



**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 July 9, 2023, 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:

Psalm:

Second Reading:

Gospel: John 6: 60-66 Are you going to leave also?

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

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1st St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured 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. 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 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 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.



ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." ALL LGBTQSIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

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



Bell's 2nd ring 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: 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: The Lord is present as He promised. Let the people say alleluia.

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord.

Pastor: We come here to pray. 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 July 9. It is the Sunday closest to the feast day of St. Benedict of Nursia, who lived from 3/2/480 to 3/21/547 of a fever at 67 years old at Monte Cassino. Pope Paul, VI moved his feast to July 11 during a liturgical calendar revision in 1970. Moving the feast date would be a change in practice. Read more about the intersection of the witness of Benedict of Nursia and Ray Of Hope Church at:

www.rayofhopechurch.com/religious%20life.htm



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

Today we are celebrating the **thirty-sixth Sunday** in our 40th 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: Christ Be Our Light. Text and Music by Bernadette Farrell © 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense song #80229 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ at Ray Of Hope Church "Music for Worship" Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al - le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!"

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Reader: The Gospel reading

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

ALL: And also with you.

John 6:60 – 66

The Words of Eternal Life

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones who did not believe and who was the one who would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”^[f] ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.” ⁷¹ He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot,^[g] for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6%3A60-66&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.)

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

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

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

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

17 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

June 1, 2023, was the TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.



<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> Celebration, dedication of the new mobile friendly version of our website.

Today I want to address the comments people frequently told me at the three Pride events I attended in June, in Elmira, Corning, and New York City. I want to address the most common rationale I heard then and hear almost daily for why people do not intend to participate in Ray Of Hope Church or any church.

1) I am a Scientist. Science provides proof for what is real. If I can't prove it, I don't do it or believe it or trust it. As a Scientist, I only believe what I can scientifically prove; it is my day job. Our roommate at the hostel practically said each of these phrases and then shut down any discussion we might have followed up with. However, he articulated well the

most common reason people give me for why they do not believe in or practice having faith.

2) I do not like organized religion. I am not a religious person.

3) I am pagan, agnostic, and spiritual and do not need organized Christianity.

4) The Bible is a mess.

	<p>1) I am a Scientist. Science provides proof for what is real. If I can't prove it, I don't do it or believe it or trust it. As a Scientist, I only believe what I can scientifically prove; it is my day job.</p>	
	<p>Everything we do in life is an exercise of trust and faith.</p>	
	<p>I board a jumbo jet, trusting hundreds of mechanics, the fuel being pumped into the aircraft, and the visual inspection for any cracks or breaks. Strapped into a chair, I entrust my life to a flying tube, sitting atop thousands of gallons of combustible fuel, flying out over the ocean. I do not know if there will be a mechanical failure. I do not know if there is a bomb somewhere in the baggage department. I do not know if some wires are about to arc and spark and cause a fire or worse. However, I have placed all my well-being into this machine and the people supposedly controlling it.</p>	
	<p>On January 28, 1986, seven Space Shuttle Challenger crew members entered the craft and fastened themselves in. Thousands had every reason to be sure they would witness a successful launch into space. How many scientists were involved from the design to the fabrication, all the pre-testing, all of the assembling of parts, delivery, and construction of every aspect of the craft, all of the scientists that produced the fuel, and of course, the infamous O-ring that failed to seal just 73 seconds into the flight. All of the trust in life that had been invested into Science failed, and permanent changes affected lives.</p>	
	<p>Another example of Science not providing the perfect answers is that the cargo loaded onto transport rockets blown up during launch was loaded with complete trust that all would go well.</p>	
	<p>I fill the blender with all the ingredients. I press the start button, and to my surprise, silence; nothing happens. I investigate, try a different button, check the cord, and so on, back to the breaker box and say, "it worked yesterday."</p>	
	<p>A man underwent surgery for a hip replacement. It took the doctor</p>	

	<p>about a month to convince him to complete the surgery and prepare for the following rehabilitation. Scientifically it all seemed good. When he awoke from the surgery, he was told they did not perform the hip replacement because they found extensive cancer. He passed away days later. Science did not have the answers.</p>	
	<p>“Every doctor in private practice was asked: - family physicians, surgeons, specialists... doctors in every branch of medicine – “What cigarette do you smoke?” “The T-zone’ Test will tell you” “T for taste and T for throat – is your own laboratory, your proving ground, for any cigarette. For only your taste and your throat can decide which cigarette tastes best to you ... and how it affects your throat.” https://www.amazon.com/Cigarette-Advertisement-Cigarettes-American-Magazine/dp/B07CG5RWQR#:~:text=Camels%20Cigarette%20Ad%2C%20C1950.%20%2F,and%20details%20of%20the%20original. Video “What Cigarette Do You Smoke Doctor?” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxUZI0vE0FM</p>	
	<p>Theories of the creation of the Universe. “The gold standard in space science is a ‘theory of everything’ that accurately explains everything we see (and everything we can’t) in the universe. Understandably, this is no small task: Using available data and their own experience, scientists are constantly creating new theories of the universe, most of which turn out to be wrong. This is the nature of scientific inquiry. As more information comes to light, most theories don’t hold up – but a few change the way we look at the unknown.” (https://now.northropgrumman.com/5-odd-theories-of-the-universe-that-might-just-be-true/)</p>	
	<p>“Some speculative theories have proposed that our universe is but one of a set of disconnected universes, collectively denoted as the multiverse, challenging or enhancing more limited definitions of the universe.^{[20][153]} Scientific multiverse models are distinct from concepts such as alternate planes of consciousness and simulated reality.” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universe)</p>	
	<p>“The universe is all of space and time^[a] and their contents,^[10] including planets, stars, galaxies, and all other forms of matter and energy. The Big Bang theory is the prevailing cosmological description of the development of the universe.” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universe)</p>	
	<p>At work during the day. A truck crashes through the building, and I am suddenly pinned to the wall and die. I had every reason to believe I would work today and safely go home at the end of the day.</p>	
	<p>For years families, businesses, and public establishments, used</p>	

	<p>products with lead components beginning in colonial times and peaked around 1925. “In fact, it was repeatedly endorsed by the state and local governments. It was even specified for preferred use on government buildings.” (https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/brief-history-lead-paint-rebecca-shultz-mba#:~:text=In%20the%2018th%20and%2019th,reached%20its%20peak%20around%201925.)</p>	
	<p>Building collapses “Deadly Florida condo collapse was triggered by construction of building next door, lawsuit claims” CBS 11-17-21 https://www.cbsnews.com/news/florida-condo-collapse-triggered-construction-building-next-door-lawsuit-claims/</p>	
	<p>You invest your money in the bank, investments, and savings. The bank collapses, or the economy fails. The money you had is gone. You trusted the agency.</p>	
	<p>Recall on baby food because small pieces of glass were found in it. Time; 4-15-15 https://time.com/3822561/baby-food-recall-glass/</p>	
	<p>Hernia mesh defects. “The hernia mesh lawsuits claim the medical devices are defectively designed and the manufacturers have failed to properly warn medical providers of the serious adverse complications and device failures.””One of the big differences between using a mesh product and using sutures is that a mesh can move or shrink, and then cause bowel perforations, organ damage, obstructions, and additional surgeries. This especially is true if the mesh product is faulty or contains a polypropylene coating. If a perforation occurs, this can result in a serious infection known as sepsis. “ (https://levinlaw.com/hernia-mesh-lawsuit) ** Not an endorsement of this law firm.</p>	
	<p>Sign up for military service.</p>	
	<p>I am planning a specific time to be at an event. I plan my entire morning to the minute to go to the event. I am ready; the car is packed, and I have everything I need. I rush outside and sit in the driver’s seat. I close the door, turn the key, and silence. The car starter just broke.</p>	
	<p>Bank Failure</p>	
	<p>I work for a “hire at will” company. I have a new loan for a new car. I go to work to find out my job has been eliminated and won’t be needed anymore.</p>	
	<p>The day of surgery has arrived. I put myself on the bed, and I am rolled into pre-surgical. There are many questions, and someone advises me of everything that could go wrong. Sign here for consent. I offer my arm or my spinal cord for needles and chemicals directly into my bloodstream. I consent to being unconscious. How do I</p>	

	<p>know there wasn't a problem when producing that particular medication? I give total trust and consent to how many people? What if an explosion occurred at the hospital or the surgery center itself?</p>	
	<p>The pilot of your small charter plane has a heart issue in mid-flight. He is overweight. You cannot remove him from his seat.</p>	
	<p>Suddenly today at 2:30, my appendix burst.</p>	
	<p>There is a natural gas leak under the neighbor's lawn.. There is a terrible explosion.</p>	
	<p>There is an adjustment in the market, and I am told I have lost 18% of my retirement fund, and it cannot be recovered.</p>	
	<p>I am in a hurry. I am driving on the familiar way I go to this appointment. Suddenly I turn the corner and there is the Road Closed / Street Closed sign.</p>	
	<p>After a person retired, the company she worked for was purchased by another company. The new company refigured the entire retirement payout system. Her retirement was reduced very significantly.</p>	
	<p>We have used firefighting foam to fight chemical fires for years. Now, suddenly Science tells us Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) contains chemicals that may increase the risk of pancreatic, testicular, and kidney cancers, to name a few. (https://www.youhavealawyer.com/firefighting-foam/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=afff&utm_term=fire%20protection%20foam&qclid=Cj0KCCQjwkqSIBhDaARlsAFJANkhOwLEGDhSzMQoYMGT6T3bJvgR4vnCzvlVeI7e6h4paZ8-8cSyfldsaAt9hEALw_wcB)</p>	
	<p>Water infrastructure with lead pipes. Generations of children with lead poisoning. (https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/lead-poisoning#:~:text=Children%20absorb%20more%20lead%20than,of%20appetite%20and%20weight%20loss)</p>	
	<p>Election systems, paper – hanging chads (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad_(paper))</p>	
	<p>There is an electric fire in the attic.</p>	
	<p>Recall of medication, tainted with harmful chemicals. 2/2/2023 USA Today Bianca Pallaro writes: “More than 1,321 <u>recalls</u> were issued last year for human drug products that were defective or violated laws enforced by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It's the highest figure in the past three years, a USA TODAY analysis of FDA data found.” (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2023/02/02/fda-drug-blood-pressure-medication-recall-database/11032830002/)</p>	

Food poisoning at a restaurant.	
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So, let us return to the first statement. People tell me they cannot believe in God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit because everything they do is based on Science. Science never changes. Two answers: Everything we do in life is done as an act of faith. Nothing in life is actually predetermined with any certainty other than there is no certainty.

2) I do not like organized religion. I am not a religious person.

Answer: Everything in our lives is organized in religious ways. Another way to say this is to have routine, structure, and order in life leads to a more healthy life spiritually and physically.

From an article: "Health Benefits of Having a Routine Tips for a Healthier Lifestyle. Updated December 2022 By providing structure and organization, routines can improve your health in various ways...."

Routines can be enjoyable and fulfilling, and their health benefits may make you wonder why you did not start one earlier. A routine can help you:

- **Manage stress more effectively:** Stress can put you at higher risk for heart disease and negatively impact your overall health. An effective routine can help reduce stress, which can lead to better mental health, more time to relax and less anxiety.
- **Sleep better:** Routines like your sleep schedule and bedtime habits affect your mental sharpness, emotional well-being and energy. Maintaining consistent times for waking and going to bed can help you get better rest.
- **Eat healthier:** Without scheduled time for grocery shopping, it is easier to have a unhealthy diet by ordering fast food or snacks since they are often a convenient option. Taking the time to plan trips to the grocery store gives you the opportunity to think about what healthy foods and meals you can incorporate into your everyday life.
- **Get active:** It is easier to exercise regularly when you make time for it. A daily routine can help you stay active, and an exercise schedule or program can help you budget your time.

"Having a routine is how you build habits," explains Cheryl. "When we practice good habits, that can help us maintain positive relationships, good hygiene and our best health."

(SOURCE: <https://www.nm.org/healthbeat/healthy-tips/health-benefits-of-having-a-routine#:~:text=An%20effective%20routine%20can%20help,emotional%20well%2Db eing%20and%20energy.>)

We live every day by the practice of religion. People who are productive wake up at

the same time every day and get up out of bed. They also go to sleep at the same time every night. Have you noticed you can tie your shoes without looking at them? Most people can go into their bathroom, stand at the sink and follow a hygiene ritual if they are not going to take a bath or a shower with their eyes shut. Most people can open the medicine cabinet and reach for their toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, and mouthwash even when they are only squinting when barely awake. Notice you can manage your device keyboard without looking at it. You use it religiously.

We all live our lives religiously and according to very structured rituals. Some of the rituals we organize for ourselves, such as when we walk in from outside, our coat goes here, our keys go there, our wallet is put over there, and our phone goes here. When we break these rituals our lives become unorganized and confusing. For example, suppose we are suddenly very ill, and the ambulance must remove us from our familiar surroundings to the hospital. In that case, our rituals stop, and our religious approach to our nearly automatic routine is interrupted and paused. Often, everything is on hold inside our dwelling until such a time as we can return or not return ever.

Public worship is organized for the sake of mental health. I am pretty sure many have found today's worship event disturbing for the lack of order we are used to. The reason for liturgical order is to provide a sense of comfort and familiarity, and organization in this public setting. Routine and organization are how we should explain "ritual" to young people and others who say they do not like it but would come to a social meeting. The same people fill their lives with rituals every day and all day. The purpose of the Liturgical calendar is to provide a structure that will take us through the significant events in the life of Christ. The purpose of the lectionary is to be sure we are offering a service to the public of reading a very substantial portion of The Bible in public and teaching people how to understand it and apply it to their own lives.

3) I am pagan, I am agnostic, I am spiritual not into organized Christianity.

Answer: The first thing I say when someone tells me they are pagan, agnostic, or spiritual is what that means to you? Most people have no idea what pagan or even neo-pagan means. People usually say this to excuse the lack of formal religious education for adults under fifty. Unfortunately, the only religious education being given these days is likely on one or the other extreme ends of the theological spectrum. I often express it this way. I say, it is so far to the left that there is nothing left at all, or it is so far to the right that they are totally wrong. I came up with this expression for my workshops around 1990. At this point, we introduce the person to our bookmark campaign and take the time to go over the topics with them and show them there are solid educative materials they can explore on their own, and we have much more to follow up with.

4) The Bible

The Bible is a mess. Answer: This is lazy, lacks maturity, and a very uneducated “off ramp,” in my opinion.




(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 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.*))

SONG: Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace (Prayer Of St. Francis)

Text: Based on the prayer traditionally ascribed to St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226, Sebastian Temple, and music by Sebastian Temple. Dedicated to Mrs. Frances Tracy. © 1967, 1990 OCP Publications. Onelicense Song #80478 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. 1278.

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

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
5 might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
10 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
16 Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
22 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
27 san - na in the high - est.

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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 well-being. 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

physical reception. Together...

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,

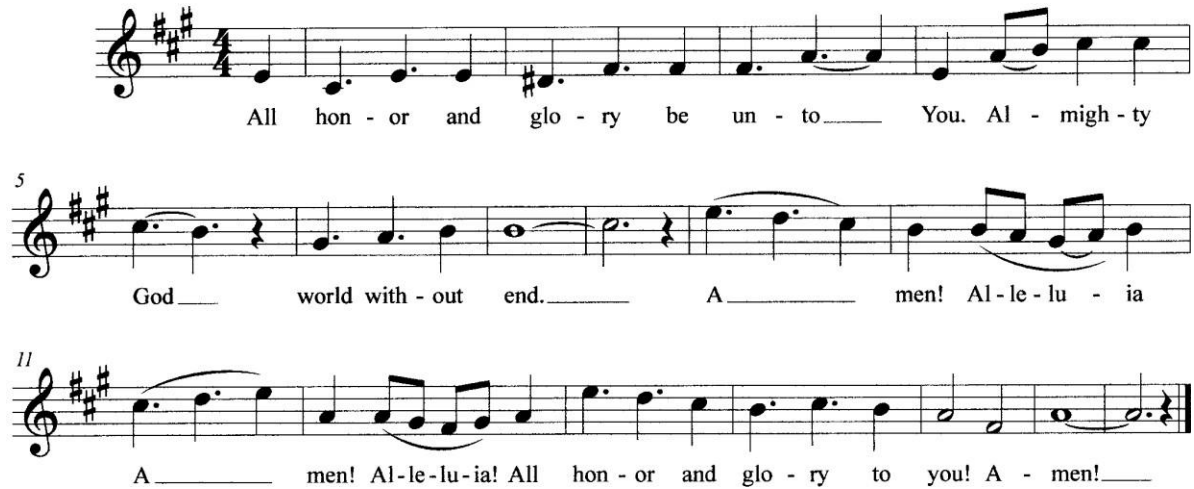
forever and ever.

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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+ 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.

Optional Song: On Eagles Wings. Words and Music by Michael Joncas. Text: Based on Psalm 91. Text and music © 1979, OCP. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise Second Edition #598 Onelicense song #80468 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

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](#).

General Offering for the week of June 25 \$1,068.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 5

General Offering for the week of July 2 \$1,068.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

but YeY****Special Gifts recently given.****

Ed Askins donated \$130.00 toward the liability insurance. Thank you Ed.

Thank you to April Struhm for donating \$100.00 toward the Pastor's Self-Employment line in the budget, and \$30.00 liturgical supplies.

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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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

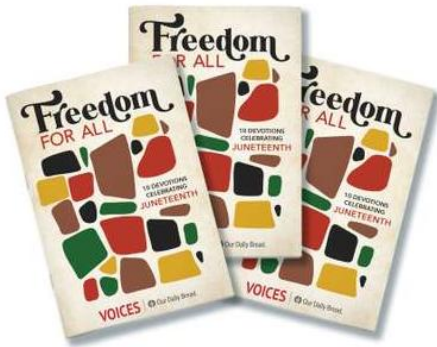
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Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, July 11, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment .



https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-1?utm_source=reading-plan&utm_medium=unbounce&utm_campaign=juneteenth-23

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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.

Last Song **Walking Up The King's Highway Notebook #108** Words and Music Mary E. Gardner | Thomas A. Dorsey © Words: 1940. Renewed 1967 Unichappell Music, Inc. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Music: 1940. Renewed 1967 Unichappell Music, Inc. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) CCLI Song # 78385 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

POSTLUDE: Organ How Great Thou Art.

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/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqisia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1> Thank you, Heather

and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

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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 know with advanced notice so the necessary supplies will be ready.

*** 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."

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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](#)

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WHO SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, THE

EUCCHARIST, 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 extraordinary ways.

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. Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

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

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

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

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us online:

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

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

