



# 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. In the worship event of Sunday, July 7, 2024 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 7-21-24 Pentecost Week 10, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B  
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: \*\*\* these readings were chosen for this event.

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 23:1-6 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 725

**Psalms:** 23 with response

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 2:13-18, NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 192

**Third Reading:** Gospel: Mark 6:30-34 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 41

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

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.**

**Bell's 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** As 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, 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 now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

**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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). 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 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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm)) ([www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm))

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



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

**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 -2:** 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.

**Pastor:** 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

**Pastor:**

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

June 1, 2024, was the TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.

Today is July 21, 2024, Pentecost Week 10, the sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B in the cycle of Scripture readings. Today, we are rejoining churches worldwide that follow the International Lectionary, which means the schedule of Bible Readings. We have been off-schedule for a few weeks due to our own pastoral needs as the assembly of believers here at Ray Of Hope for most of May with Foundresses Day, June with five Sundays around PRIDE in the Rainbow of God's gifts, and as we celebrated April Struhm for the last two Sundays and both the previous two Wednesday Masses. So, I go to the Lectionary to see where we are, and the theme of God and Christ as our Shepherd is the theme. We have heard about Christ, our Good Shepherd, for weeks here! God has something for us in this theme continuing to come up in our Scripture readings. Let us rejoice in the care we receive from God, in Christ, and through our community with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. Shepherds care, and in turn, we learn to care for each other and about what is going on in the world we live in; and how we can bring Christ to every area of our lives.



We are here to give God thanks and praise for the glorious truths we have been educated in by the gifts of the Holy Scriptures, the Tradition of the Church, the deposit of faith, and the teaching power of the Holy Spirit. 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>.)

**FIRST SONG: How Great Is Our God.** Words and music by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves © 2004 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs; Wondrously Made Songs All rights reserved. CCLI License #706121 CCLI Song#4348399 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

## + The Candle Of Hope

**Andrea:** Please be seated. Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to show by this action of lighting this candle again that we 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. I invite you to say these words of Jesus again to celebrate the Truth they promise us. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

**Leader -2:** In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Our witness to God's love for all people is as relevant today as it was then. Here we are forty-one years later, and some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. In a letter we recently received from amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, we learn every



minute that someone somewhere contracts HIV; today, right now, think about it. 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, at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 # 122.



Names on Block #122

- Warren Johnston (1)
  - David Mount (2)
  - Terry Kreuger (3)
  - Richard M. Lapp (4)

- Michael John Cassidy (5)
- John "Ponyman" Kuhner (6)
  - Bob Smith (7)
- Anthony Wayne Estrada (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. 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 promise of the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

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

**Second Song: He Whom The Son Sets Free.** Words and music by Martin Nystrom. © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. All rights reserved. CCLI License #706121 CCLI Song#674923 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)



## **WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

### **+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.**

**Leader 3:** 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."

**Leader 3:** 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)

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

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

**Leader 3:** 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. Amen.

**Leader -1:** O Loving God, you give us all the tools to proclaim the Truth of resurrection to eternal life. Sometimes, when we are with family, friends, and other associates, we may hesitate to share the Truth of Christ for fear of ridicule. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -1:** The Church should lead by example to a society built upon unity, peace, and the celebration of the gifts of all people. There are many political and social movements today misusing the institutional church and the Bible to promote division and distrust: Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -1:** The Body of Christ, the Church, should lead society to



celebrate all ethnicities, sexual orientations and gender expressions, and protect the freedom of all persons; Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -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.**

**Pastor:** 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.**

**Leader-3:** 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.**

**Leader - 3:** The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together. Please rise as you are able to sing "The Gloria."

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.

**Verse 1**

12 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!

**Refrain**

21 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





85

Verse 4: Amen

Amen; 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. Al - le - lu - ia.

men. Al - le - lu - ia.

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



## + Opening Prayer

**Leader-2:** We are prepared and ready now to hear the Holy Scriptures for this Sunday worship gathering. Pray silently with me as I pray this opening prayer. (\*\*wait a few seconds\*\*) Come Holy Spirit, and open our minds to understand and apply what we will hear in the Holy Scriptures today. We ask this in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: AMEN.**

**Leader-2:** 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 Jeremiah, chapter 23, verses 1-6 on page 725 in the first testament of the 1989 pew edition of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading the 2021 updated version. This reading is often understood as a warning to those with leadership in the Church, especially Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, Deacons, Apostles, and Prophets. Here begins the reading:

**23** Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. <sup>3</sup> Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup> I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

## The Righteous Branch of David

<sup>5</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+23%3A1-6&version=NRSVUE> )

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### + Psalm

## Psalm 23: My Shepherd Is the Lord

Antiphon I



My shep-herd is the Lord, noth-ing in-deed shall I want.

Text: Psalm 23; The Grail  
Music: Joseph Gelineau, SJ  
© 1963, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

**Lord**, you **are** my **shep-herd**;  
there is **noth-ing** I shall **want**.  
Fresh and **green are** the **pas-tures**  
where you **give me** re-**pose**.

Near **rest-ful wat-ers** you **lead** me,  
to re-**vive** my **droop-ing Spir-it**.  
You **guide** me a-**long** the right **path**;  
You are **true to** your **name**.

If I should **walk** in the **valley** of **dark-ness**  
no **ev-il would** I **fear**.  
You are **there** with your **crook** and your **staff**;  
with **these** you **give** me **com-fort**.

You have **prepared** a **ta-ble be-fore** me

in the **sight of** my **foes**.

My **head** you have an-**ointed** with **oil**;

my **cup** is **over-flowing**.

Surely **goodness** and **mer-cy** shall **fol-low** me  
all the **days of** my **life**.

In the **Lord's** own **house** shall I **dwell**  
for **ev-er and** for-**ev-er**.

Give **praise** to the **Liv-ing God**.

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

To the **Spi-rit** who **reigns** in our **hearts**.

Both now, and for **ev-er**. **A-men**.

Psalm 23 - My Shepherd Is the Lord. Refrain text and music by Joseph Gelineau, SJ, Copyright ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Text of Psalm 23 (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #79358 All rights reserved. Reprint from Gather 3rd Edition #34. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

## + 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  
Ephesians, Chapter 2, verses 13-18. The 1989 NRSV Bible has this  
reading on page 192 in the second testament. I will be reading from the  
updated edition of 2021. Here begins the reading:

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been  
brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he is our peace; in his flesh  
he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall,  
that is, the hostility between us, <sup>15</sup> abolishing the law with its  
commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one  
new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might  
reconcile both to God in one body<sup>[a]</sup> through the cross, thus putting to  
death that hostility through it.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>17</sup> So he came and proclaimed peace  
to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, <sup>18</sup> for  
through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. [2.16](#) Or reconcile both of us in one body for God
- b. [2.16](#) Or in him or in himself

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A13-18&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 Mark, Chapter 6:30-34 on page 41 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 Mark.

**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>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup> And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things.

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

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

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. [13.1](#) Gk *him*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+13%3A1-5&version=NRSVUE>  
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permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

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

It has been a week. Last Saturday, July 13, 2024, a twenty-year-old young man attempted to assassinate former President Donald Trump, killing one spectator and wounding two others. Our concern and prayers go forward for all who were traumatized by this unfortunate series of choices that led to this. (source:

<https://apnews.com/article/trump-assassination-attempt-crooks-what-to-know-1f168acc452a55e1c5d5f748aa2bbc8d#> )

Then, on Monday, July 15, 2024, a Federal Judge in Florida, Judge Cannon, dismissed the entire classified documents case because of incorrect procedure in appointing the Special Counsel Smith. As expected, this decision is being appealed. (source: <https://kansasreflector.com/2024/07/15/federal-judge-dismisses-trump-classified-documents-criminal-case/> )

Monday, July 15, 2024, was also the opening of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, WI. The GOP Convention lasted from Monday, July 15, through Thursday, July 18, and drew about 50,000 delegates and guests. The GOP proposes to provide and shepherd our country with leadership beginning in 2025. Read the 2024 Republican Party Platform Here

(<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/2024-republican-party-platform> )

Read the supporting documents and ideas known as Project 2025 here:

<https://www.project2025.org/>

See a video summary of the highlights of Project 2025 by the Wall Street Journal here:

**(Project 2025: The Radical Conservative Plan to Reshape America Under Trump | WSJ)**

My reason for bringing these items up is not for politics. There was another group of 50,000 people meeting from Wednesday, July 17, through today, Sunday, July 21, in Indianapolis, IN, The 10th National Eucharistic Congress of 2024. When I realized these two events were overlapping, I wondered how this overlap would affect the National Eucharistic Congress; in short, it didn't. The Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis has been nearly filled to capacity, with 50,000 every day and night this entire week. Participants went to Indianapolis as early as Monday, July 15, to start the registration process and move into their hotels for the week.

Between 1895 and 1941, there were nine National Eucharistic Congresses in the United States, a time in society when Catholics and Protestants frequently gathered in stadiums, parades, and the like to show their presence in society. There hasn't been a Eucharistic Congress in the USA in 83 years, meaning it is improbable that anyone present at this one this week was present at the Ninth National Eucharistic Congress held from June 23 to June 26, 1941, in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

CORRECTION: Some people are still alive, and one is Paul Ditter, who was in the eighth grade and 13 years old at the 1941 Eucharistic Congress. Mr. Ditter is 93



Did I choose these readings for today? No. In fact, I didn't even look at them until Friday night. Once again, the Lectionary proves to be God-ordered and always on time.

What is the theme? First, God calls us aside from time to time so that we may receive and be open to instruction for the time, place, and circumstances we find ourselves in. Since the Scriptures are timeless, it doesn't seem to matter if we are in the years 24, 41, 1941, or 2024; those same texts will certainly speak to the moment and the future.

Here is the question for your prayerful consideration, meditation, discernment, and action plan. Many shepherds out here claim to know the road forward, and in our Country, Politicians and Clergy claim to be the leaders for the way forward. You and I must discern where the pieces of the Truth are and put them together as best we individually understand them, tell others, VOTE, and live accordingly. The times we are in are like no other. Guess what? No time at any time is ever a time like any other, for all time is new in Christ. So, we had better pay attention to what the Spirit is saying to the Body of Christ today and proclaim it to the mountaintops.



(photo: National Eucharistic Congress - EWTN live stream 7-20-24)





(Photo: National Eucharistic Congress - EWTN live stream 7-20-24)

In Mark 6: 30-34

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while."

We all need to make time to step away, step apart, and sit with Jesus to listen to His instruction, which comes to us through the Word, the Sacraments, and the worship Community.

For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup>

Yes, we have all been to that place where we have been so busy that there is hardly any time to eat! However, Jesus tells us to make time for Him to speak with us.

And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

The leadership met, and then people came from everywhere to participate. In both conventions that met this week, there were break-out sessions for the



leaders and the shepherds, who received more training on how to lead the general population. In both conventions, they went forth each evening and shared what they were discerning and working on in their leadership sessions. The people came by the thousands to both conventions.

**<sup>34</sup> As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things.**

Jesus, seeing the crowds coming, had compassion on them, meaning He understood their desire, their situations, their suffering, and He related to them as an example to the Apostles to show them how they were to lead. Lead by listening, relating, empathizing, comforting, but lead with the confidence that Christ is with us.

The theme is how to Shepherd.

In the first reading, Jeremiah 23:1-6 God challenges those who shepherd the people in civil matters and religious matters. This reading is often understood as a warning to those with leadership in the Church, especially Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, Deacons, Apostles, and Prophets.

**23 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them.**

In the Gospel Reading, Mark 6:34, when Jesus saw the crowd coming to listen, He discerned they were "like sheep without a shepherd." Jesus knew of the selfish ways of the civil and religious leaders of His day, of the past, and yes, of this very moment and into the future. His solution? He Himself will shepherd the people. HOW? Through is REAL PRESENCE with us, through us, and in us. He has promised to be with us to the end of the Age, and He is.

**So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD.**

In this verse, every leader in civil and religious society had better shudder and shake. A few weeks ago, I was trying to tell someone there were Scripture verses that indicate that the leaders in the Church will be held to a higher

standard for what we have taught, especially regarding doctrine, dogma, teachings, and practices. Being held to a higher standard is why the Vocational Ministry Training Program is not a short "to-do list" of things to earn a rubber stamp to make a person a "minister." Leadership in society (elected, appointed, or otherwise) or in the Church (elected, appointed, or otherwise) is a solemn commitment that has eternal ramifications that may bring one under eternal unfavorable judgment if one is intentionally misguiding the people and if that same person refuses to listen to the Voice of God, the intent being not to listen. Mistakes are one thing, even big mistakes that may last over periods of time, but intentionally directing the people toward an agenda that is not centered on the worship of the One and Only True God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is deadly, eternally deadly for that person or persons in leadership.

<sup>3</sup> Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup> I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

This prophecy is literally for the House of Israel, which is not today's subject. These verses are also metaphorical prophecies for all people of all time. Just think of how people have been driven this way and that by terrible governments, wars, churches, religions, philosophies, and all matters of theories from time to time. However, God is not mocked.

#### Galatians 6:7-10 NRSVUE

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. <sup>8</sup> If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup> So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

God had a plan to raise up Jesus in His first coming to the Earth, to establish the Church, and ultimately to return Jesus to the Earth to set up His Kingdom, which will be handed over to God at the end of the Kingdom Age.

## **The Righteous Branch of David**

<sup>5</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Ephesians, Chapter 2, verses 13-18.

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one

In Christ, through the Birth, Life, Cross, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of this man Jesus, we are one with God and all of creation again forever, whether our flesh is dead or alive. Nothing can separate us from this Love. (see Romans 8:38-39)

SO NOW, we have to ask ourselves: how well are we doing as Church, and how well are we doing bringing the Gospel of Christ to our society.

Both the RNC and the 10th NEC that met this week, said things that agree with our Statement Of Purpose and some things that are in total disagreement.

You can believe whatever you want to place your eternal destiny on. You are free to vote on whatever leadership you wish to place the future of our United States of America on.

However, be informed, up to date, and ready for the personal end of your human life, which could come suddenly, and be prepared for the results of the election we will have in November of 2024.

Carefully choose your shepherds. And, to us who are Shepherds, be careful, be very careful where we get our information and guidance from, and what we pass on as Truth and the correct standards and practices, for we will be held accountable for how we have led, especially if it is in the Name of Jesus that we did so.

Take the time to step aside and sit with the Shepherd appointed by God, Jesus; He is assigned to lead us during this Age, and He promised He would, and He is speaking.

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

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## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### **+ The Prayers of the People - Pastor**

**Leader - 3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. 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 begin now.

**Offertory Song: Keep In Mind. Words and Music by Lucien Deiss, CSSp NYBK #125.** ©1965, World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Ritual Song 2nd Edition, #789 - Keep in Mind. Onelicense Song # 50050 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

**Leader - 3:** A prayer of thanksgiving for the offering is said here.

(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**

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

**Pastor or?:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, which the Earth has given us, and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**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.

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



**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Kaiden:** Please set down your cup.

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

**Veronica:** 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. We thank you today for our sister, April Struhm, for her example that no situation and no disease has the power to break our faith and Covenant with You, Eternal God. 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**

**Ian:** 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**

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

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

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

**+ The Lord's Prayer**

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

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

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

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## + Final Doxology

**Pastor:** Please lift the Holy Communion Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation. 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, forever and ever.

### Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993



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

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

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

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### The Reception of Holy Communion

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

**ALL:** Behold the Lamb of God. Behold the Christ truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said

**whoever eats of this bread and drinks of this cup, though they die, they shall live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.**

**Ian:** 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.

**Kaiden:** 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. 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.**

**Veronica:** We understand that some of you watching do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine. We invite you to pray for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion based 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**

**Leader 1:** The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Leader 1:** 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.**

**Leader 1:** 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.

**COMMUNION SONG: You Are Near** Words and Music: Dan Schutte. Text based on Psalm 139. Text and music © 1971, OCP. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise Second Edition #619. Onlicense Song # 80528. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

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

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**New Revised Standard Version – 1989**

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**General Offering** for the week of June 23 \$339.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, June 26, Attendance 2

**General Offering** for the week of June 30 \$498.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, July 3, Attendance 6

**General Offering** for the week of July 7 \$875.00 Attendance 8 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, July 10, Attendance 3

**General Offering** for the week of July 14 \$10.00 Attendance 8 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, July 17, Attendance 3

(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

**\*\*In Addition to the General Offering, we received the following Special Gifts.\*\***

There is a new air conditioner and dehumidifier in the Frasier Room that was purchased with monies donated by Gary and Annie and the William and Jean Houser Trust. We are very grateful, thank you.

**\*\*Recent Special Gifts\*\***

Kaiden Benedict donated \$400 to the Building Fund last week, thank you Kaiden.

On Wednesday, July 3, Cam, Gary, and Annie came up from Millerton and worked from 2:00 - 7:30 PM with Brother to reduce shrubs, trees, and brush from the side yard and removed the cuttings to a compost pile at Gary and Annie's house. We are very grateful to the three of you, and Kaiden managed the monastery hospitality during these hours. Christina and Annie spent some good ministry and visiting time together too.



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

### **UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**

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

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

July 22, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee.

July 23, Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment.

July 24, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

July 28, Sunday Worship will be at 10:30 AM, in-person and online.



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Leader - 2:** **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL:** And also with you!

**Leader - 2:** 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

**Leader - 2:** 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-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.

**LAST SONG:** **How Great Thou Art.** Words and Music by Stuart Wesley Keene Hine © Copyright 1949 and 1953 Stuart Hine Trust CIO Stuart K. Hine Trust (Administration: USA All rights by Capitol CMG Publishing, except print rights for USA, North, Central and South America administered by Hope Publishing. All other non USA Americas rights by the Stuart Hine Trust. Rest of World – Integritymusic.com.) All rights reserved. CCLI License #706121 CCLI Song #14181 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

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

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



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

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

## *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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm). Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

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Scripture verses to share with others:\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

