



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

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

**Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Fortieth year of Ministry.**

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

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

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

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

We extend a very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

Everyone is invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as they feel comfortable. We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is June 4, 2023, Trinity Sunday, Pride Wk 1, and the  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Elmira Chapel 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."***

**Scripture Readings for this worship event:**

**First Reading:** Exodus 3:1-17 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 50

**Psalm:** Daniel 3:52-56 in this bulletin

**Second Reading:** 2 Cor.13:11-13 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 186

**Gospel:** John 3:16-18 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 94

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

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Visit and greet one another for a social time before the Bell is rung.**

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

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



## WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

### + Pastoral Welcome

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Good morning and a very blessed PRIDE MONTH to all. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. In this Church, each person decides to participate in some or all the parts of the worship event as they feel comfortable. We also assist people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page, and song numbers and using a psalm response verse.

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

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

**Leader-2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and a blessed Pride Month to all. Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You are not required to be a member at Ray Of Hope Church, or in any church to receive Holy Communion with us today. We celebrate the Lord's open table. Viewers at home, please bring the following items to your table at this time to prepare for the Holy Communion portion; 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

**Leader-1:** The bulletin order of worship and the music supplement for today are available in three ways. On Facebook Live, right-click the "Featured Links" in the window. On Skype, right-click the "Order of Worship" and "Music Supplement" posted in the Chat window. Finally, on our website, find the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com).

Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly. To help us prepare for worship today, Ed Askins will play a prelude titled "**Spirit Of The Living God Fall Afresh on Me,**" **Words and Music by Daniel Iverson.** We will sing this song later today, so we invite everyone to listen attentively and observe silence to enjoy this prayer time. Thank you.

**Music Prelude played by Ed Askins. "Spirit Of The Living God Fall Afresh on Me" Words and Music by Daniel**

**Iverson.** © Words: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Music: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI Song # 24388. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



**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 to announce the start of the worship event.**

**Leader – 2:** Thank you for spending time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

**Leader -1:** Glorify God by introducing yourself and welcoming the people around you. \*\*While we are still observing COVID safety protocols, we may wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

**Pastor: On this Trinity Sunday,** I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

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

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

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

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

Today is June 4, 2023, Trinity Sunday, Pride Wk 1, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Elmira Chapel Year A



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

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

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

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

injustices and prejudices, a liberal progressive orthodoxy, especially promoting inclusive policies or ideologies that welcome and embrace ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities. Awake and aware.

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

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

See the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose for more information. Right Click Here: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm>

**Pastor:** With our whole heart, mind, and soul, we begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

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

**FIRST SONG:** Holy, Holy, Holy G&P #414 Text: 11 12 12 10; Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876. All rights reserved. Onelicense song #83991 OCP Octavo/Bonus Music. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

## + The Candle Of Hope

**Leader -1:** Please be seated. Now we celebrate our faith, our trust, in the promised "Blessed Hope," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life by lighting our Candle Of Hope. Continuing our celebration of the Resurrection of Christ, we remember these words of Jesus with joy in our hearts. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

**Leader -2:** As we light the Candle of Hope, we read the names on the

Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to

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

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. On this Pentecost morning, looking up at the screen, we see the panel names on Block # 76

- Frank Hoover (1)
- Tony Torrise (2)
- Greg Sherwin (3)
- Michel Foucault (4)
- James R. Halterman (5)
- Ricky Todd Solomon (6)
- Jim Johnson (7)
- David Summers (8)

**Leader -2:** In silent prayer, we remember the names of our family and friends who have died from COVID-related illness and other causes of death. We pray for their families to experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. May this candle's flame help bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

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

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

**SECOND SONG: "Holy Ground" words and music by Geron Davis. ©**

1983 Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Songchannel Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)



## WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

### + Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

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

**Leader – 3:** Hear the Word of God in First John, Chapter One, verses 8-10: "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. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE>  
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notice above announcements in this bulletin.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

**Leader -2:** Now, we reflect on our relationships with God and others in silent prayer and confess our faults, sins, and failures silently. Christ is present and listening to receive our silent confession, and He promises to forgive our sins immediately.  
(silent prayer)

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

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



**Leader -4:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

For the times in our lives we prioritized our time for other activities and ran out of time for Scripture study, prayer, or worship here together, we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** Sometimes we had opportunities to speak up and invite the wounded to come to worship with us and we did not, Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** That we would embrace the opportunities to show the presence of God's love; and call upon the Holy Spirit for the strength to give witness to Christ among us; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World, have mercy on us.

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

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

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader -4:** Through the ministry of confession and forgiveness, we have prepared our hearts to accept the renewal offered to us when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. The Church now provides us with the service of praising God together.

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

**Spoken:**

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

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

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the World:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of God:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord of all,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the  
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

#### **+ Opening Prayer**

##### **Pastor:**

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

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask that your Holy Spirit continue to move in our Congregation in new and refreshing ways. We open our hearts to be a dwelling place, a home, a temple of your Holy Spirit. Empower us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be used as servants of God, disciples of Christ, and witnesses of God's love and eternal plan. Come, Holy Spirit, and impassion us with your Divine Love. Stir and enkindle within us the flames of compassion, forgiveness, patience, empathy, Joy in believing, thanksgiving and praise, and love for God's holy Will. Build an expectant faith within us with a view of a church full of possibilities and potential. Guide our lives; we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Leader 5:** Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.  
**ALL:** We read **God's Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.**



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

### + First Reading

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

The first reading is in the Book of Exodus, chapter 3, verses 1-17. We are reading from the NRSV pew bibles on page 50 in the First Testament. This is the account of the Angel of the Lord appearing in the flame and God was speaking to Moses. Keeping in mind that the Holy Spirit appeared as tongues of fire on Pentecost, therefore, we see here the presence of the Holy Trinity, the voice of God, the Angel of the Lord – the Christ in the flame, and the Holy Spirit being the power of God expressed in the fire that burned without damage. Here begins the reading.

### **Moses at the Burning Bush**

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God (H430). <sup>2</sup> And **the Angel of the LORD (H3068) appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush.** So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning **with fire, but the bush was not consumed.** <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

<sup>4</sup> So when the LORD (H3068) saw that he turned aside to look, **God (H430) called to him** from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

<sup>5</sup> Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground." <sup>6</sup> Moreover He said, "I *am* the God (H430) of your father—the God (H430) of Abraham, the God (H430) of Isaac, and the God (H430) of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God (H430).

<sup>7</sup> And the **LORD (H3068) said**: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. <sup>8</sup> **So I have come down to deliver them out** of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> Come now, therefore, and **I will send you** to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God (H430), "Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup> **So He said, "I will certainly be with you.** And this *shall be* a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, **you shall serve God on this mountain.**"

<sup>13</sup> Then Moses said to God (H430), "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God (H430) of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?"

<sup>14</sup> And God (H430) said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

<sup>15</sup> Moreover God (H430) said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God (H430) of your fathers, the God (H430) of Abraham, the God (H430) of Isaac, and the God (H430) of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all

6-4-23 CORRECTED Trinity Sunday, Pride Wk 1 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Elmira Chapel Year A Page 13 of 37  
generations.' <sup>16</sup> Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The LORD God (H430) of your fathers, the God (H430) of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and *seen* what is done to you in Egypt; <sup>17</sup> and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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### + Psalm

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

Today's Psalm is a Canticle in the Book of the Prophet Daniel, Chapter 3, verses 52-56 with a responsorial verse. The response today is, "Glory and praise forever!"

#### **R. Glory and praise forever!**

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestors,  
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;  
And blessed is your holy and glorious name,  
praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.

#### **R. Glory and praise forever!**

Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,  
praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.

#### **R. Glory and praise forever!**

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,  
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

#### **R. Glory and praise forever!**

Blessed are you who look into the depths  
from your throne upon the cherubim,  
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.  
**R. Glory and praise forever!**

## + 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 Second Letter to the Corinthian Church, chapter 13, verses 11-13. We are reading from the NRSV pew bibles on page 186 in the Second Testament. In this reading we recognize the Apostolic roots of the Trinitarian greeting we are used to hearing at worship. Here begins the reading:

<sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints (G40) greet you. [Some Bibles render Hagios – the holy ones (RC) All God's People (NIV, NLT, Weymouth NT)] <sup>13</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. [many Bibles use fellowship of the Holy Spirit]

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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## + The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

## Gospel Acclamation

**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

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

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

16 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 3, verses 16-18. We are reading from the NRSV pew bibles on page 94 in the second testament.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be  
in our (+) minds that we will understand it,  
on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and  
in our (+) hearts that we will love it.**

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

<sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

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## Gospel Acclamation

### Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

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

**Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.**  
 The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.  
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th 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**

**The TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL**



Celebration, dedication of the new mobile friendly version of our website.



Please follow me here: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/ElmiraChapel.htm>

## THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A GREAT EVENT IN THE HUMAN STORY.

Last Sunday, we were so taken by the reality of the Gift of the Holy Spirit to all Humanity that a couple of important points were not spoken about. Romans 8:22-27

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in **hope we were saved**. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

<sup>25</sup> But if **we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit **helps us in our weakness**; for we do **not know how to pray as we ought**, but that very **Spirit intercedes** with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And **God**, who searches the heart, knows what is **the mind of the Spirit**, because the **Spirit intercedes for the saints** according to **the will of God**.

### The Trinity in the first reading.

**H3068**

יהוה'

y<sup>e</sup>hōvâh

yeh-ho-vaw'

From **H1961**; (the) *self Existent* or eternal; *Jehovah*, Jewish national name of God: - Jehovah, the Lord. Compare **H3050**, **H3069**.

**Total KJV occurrences: 6521**

**H430**

אלהים

'ēlōhîym

el-o-heem'

Plural of **H433**; *gods* in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme *God*; occasionally applied by way of deference to *magistrates*; and sometimes as a superlative: - angels, X exceeding, God (gods) (-dess, -ly), X (very) great, judges, X mighty.

**Total KJV occurrences: 2601**

The Trinity in the second reading,

The Gospel: God dispatched the Christ.

=====PREPARING FOR PENTECOST=====

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

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask that your Holy Spirit continue to move in our Congregation in new and refreshing ways. We open our hearts to be a dwelling place, a home, a temple of your Holy Spirit. Empower us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be used as servants of God, disciples of Christ, and witnesses of God's love and eternal plan. Come, Holy Spirit, and impassion us with your Divine Love. Stir and enkindle within us the flames of compassion, forgiveness, patience, empathy, Joy in believing, thanksgiving and praise, and love for God's holy Will. Build an expectant faith within us with a view of a church full of possibilities and potential. Guide our lives; we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.**

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

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

Here is the verse in the Amplified Bible

Jesus taught, saying: "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor-Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be

Did you realize the Holy Spirit is with you to bring you all those actions of God? Understanding the Real Presence of God is with us in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, we will experience more confidence, love ourselves and our neighbors, and feel better about our lived experience. You can have all this and more. Start with that simple prayer above.

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

=====

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES.**

Lord Jesus, I ask for renewal and cleansing of my body: heart, spirit, and soul by your Holy Spirit pouring out within me right now. I ask for continued growth and change so that I may understand your Holy Will for me and follow you without reservation. I give you thanks and praise for this special grace today. Amen.

**"Spirit Of The Living God " Words and Music by Daniel Iverson.** © Words: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Music: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)CCLI Song # 24388. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**+ The Prayers of the People**

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

**Leader – 3:** The war in Ukraine continues past the 465th day. So, we continue to pray and ask You, God, to heal and strengthen the people traumatized by conflict; and help the World Leaders have the ideas and the desire to end this conflict; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 2:** We praise God for the healing of Dave Luckner, who, with the help of Medical Science and Medical Professionals, is totally healed from Cancer he has battled for several years. We also praise God for the

Medical report that Portia Rawles is free of Cancer. In thanksgiving, we pray to the Lord.

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

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

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

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

**Leader – 2:** We ask for your blessing on people suffering from the effects of climate change; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader-3:** We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the people who have come through these doors over these last twenty years. We thank you for the brave women; Lisa Frost, Martha Cummings, Betty Lou LeHew Goodrich, Jane Mc Dermott, and Margaret Walker, who searched the surrounding Counties to find a place to establish a Ray Of Hope chapel. We thank you, God, for Jeanne and Kenneth Frasier and their son, David Frasier for donating this building to Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. in time for Gaudete Sunday, Pride Sunday in the Winter, December 16, 2001. Finally, we praise You, Lord, for our first public Worship event on June 1, 2003, Pride Sunday, Week 1, when we legally opened the doors to the

6-4-23 CORRECTED Trinity Sunday, Pride Wk 1 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Elmira Chapel Year A Page 21 of 37  
public. In thanksgiving for these twenty-two years in this building, we pray to the Lord.

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

**Veronica:** At this time, everyone may add silent prayers for yourself or others, thanksgiving, praise, or whatever is on your mind. If you share a prayer aloud, please speak loud enough so everyone can hear you. We begin with \_\_\_\_\_

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

**ALL: Amen**



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

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

**Leader:** We show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the World, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Every organization has actual expenses, including but not limited to utilities, building upkeep, insurance, taxes, and so on. In the United States, each Church is a private organization and does not receive public funding. Together, we keep this ministry available to our local and International participants by keeping it financially viable.

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation. Anyone



may use the QRCode: or the [PayPal link](#) in this bulletin, or mail a

6-4-23 CORRECTED Trinity Sunday, Pride Wk 1 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Elmira Chapel Year A Page 22 of 37  
check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. People  
in the Chapel may use the envelopes and the donation box next to the door  
before, during, or after this worship event.

Finally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on  
Facebook, and on our website. So please give what you can, but never  
give your last.

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

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

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

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

**Leader -2:** (\* **Improvise a prayer for the offerings received, giving  
thanks and praise.**\*) (When your prayer is complete, please say:)  
" Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of  
God with a doxology."

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

**ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all**

**creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



**WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

**Leader:** Please gently hold the communion kit for the following two prayers. Viewers at home pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, and fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made.

Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), and this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

(Other titles include: the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54- 57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25)

**Pastor:** Please set down your communion kit.

**Pastor:** Truly present and risen among us; the Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Amen**

**Leader:** You may relax your arms and hands.

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

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



### **The Reception of Holy Communion**

**Pastor:** Open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. The Gift of God for the People of God....

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.**

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

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

**Leader -4:** Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

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

## **+ Final Doxology**

**Pastor:** Together we pray:

**ALL: It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,**

## Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

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

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

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

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### + Sign Of Peace

**Veronica Floyd:** The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

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

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

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

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, your death brought life to the World. By your holy body and blood free us from all our sins

and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

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

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

~~**SONG: "I Sing Praises" Words and Terry MacAlmon.** © 1989 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music) CCLI Song # 17061. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.~~

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

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

**General Offering** for the week of May 14 \$88.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8

**General Offering** for the week of May 21 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of May 28 \$1,793.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

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

Thank you to April Struhm for donating \$100.00 toward the Pastor's Self-Employment line in the budget.

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

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ

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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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, June 27, NO Bible Enrichment

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**NOTE: Whitney Tipton** recommended the 2016 Documentary "13th" which may be found on Netflix. The caption reads; "In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U. S. prison boom. I have watched it and found it to be very informative and I recommend it as well. Thank you, Whitney.



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

**ALL: Amen**

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

**Leader-4: We go forth in peace and love to serve all people and the Lord ...**

**ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation**

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

**Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](#) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser: <https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia? t=8UgoVv5ekqq& r=1> Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.**

=====

Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching using drywall mud. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please let Brother



**\*\*\* Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord**  
<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

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

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



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.  
We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.  
We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or  
**RECONCILING CONGREGATION** for you.  
We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING**  
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.  
**WE ARE YOU!**  
**THIS** is the Church where **YOU** belong.  
Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

**Who can receive the Holy Spirit**

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

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

Everyone may receive Holy Communion, also known as The Eucharist, The Lord's Table, or The Blessed Sacrament at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

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

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

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

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

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

We begin by inviting those on the fringe of Society, those pushed aside, poor, not accepted, sick, and who need God's help in

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

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

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

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

## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

