



**Ray Of Hope
Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."

(Isaiah 56:7)

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

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

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:10,33)

April Struhm, Moderator

**** April Struhm passed into Paradise on July 4, 2024 after a long battle with cancer. See the worship event of Sunday, July 7, 2024 where we celebrated her life, her Membership, leadership, and friendship with us at Ray Of Hope Church.**

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

We extend a special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (NABRE – 2011)

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

Today is June 30, 2024, Pride Month, Week 5 of 5, Year B
Stonewall Anniversary

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: Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 NOT in our edition of the NRSV Bible

Psalm: 150 The responsorial psalm is inside the bulletin

Second Reading: Romans, Chapter 8, verses 1,2, 8-11 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 157

Third Reading: Gospel: John 5:24,25 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 96

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

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

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

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _____(State)_____. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and reaching out worldwide through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. You may actively participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _____(State)_____. Good morning, and welcome ■ (** Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.**)

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second part of this worship event. We celebrate the Lord's open table where Membership in this or any church is not required to receive Communion. People participating on the Internet, please bring the following items to your table at this time so you are prepared: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

Leader-1: Today's bulletin order of worship and music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. To assist people with various stages of visual impairment, we will announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." ALL LGBTQIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

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



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

Leader – 2: (** Reader, look up at the people and smile.***) Thank you for spending time with us. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

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

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

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

Lisa Frost: Today is June 30, 2024, the seventh Sunday in Pentecost, PRIDE Month Week 5 of 5. Today is the final Sunday in PRIDE Month, 2024. During PRIDE Month at Ray Of Hope Church, we are focusing on the work of the Holy Spirit, empowering us as Queer + ("plus") people to love Our Lord Jesus Christ, to serve all people and God, inviting, welcoming, and appreciating everyone. We invite you to engage in ministry with us starting today and during this time together.



Tami Whatley: Here is a message from our Pastor, Br. Benedict. "Good morning, Saints! Our plans changed, and Kaiden and I are in the chapel this morning. Our Servants of the Eucharist will lead today's worship event: Tami Whatley, Veronica Floyd, and Lisa Frost. Andrea is going to facilitate the technology today, including the music recordings. Together let's give them full assistance, so be mindful of assisting any guests in attendance, too."

Veronica Floyd: We are here to give God thanks and praise for the education we receive through the gifts of the Holy Scriptures, the Tradition of the Church, the deposit of faith, and the teaching power of the Holy Spirit present with us. We thank God for Christ among us. (see 2Timothy 1:13-14: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+1%3A13-14&version=NRSVUE>)(see John 1:14: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A14&version=NRSVUE>) Please rise as you are able as we sing our first song, number 44 in the Notebook and in your Music supplement.

FIRST SONG: Once We Were Not A People. Tune: Aurelia by Samuel S. Wesley, Inclusive Text by J. Thomas Sopko (1987). Used by permission 8.7.8.7 D Sing to the tune KING'S LYNN as in *The Hymnal Project*, © 1989 MCC San Francisco. Licensed to Ray Of Hope Church for use in worship. Onelicense Song # 106882 **NTBK #44** Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

+ The Candle Of Hope

Tami Whatley: Please be seated. Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to

celebrate our faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

Tami Whatley: In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Forty-one years later, some churches, religions, and even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. In a letter from amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, we learn that every minute, someone somewhere contracts HIV. In the year 2023, 1.5 million people became newly infected, and 650,000 people, including some from the United States, died of AIDS-related causes.

HIV/AIDS is still with us; therefore, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people.

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

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 119.



Names on Block #119

- Bob Hatcher (1)
- Michael King (2)
 - Don (3)
 - Bill (4)
- Lester Martin (5)
- Robert Handel (6)
 - Eddie Mohr (7)
 - Kenny Niles (8)

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

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. As we approach Independence Day, we remember our fallen service personnel and their families. We pray that those who feel left behind in the face of death experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.***) May this candle's flame help bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually:
<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Second Song: Joyful People, Come and Worship. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adpt. Text: June Norris, © 1987; alt. with permission, as in *The Hymnal Project*, © 1989 MCC San Francisco. Licensed to Ray Of Hope Church for use in worship. **NTBK #33** Onelicense Song # EXS00130SD Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

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

Tami Whatley: Hear the Word of God in First John, Chapter One, verses

eight and nine: "8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, Jesus, who is present, faithful, and just, will forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

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

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

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

Veronica Floyd: Now, we pray together:

ALL: I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended **anyone, and God**, in any way. Therefore, I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to forgive me and pray for me to the Lord our God.

Leader -1: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _____(State)_____.

All people deserve equal access to food, water, shelter, and freedom. We pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -1: The Church should lead by example to a society built upon unity and peace. We pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -1: The Body of Christ, the Church, should lead society to celebrate all sexual orientations and gender expressions; Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-1: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

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

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

ALL: Amen.

Lisa Frost: Jesus told the Church to forgive sins in His Name. Jesus said:

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

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

Lisa Frost: The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together. Please rise as you are able to sing "The Gloria." Together:

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

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.

+ Opening Prayer

Leader-3: Come Holy Spirit, and open our minds to understand and apply what we hear in the Holy Scriptures today. We ask this in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader-3: Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.

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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _____(State)_____. The first reading is in the Book of Wisdom, chapter 1, verses 13-15, and Chapter 2, verses 23-24. The reading is not in our 1989 edition of the NRSV Bible. The following is a paraphrased setting of the text by Brother Benedict. Here begins the reading:

¹³God did not make eternal death a mandatory destiny,
God does not rejoice when living things are destroyed.

¹⁴God designed all living creatures to have being
and they are therefore good and whole.

There is no destructive drug, potion, or curse among God's creatures,
and they have no dominion from the dwelling of the wicked dead.

¹⁵The just plan of God is immortal, eternal, and ever-lasting.

^{2:23} God formed humanity to be eternal;
for we are made in God's own image.

^{2:24} Satan was envious of eternal humanity, therefore Satan
introduced sin and consequently, death entered the world.

Satan remains the original sinner, and he spreads eternal death to
those who aligned with him against the will of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ Psalm

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

_____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

Today's Psalm is number 150, with selected verses and a responsorial verse: "Alleluia, give thanks to the Lord, alleluia."

R. Alleluia, give thanks to the Lord, alleluia.

¹ Alleluia! Praise God in his holy place,
Sing praise in the mighty heavens.

² Sing praise for God's powerful deeds,
praise God's surpassing greatness.

R. Alleluia, give thanks to the Lord, alleluia.

³ Sing praise with sound of trumpet,
Sing praise with lute and harp.

⁴ Sing praise with trimbel and dance,
Sing praise with stings and pipes.

R. Alleluia, give thanks to the Lord, alleluia.

⁵ Sing praise with resounding cymbals,
Sing praise with clashing of cymbals,

⁶ Let everything that lives and breathes
give praise to the Lord. Alleluia!

R. Alleluia, give thanks to the Lord, alleluia.

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

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

Refrain and doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict. Psalm 150 selected verses. Copyright ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #31016 All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Onelicense #42089 Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

+ Second Reading

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

of _____.

The second reading is in the

Book of Romans, Chapter 8, verses 1,2, 8-11. The 1989 NRSV Bible has this reading on page 157 in the second testament. I will be reading from the updated edition of 2021. Here begins the reading:

8 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit^[a] of life in Christ Jesus has set you^[b] free from the law of sin and of death. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit,^[h] since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit^[i] is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus^[j] from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through^[k] his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [8.2](#) Or *spirit*
- b. [8.9](#) Or *spirit*
- c. [8.10](#) Or *spirit*
- d. [8.11](#) Other ancient authorities read *Christ or the Christ or Jesus Christ*
- e. [8.11](#) Other ancient authorities read *on account of*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8&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.

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the

truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your

Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our

hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is John, Chapter 5, verses 24 and 25, on page 96 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version.

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and does not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.

²⁵ "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5%3A24-25&version=NRSVUE>)

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Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sus the

Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!

You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our

joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!

For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

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

The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.



The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 40 years. October 31, 2023 - 40th Anniversary now in our 41st year in Ministry.

**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me
has not been in vain. 1 Cor. 5:10**

+ Sermon

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

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

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

Dear Friends In Christ,

The first reading was scheduled for today: Wisdom, Chapter 1, verses 13-15, and Chapter 2, verses 23 and 24.

Those new to Ray Of Hope might wonder what is the Book of Wisdom.

Perhaps you know it as the Book of the Wisdom of Solomon. This is one of the books in the Greek Jewish Bible but not in some ancient collections of the Hebrew Jewish Bible. Some denominations consider it part of the normal list of books in the Bible, and some consider it part of the apocryphal writings of the Bible. Most people do not seem to remember that the original edition of the King James Bible of 1611 was published with all of the books, including those from both the Hebrew and Greek Jewish Scriptures. See the article regarding the King James Bible on our website:

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

Scroll down the page until you reach this section, and follow the particular links. The inset picture to the right shows the Table of Contents to the King James 1611, and the middle section is where you will find the sixth book on the right side the book of Wisdom.

Read a short article explaining that the original King James Version of 1611 did in fact contain all of the books designated as Apocryphal / Deuterocanonical by some traditions. This shows there should be no distinction between a so-called "Catholic" and a so-called "Protestant" Bible based upon the presence of the absence of these books. To read this article [Click Here](#).

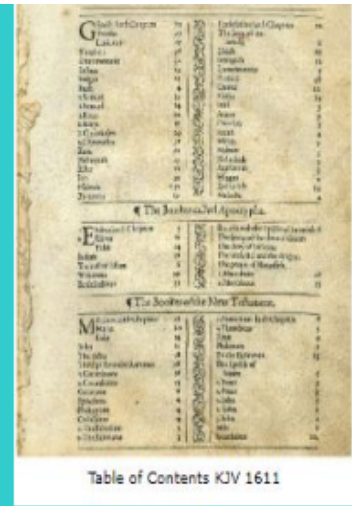
Quotation from the web site kingjamesbibleonline.org/Apocrypha-Books/ You may read the text of the Apocrypha and the entire KJV on this site.

Apocrypha

The apocrypha is a selection of books which were published in the original 1611 King James Bible. These apocryphal books were positioned between the Old and New Testament (it also contained maps and genealogies). The apocrypha was a part of the KJV for 274 years until being removed in 1885 A.D. A portion of these books were called deuterocanonical books by some entities, such as the Catholic church.

Many claim the apocrypha should never have been included in the first place, raising doubt about its validity and believing it was not God-inspired (for instance, a reference about magic seems inconsistent with the rest of the Bible: Tobit chapter 6, verses 5-8). Others believe it is valid and that it should never have been removed- that it was considered part of the Bible for nearly 2,000 years before it was recently removed a little more than 100 years ago.

Continue reading this article here: kingjamesbibleonline.org/Apocrypha-Books/
For a somewhat entertaining and pithy timeline of English Bible development [Right Click Here](#).



The image shows a page from the King James Bible of 1611, titled "Table of Contents KJV 1611". It lists the books of the Bible in two columns, with page numbers in the right margin. The books are listed in order, including the Apocrypha. The page is aged and has a yellowish tint.

In the selected verses from Wisdom, we understand, or perhaps we are learning for the first time, that humans are created for eternal life. God never intended for us to know the ways that lead to eternal separation from God and a miserable emptiness forever. No, God intended us to live joyfully and forever. Unfortunately, humanity chose, and perhaps arguably continues to choose, the ways that lead to division, destruction, and death. There is nothing inherent in creation that leads to eternal death. The love of God has overcome the cause of sin and death.

God took the matter of human failure into God's own hands, giving Christ flesh, bone, and blood. Jesus repaired the wound of the rebellion by dying in our

place, and then God raised him and restored humanity to its eternal state. God has consequently given Jesus all authority over the immortal powers of death so that we now die "in Him," and we will also rise "in Him."

Psalm 150 praises God for this tremendous and wonderful gift of restoration brought about by God's will and desire. Only God could do this for us. Therefore, we sing praise to God.

Ah, yes, but there is more. After Christ's life, death, and resurrection, Jesus established His Church, the people called by His Name, including all of us. Romans Chapter 8 is about us who have lived after these events and now come into Christ's Body, the Church, through the Holy Spirit. The first two verses of Romans Chapter eight are about all we need: "There is NO condemnation for all who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit has set us free from the law of sin and death."

Friends, as we celebrate the start of the Stonewall Inn rebellion against lies and laws that held us bound and closeted, remember we are set free by the law of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers us to openly proclaim we are made this way: we are made for love, we are made to love, we are made to serve our neighbor and to give God thanks and praise.

In the Gospel verses selected, Jesus requires one thing: believing in God who sent Him. Jesus asks us to believe in God. Jesus' work, accomplishments, and the Holy Spirit all point to God to give God all the honor and glory.

Rest in the knowledge that God sought us out and keeps us safe for eternal life. Notice that there was no mention of particular sexual orientations or gender expressions. Only small-minded people imagine they see those subjects in these verses. These verses are so much bigger than anyone's religious practices. What is written in these verses is part of the eternal Doctrines of God for salvation, for life, and forever.

=====

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

=====



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People

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

Leader – 4: We give God thanks and praise for the progress made since the Stonewall Rebellion of June 28, 1969, progress protecting the rights of all people, and we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: We pray for all the people in the world suffering through the ravages of wars being fought. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader - 4: We give God thanks and praise for all children, especially those we know and are in our families. We thank God for Cyris Austin, who celebrated his first birthday this week on June 26. May God strengthen all children and give us adults the desire to continue to make society more open so the children can discover their gifts and flourish and blossom in God's love. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: In silent prayer, we now lift to God those people we know who are ill and in need of healing, those who are facing poverty and need guidance, and anyone who comes to mind who needs God's grace. We

pray together silently now. (**Silent prayer begins.** **Leader, please mentally count to about twenty.**) For all the people we have just prayed for, we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers, and we ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen.

Veronica Floyd: At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry.

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation, including



this QRCode, this link in the bulletin: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#); other live links on [our website](#), the envelopes and donation box next to the door always available in the Chapel. Checks can be mailed, [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact information.

Also, at this time, we will set our altars and communion tables at home and in the chapel. Those viewing at home, please turn to the highlighted text on page three of this bulletin to review the instructions for items needed for Holy Communion. In the Chapel here, everyone may assist in setting the Table of the Lord together. We will sing “Spirit of the Living God” while we set the tables. We begin now.

OFFERTORY SONG: "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 # 23488. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

Tami Whatley: (Improvise a prayer of thanksgiving for the offering, please. Then say the following.) Please rise as we conclude the Service of the Word by singing the Doxology.

SONG: 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

Kaiden: Please gently hold the communion kit in your hands for the next two prayers. Those at home with bread please lift it now.

Veronica: 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, 1 Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Kaiden: Please set down your bread. In the chapel, please continue to hold your communion kit. For those at home, pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

Tami Whatley: 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; 1 Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Kaiden: Please set down your cup.

Lisa Frost: Truly present and risen among us; **SAINTS** the Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Lisa: As His Body, we lift up our hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

Lisa: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, almighty and eternal God. We praise You in the company of all the Faithful from every time and every place. We thank you for every person who shared in this ministry, especially our Foundresses, Founders, and those visionaries who dared to step up and form a church where everyone is welcome when AIDS was causing a great deal of fear, even in the churches. By the way they lived their lives, you offer us an example. By our Communion with them now in Paradise, you give us companionship. By their intercession, we experience sure support so that, encouraged by so great a cloud of witnesses, we may run as victors in the race before us, and win with them the imperishable Crown of Glory through Christ our Lord. (Based upon the New Roman Missal (prayer book) Eucharistic Prayer #66, Preface I Of Saints (page 598))

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

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

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

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

Tami: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

*******Lisa please choose two people for showing the Eucharist during the song.**

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

+ The Lord's Prayer

Leader 1: 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

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The Reception of Holy Communion

Lisa: 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.

Lisa: 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.

Tami: Please open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. 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.

Veronica: I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Lisa: We understand that some of you watching do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine. We invite

6-30-24 REVISED Pride Month Week 5, Stonewall Anniversary, Year B Page 30 of 37
you to pray for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion based upon a prayer in a Prayer Book at the Episcopal National Cathedral. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together;

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

+ Sign Of Peace

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

ALL: And also with you.

Veronica: Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. **During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

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

Lisa, please facilitate the announcements. Thank you.

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NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

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General Offering for the week of June 2 \$1,500.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday;
Wednesday, June 5, Attendance 4

General Offering for the week of June 9 \$550.00 Attendance 7 on Sunday;
Wednesday, June 12, Attendance 5

General Offering for the week of June 16 \$10.00 Attendance 8 on Sunday;
Wednesday, June 19, Attendance 4

General Offering for the week of June 23 \$339.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday;
Wednesday, June 26, Attendance 2
(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

****In Addition to the General Offering, we received the following Special Gifts.****
Brother Benedict donated \$700 to the Building Fund this week.

****Recent Special Gifts****

Thank you, Ed Askins for driving 5.5 hours one way to paint the front of the building this week. It looks absolutely beautiful. Thank you to Phillipa for allowing Ed to make this trip to help the Congregation.

Thank you, Lisa Frost for managing and staffing our booth at both the Elmira and Corning Pride celebrations.

Thank you, Kaiden for assisting with all three Festivals (Elmira Pride, Corning Pride, and Juneteenth) including every aspect of preparation and follow-up.

Thank you, Andrea for assisting with our booth at Juneteenth, and starting to learn about the audio and visual ministry.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

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

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

June 30, Sunday Stonewall 55th Anniversary of the riots and 54th Pride Parade.
Worship will be at 10:30 AM, led by the Congregation.
On Monday, July 1, there will be no meeting by the By-Laws Revision Committee.
July 2, Tuesday, NO MEETING Bible Enrichment.
July 3, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

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

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: Amen

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)

Leader-1: 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.

LAST SONG:

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
God world with - out end. A men! Al - le - lu - ia
A men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!

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The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 This is all God's fault, God's design, God's doing from start to end.

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization**, **survival**, and **sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive**, **train**, and **transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.
We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.
We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or
RECONCILING CONGREGATION for you.

We are not an ***OPEN MINDED*** or ***ACCEPTING*** or ***WELCOMING***
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.

WE ARE YOU!

THIS is the Church where YOU belong.

Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

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

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

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

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

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

☐ I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us online:

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

Scripture verses to share with others:_____

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

