 501 Text: CM; verses 1, 2, James Montgomery, 1771–1854; verses 3, 4, anon. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876. Onelicense Song #84164 Glory and Praise 2nd Edition 501 Used with permission. Onelicense #81048 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 on this page, and we 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.\*\*)





**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 186.



These are the names on Block # 186

- Gary Lonien (1)
- Tom Oates (2)
- Andy Bailey (3)
- Larry Zullo (4)
- Randy Feldt (5)
- Steve Carte (6)
- Dennis McLain (7)
- Alan Fiedler (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>)

**Kaiden:** Our second song is the Easter Song by Anne Herring. The song is in the white worship notebook, number 127, and in the Electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing, "Easter Song."

**SECOND SONG: Easter Song.** Words and Music by Anne Herring ©1974 Latter Rain Music CCLI Song#12279 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



## WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

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

**Christina:** Please be seated. (\*\* Please wait\*\*) 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 "Open Our Eyes." This song will be our confession, and Lord Have Mercy prayers for today. Please turn in the Worship White notebook to song number 126. The song is also in the electronic music edition, and you may sit or stand as you are comfortable to sing "Open Our Eyes."

**CONFESSION SONG: Open Our Eyes.** Words and Music by Bob Cull. © 1976 CCM Music; Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing. Distributed by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc. CCLI Song#1572. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**(\*\* After the song..\*\*)**

**Ian:** Please rise as you are able and pray together for forgiveness and renewal.

**ALL: Lord Jesus, hear our confession, and receive our sins. Touch our hearts and shape our desires so that we will seek your Will daily in our lives. Send your Holy Spirit now to heal the wounds in our memories. Inform our conscience with the fire of your divine love so we will follow you without reservation. Draw us closer to you with your gentle voice and loving arms. We accept your forgiveness and restoration, in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Ian:** 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.**

**Ian:** The Church now provides the service of praising God together in thanksgiving. Please rise as you are able to give thanks and praise to God for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria.

**WORDS ONLY HERE. MUSIC SCROLL DOWN**

**"The Gloria"** From "Music for Worship" © Words and Music: Gaude! Liturgical Arts 7/25/19 - 1/21/24 Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B. Dedication: Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 40th Anniversary.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest.

We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!

We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 1:

You are the One God,  
Sovereign of the Universe,  
Only Holy God, we worship You,

we give You thanks,  
we praise You for Your great glory!

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 2:

Lord, Jesus Christ;  
The Only Begotten Son of God  
You are Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us;  
You are seated at the right hand of God;  
receive our prayer.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 3:

For You alone are the Holy One.  
You alone are the Lord of all,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
With the Holy Spirit in the Glory of God.  
In the Holy Spirit, in the Holy unity of God.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.

We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 4:

Amen; We give you thanks and praise.

Amen; We give you thanks and praise.

Amen; We give you thanks and praise.

Amen.

From "Music for Worship" © Words and Music: Gaude! Liturgical Arts 7/25/19 - 1/21/24 Br. Shawn F. Benedict,  
O.S.B. Dedication: Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 40th Anniversary.

Dedication:  
Ray Of Hope Church  
Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.  
40th Anniversary

# The Gloria

## "Music for Worship"

Words and Music  
Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
7/25/19-1/21/24  
Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

**Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
4  
peace to all peo - ple on earth — Glo - ry to God in the high - est —  
8  
We give you thanks — and praise. Al - le - lu — ia  
10  
We give you thanks — and praise.  
12 **Verse 1**  
You are the One God, Sov - ereign of the Un - i - verse, On - ly  
16  
Ho - ly God, — we wor - ship You, — we  
18  
give you thanks, we praise You for Your great glo - ry!  
21 **Refrain**  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, — and peace to all peo - ple on earth —  
25  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est — We give you thanks — and

© Words and Music:7/25/19-1/21/24, Gaude!Liturgical Arts, Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

2

28  
  
 praise. Al-le-lu\_\_ ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

31 **Verse 2**  
  
 Lord, Jes - us Christ;\_\_\_\_\_ The On - ly Be - got - ten

34  
  
 Son of God, You are Lord God,

36  
  
 Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; Have mer - cy on

41  
  
 us; You are sea-ted at the right hand of God; re - ceive our prayer.

46 **Refrain**  
  
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est,\_\_\_ and peace to all peo-ple on\_ earth\_

50  
  
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est\_\_\_ We give you thanks\_ and

53  
  
 praise. Al-le-lu\_\_ ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

56 **Verse 3**  
  
 For You a-lone are the Ho - ly One You a - lone are the Lord of all,

61  
  
 You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, With the Ho - ly

66

Spi-rit in the glo - ry of God. In the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the

71

Ho - ly un - i - ty of God.

75 Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, - and peace to all peo-ple on earth.

79

Glo-ry to God in the high-est. We give you thanks and praise. Al-le-lu-ia

83

We give you thanks and praise.

85 Verse 4: Amen

A men: We

We give You thanks and praise!

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

give You thanks and praise!

We give You thanks and praise!

give You thnks, We give You praise We give You thnaks and praise

89

A - men

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

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

**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 6, verses 1-7. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 123 in the Second Testament. In this reading, the church establishes the Order of Deacons, servants to free up the Apostles to be more available to the study of the Word and presenting it to Word to the people. Since the martyrdom of Stephen is usually considered to be between 33 and 35 AD, we know this event has to have happened between 31 and 35, within the first three to five years following Pentecost, when the Church was experiencing rapid growth. Here begins the reading:

## Seven Chosen to Serve

**6** Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, <sup>4</sup> while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." <sup>5</sup> What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup> They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

a. [6.2](#) Or *keep accounts*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+6%3A1-7&version=NRSVUE> )

Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.

**+ Psalm:**

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

Today's Psalm is number 33, selected verses with a responsorial verse.

The response today is, "Alleluia. Lord, we place our trust in you."

**R. Alleluia. Lord, we place our trust in you.**

<sup>1</sup> Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

<sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the LORD upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute play your songs.

**R. Alleluia. Lord, we place our trust in you.**

<sup>4</sup> For the word of the LORD is faithful  
and all his works done in truth.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with love.

**R. Alleluia. Lord, we place our trust in you.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD looks on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his love,

<sup>19</sup> to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.

**R. Alleluia. Lord, we place our trust in you.**

**Give praise to the Living God.**

**To God's Son, Jes-sus the Christ, Our Lord.**

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

**Both now, and for ever. A-men.**

**Psalm 33. Praise of God's providence** (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 Psalm (32)33. The Grail (England). Onelicense Song #59296. 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 First Letter of Peter, chapter 2, verses 4-10. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of © 2021. The NRSV

pew bibles have a similar reading on page 233 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading:

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built<sup>[a]</sup> into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."  
(Isaiah 28:16)

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,<sup>[b]</sup>

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner," (Psalm 118:2)

<sup>8</sup> and

"A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall." (Isaiah 8:14)

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> **But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,<sup>[c]</sup> in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

**[Read full chapter](#)**

#### Footnotes

- a. 2.5 Or *you yourselves are being built*
- b. 2.7 Other ancient authorities read *obey*
- c. 2.9 Gk *a people for his possession*

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

[10&version=NRSVUE](#) ) Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.

**Ian:** We are the royal priesthood of Jesus the Christ, our High Priest, who has called and authorized us to serve God and each other in His Priesthood. Today we are going to sing "Priestly People" by Fr. Lucien Deiss, a beautiful piece of Music that celebrates who we are in Christ. Please turn in the white worship notebook to Number 79. The song is also in the electronic music edition, and rise as you are able to celebrate, "Priestly People."

**SECOND READING RESPONSE: Notebook # 79 Priestly People.**

Words and Music by Lucien Deiss © 1965, World Library Publications. Onelicense Song #50369 One in Faith Hymnal # 669. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

**+ 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

The musical score is written on four staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 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 John, chapter 14, verses 1-12. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of © 2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 108 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 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.**

### **Jesus the Way to the Father**

**14** "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe<sup>[a]</sup> in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going."<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know<sup>[d]</sup> my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in

me, but if you do not, then believe<sup>[e]</sup> because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

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

**Read full chapter** Footnotes

- a. 14.1 Or *You believe*
- b. 14.2 Or *If it were not so, I would have told you, for I go to prepare a place for you*
- c. 14.4 Other ancient authorities read *Where I am going you know, and the way you know*
- d. 14.7 Other ancient authorities read *If you had known me, you would have known*
- e. 14.11 Other ancient authorities add *me*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A1-12&version=NRSVUE> )

Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.

**(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.)

## 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!

## + 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 ===5-3-26=====

The biblical koine Greek word "diakonia" means "to serve." We are all servants of Christ and each other. The service and ministry of a deacon, from the Greek word diakonia, are closely related to the spiritual needs of the faith community and originate in Christ's early actions in establishing the Church. The first reading today, Acts, chapter 6, verses 1-7, is the record of the first special servants chosen by the Apostles to form this ministry.

Our congregation is a faith community of choice. In our forty-three years of ministry, people have chosen to attend and worship with us, usually coming as adults. In other words, so far, our attendees are not born into our congregation. Other churches that specialize in generational family continuity, where generations raise their children in the church's worship and education programs, have a specialized focus on that ministry.

The spiritual needs of our congregation reflect a vast spectrum of experience and expectation. Although we are a small group in terms of numbers,

approximately 40 people have regular contact with the pastoral ministry, and I find the intensity of interaction with the pastoral ministry to be higher than what most people would expect.

In the first reading, the Apostles found it too difficult to attend to the special needs of all the individuals who were forming congregations at a rapid pace. In Acts chapter six, verses two through four, we read the Apostles saying:

"It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.<sup>[a]</sup> \*\*\*the note here says, "or keep accounts" \*\*\*<sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task,<sup>4</sup> while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word."

Please also note the community's reaction: "What they said pleased the whole community." (verse 5).

What we learn here is that the Apostles, and in our case, this would be the ministry of the Appointed Pastor, have to prioritize time and schedule to study the Word of God above all other tasks. The study of the Word is the primary source; it is the heartbeat, the life-source that makes our service to society unique and specialized at Ray Of Hope Church. The Word of God informs our Statement Of Purpose and sets the foundation for everything we do at Ray Of Hope. The pastoral ministry is null, void, and useless without daily saturation in the Word of God. The first service the pastoral ministry gives to the people is leading and guiding everyone to find and develop within themselves an ever-growing and living encounter with the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God. A high priority of the pastoral ministry is to bring people to a point where they are opening their Bibles at home, re-reading the Sunday readings, re-reading the sermon and message notes provided, and looking further into what the Holy Spirit says to them individually as they encounter the written Word of God.

The study bible we use in our Bible Enrichment Sessions is not the same translation as the ones we usually read in our public worship events. Re-reading the selected Scriptures in your home study bibles is certain to be a fresh encounter at home, simply because it will be a different rendition or translation. Reading the same verses in multiple renditions and translations is a definite way to gain a better understanding of what the Holy Spirit is saying to

the church and to us individually.

People in pastoral ministry love everything about the Word of God and what it lives and breathes into every minute of every day of our lives.

Christ said he would build His Church, a foundational statement, a promise we have in Matthew 16:18. Christ also organized the tasks of ministry into six offices of ministry by the time the New Testament was completed, by roughly 100 AD. The official ministries revealed are Apostles, Pastors, Evangelists, Prophets, Teachers, and Deacons. A modern understanding of what it means to be appointed to one of these ministries is being made the coordinator of the particular charism that the people need. You are not "the teacher," but you become the coordinator of the service of education, for example.

Deacons, then, are servants of service; ones who serve the needs of the servants - that is, of the people. Deacons are people who love serving. To the Deacon's heart, helping and assisting are what make them full of joy. The priority of service is to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, which for us is the Appointed Pastor at this time. A true deacon would be someone who is always looking for ways to see the needs people are asking the Pastor to fulfill and going ahead to address those needs themselves, so the pastoral ministry can focus on the study of the Word, as was the case in our first reading today. Closely related to the biblical model of Deacon is our ministry, the Servants of the Eucharist. Here at Ray Of Hope, we appoint and license Members of our Congregation to extend the physical presence of the Pastoral Ministry in particular times and locations where the Appointed Pastor may not be available. As Ray Of Hope grows, we will need more people, spread across the region of our outreach, who are "on the ready" or "on call" to physically go to a particular place to bring sacramental ministry to people in need. Often this has meant making hospital visits, going to a jail visiting room, going to see someone homebound, going to the scene of an accident, or to the scene of a fire to see if anyone would appreciate some prayer or sacramental support. In all cases, our Servants of the Eucharist offer compassion, empathy, and care, with the opportunity to pray and to receive Holy Communion, Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, and other services that may present themselves. Our Servants of the Eucharist offer all sacramental ministries to all people present, without regard to their church affiliation or lack of faith. If the people are present, they are all

welcome to our services of ministry.

Here at Ray Of Hope Church, in our first 43 years, it is the Council that serves as the intentional deaconate. The Council establishes and oversees all that is necessary to maintain the corporation of the institutional aspects of our organization. The Council oversees all legal obligations with the State of New York, with taxation, copyright, licensing for Music and broadcasting, the purchasing of supplies and equipment, the contracting and paying for utilities, the purchase of a facility to gather in, the maintaining of the accessibility equipment, the fire alarm, the security systems, the structure upkeep on the building, and all the supplies that are needed to welcome people and facilitate their worship experience. The ministry of the Council is unquestionably DIAKONIA, the ministry of the deaconate.

Without the ministry of the Council, it would be impossible for one Appointed Pastor to present the worship events, the educational study events, the sacramental preparation classes, the social ministries, the Music Ministry, and the prayer ministries currently presented. All of the services the Council provides are done so that this organization may work in cooperation with the Pastoral Ministry and, in this case, free up the Appointed Pastor to first and foremost study the Word of God and discern its application to current events.

After immersion in the Word of God, the pastoral ministry must have a very broad understanding of the spiritual actions and sacraments of the modern Body of Christ. In my experience, I have to constantly read content on the record of worship from the time of the Apostles out to the thousands of branches of worship expressions that have been revealed and are being revealed in our own day.

Additionally, Ray Of Hope was born of the Spirit of God for a very specific purpose, in a very specific time, and a very specific place. The purpose is, of course, in our Statement Of Purpose, but we all know it was the AIDS pandemic that necessitated a unique ministry to say "yes" to hundreds of thousands of people who were being told "no" by church, state, and family. We were born of the Spirit to say "yes" to all the people who were being told "no."

We were born of the Spirit at a very specific time: the LGBTQSIANE2ss+++

movement, which has had stirrings since the beginning of human records on every continent and in every culture, but had multiple flashpoints in our Country that just kept getting louder and bigger following World War Two in the United States. The 1960s were certainly an age of the Spirit when many socially acceptable forms were crashing to the ground and being reformed. Stonewall in 1969 was a moment of truth in our movement, one that now embraces all people everywhere. We were born of the Spirit at this time, and therefore, these issues are the ones we have been ordained as a church to pay attention to: human rights and dignity for all people.

Finally, the very specific place, upstate New York State, where our unbroken testimony has operated for 43 years, and we have the records to prove there has been no break in our testimony from the very first day. Ray Of Hope Church was born of the Spirit to be grounded in upstate New York and from here to reach out to the whole world through technology.

From this short and very incomplete summary, I hope we can all see the entire purpose of Ray Of Hope is DIAKONIA, to serve, to do everything possible to make it possible to keep the radical YES alive in our time and place, so more people will realize the interior voice of God, telling them they are exactly who and what God intended. Then, our hard work of convincing people there is a relationship to be had between the One and only Alive God living in, through, and all around us, and with the people around us starts. 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, 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? "

DIGITAL AI and real Spirituality: [https://www.osvnews.com/vatican-theological-commission-warns-of-replacing-god-with-a-world-governed-by-machines/#:~:text=ROME%20\(OSV%20News\)%20%E2%80%94%20The,Christian%20anthropology%20and%20the%20Gospel.](https://www.osvnews.com/vatican-theological-commission-warns-of-replacing-god-with-a-world-governed-by-machines/#:~:text=ROME%20(OSV%20News)%20%E2%80%94%20The,Christian%20anthropology%20and%20the%20Gospel.)

Americans United for Separation of Church and State (source: <https://www.au.org/getting-better/>) "On Trans Day of Visibility this year, March 31st, the Supreme Court issued a decision in *Chiles v Salazar*, a case about conversion therapy. The decision allows a Christian therapist to use talk conversion therapy on LGBTQ+ clients. A major step back and gut punch for the trans community and its allies."

[https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/25pdf/24-539\\_fd9g.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/25pdf/24-539_fd9g.pdf)

## [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

**House GOP introduces bills to out trans students to their parents & ban trans issues from schools**

<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2026/04/house-gop-introduces-bills-to-out-trans-students-to-their-parents-ban-trans-issues-from-schools/>

"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, 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 \*\*\*\*\*

=====

**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:** The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other agencies report that on a global scale, more than 123 million people are forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. In total, approximately 304 million people are migrating somewhere on this earth as we speak. Therefore, we pray that government leaders think beyond their own countries, or worse, their own personal ambitions for worldly power, wealth, and authority, and seek to help resolve this crisis. We pray to the Lord,

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

**Ian:** We pray for people who have lost access to employment, a home, or an apartment, especially those who are in despair. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide social agencies in finding practical solutions that help people regain their footing in society. 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 Aunt Ruth, Marcus, Deacon Ray Defendorf, Ed Askins, and those in any form of treatment; for people who lack food, safe drinking water, and other necessities. 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.](#))

**Veronica Floyd:** 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."

**Veronica:** As we set the Table of the Lord here in the chapel and in your homes, we are going to sing: "Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks." The Music is in the Glory and Praise Book, number 389, and in the electronic Music Edition. Please sing along as we set the Table of the Lord.

## OFFERTORY:

### Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks G&P 389

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

**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.

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

### + 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. Ian, please show the Bread today, and Kaiden, 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!\_\_\_\_

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All rights reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

**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 Floyd:** 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: "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."

**COMMUNION 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.

---

**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 due on this project.

**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:**

**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:**

**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.

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 the Building Fund by Marcus on 3-8-26, thank you Marcus. Thank you to Brother Benedict for a gift of

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 126 "Open Our Eyes" and page 127 "Easter Song" to the white Notebooks yesterday, Saturday, April 25. Thank you, Kaiden. \* \* \* \*

Sunday, May 3 Resurrection Wk 5

May 5, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment- The Book of Revelation

May 6, Wednesday, 2026 NOON ecumenical Mass.

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

Sunday, May 10 Resurrection Wk 6

May 12, Tuesday, 7:15 PM Bible Enrichment- The Book of Revelation

May 13, Wednesday, 2026 NOON ecumenical Mass.

May 14, Music Ministry Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:30 PM

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

May 24, Sunday Pentecost

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

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.

=====



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Wayne Harris:** SAINTS: The Lord is with you!

**ALL:** And also with you!

**Wayne Harris:** 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

**Katrina:** 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)

**Katrina:** 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.**

**Wayne Harris:** Please rise as you are able for our final song, "Glorify The Lord," by Sandra Crouch. The words are printed here and in the electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing "Glorify The Lord."

**LAST SONG: Glorify the Lord. words and Music Sandra Crouch**

**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

**Glorify the Lord.**

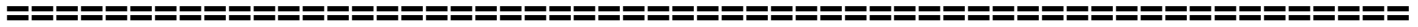
Sandra Crouch. © 1985 Bud John Songs, Inc.; Sanabella Music. CCLI Song#15544. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

=====

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

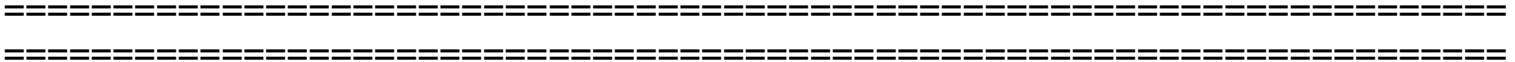
the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



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](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.

---

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)

—————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)

