



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 Thirty-ninth year of Ministry.

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor,
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)

Guests are 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 a time of refreshments and sharing.

Today is August 14, 2022 11th Sunday of Pentecost, Year C
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: Jeremiah 38:1-10 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 742

Psalm: responsorial 40 selected verses found in this bulletin

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:1-4 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 226

Gospel: Luke 12:49-53 NRSV 2ND Testament Pg. 75

***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 of the Bible and the 2nd Testament numbers are found in the later portion. If this confuses you just ask someone around you to assist you. Thank you.**



CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Bells 1st ring. Once the bell rings please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. 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 are in honor of 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) We always 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 TO GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. We welcome you 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. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and guests here in the chapel and on line through Skype and Facebook. Everyone is invited to participate in some or all of the parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable.

At Ray Of Hope we announce all of the instructions, page and song numbers, use a response verse rather than unison reading of the psalm, and other instructions. These spoken directions help those who are at various levels of visual impairment participate more fully.

Today, you who are participating through the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You do not need to be a Member of this church or any church to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. We celebrate the Lord's open table where everyone is welcome. Those who will celebrate from home please prepare by bringing a cup with some wine or grape juice and a small piece of bread or cracker or matzo on a plate to the table. Bring a second cup with some water and a side napkin. We will use these in the second half of the worship service.

We are grateful to announce the bulletin is available on the front page of our website. Look for the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION for the links to Skype and the Order of Worship bulletin. You will find these at www.rayofhopechurch.com Take a moment now and gather all these items. We will start shortly.



Bells 2nd ring to announce the start of the worship event.

Leader – 2: We are glad you have chosen to spend this time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7 the church is commanded:

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

Leader -1: Please take a moment now to welcome one another, and introduce yourself to those around you for the glory of God. **During COVID we may simply wave into the camera across the Internet.

Pastor: We begin in the name of God, Christ Our Saviour, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Pastor: Grace, peace, and fellowship be with you from God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 2 Peter 1:2-4)

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor:

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Thirty-ninth year of Ministry.

**** Something we can all do to help our municipalities during this shortage of water. If you have an indoor dehumidifier that fills a bucket that is emptied by hand, empty it into the toilet. This will help your local water department keep more water in the system rather than lose it to evaporation outside during this shortage. This was being discussed on a program I was listening to recently. ****

Our readings scheduled for today have many themes. We will focus on faithful service to God and Christ with the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit as our guide and the energy. The readings today give us examples of faithful service and encourage us to continue with God's help.

We stop here, now, and pray for all the people who are in the war still raging in the Country of Ukraine, and we pray for an end to these hostilities that started 164 days ago. Today, we are also adding prayers for all the families who have lost loved ones to the 17,550 18,469, 20,241 20,753 22,041 23,014 23,908 24,778 25,664 26,582 27,389 documented deaths by gun violence in the USA this year of 2022 as of Saturday August 13, 2022. That is up 807 gun violent deaths since Saturday August 6, when last week's bulletin was published. In the eleven weeks we have been documenting this chart there have been 9,839 documented deaths by gun violence in the USA. (Source: Gun Violence Archive 2022 <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>)

We are not here to practice a religion. One practices the piano or goes to football practice. We are here to participate in a relationship that is multi-dimensional in ways far beyond our human comprehension.

Pastor: We begin now to worship God in the beauty of holiness, in spirit, and in truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

ALL: Together we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG:

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. At this time we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope. This is a testimony to our anticipation of the resurrection of all the dead, and the transformation of the living faithful, when Christ returns.

ALL: Jesus said: “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 -1: Our faith community is looking forward and waiting “for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.” (Titus2:13 NRSV) We named this candle the Candle of Hope in honor of the “Blessed Hope,” the return of Christ who will raise all to new life. (John 5:25)

Leader -2: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. It is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt **Block #43** to help us remember those who died of AIDS, especially since many who were very sick and dying were rejected by the churches, were very much alone, and needed spiritual guidance. We also are aware of those who have died from COVID related illnesses around the world, and those who have passed this year from other illnesses. We remember them here and pray for their families.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. (Names are read at this time.)

Leader -2: We also remember in our hearts the names of our family and friends who have passed. May the candle’s flame remind us of

the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered us by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the “Blessed Hope” we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

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

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

SECOND SONG:



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) After gathering, greeting, and praising God in song we now prepare our hearts to be renewed by receiving God in the Word, the Holy Scriptures. Now we confess our sins to Christ in silent prayer and receive forgiveness.
(silent prayer)

Leader -2: We pray together:

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

L-4: Loving Creating and Eternal God, all life in the Universe gives You praise and glory. You invite us to see beyond ourselves, to experience the energy of life and to flow within it. When we become self absorbed we close ourselves off to the opportunities for healing and refreshment. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Christ Jesus, you call us to present the Love of God to everyone we meet. The stress of living in this society, with all of the conflicting ideas and agendas of people and systems, can dim our will to speak of your presence among us. Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

L-4: Holy Spirit, you are available to help us understand our circumstances and the world we live in. You are available to open our minds to a new understanding of the Sacred Scriptures, the Bible. Often we are distracted by the noise and conflicts in society, and we tell ourselves there is no time to spend in the Word. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: May Almighty God have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Please rise as you are able to give thanks and praise to God for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria.

Spoken:

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

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

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

receive our prayer.

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

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

+ Opening Prayer

Leader 5: Loving, Creating, Holiness, Divine One and Only, we ask the Holy Spirit to open our minds to understand and love your Word. May the reading of these Scriptures increase our love for one another and our dedication to you. We ask You to speak to us through the spoken Word. This is our hope and prayer.

ALL: AMEN

Leader 5: Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

We read to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.

+ First Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Our first reading is in the Book of Jeremiah, Chapter 38, verses 1 through 10. You will find this on page 742 in the first Testament of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

Now Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jucal son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malchiah heard the words that Jeremiah was saying to all the people: ²“Thus says the LORD: Those who stay in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but those who go out to the Chaldeans shall live; they shall have their lives as a prize of war and live. ³ Thus says the LORD: This city shall surely be handed over to the army of the king of Babylon, and he will take it.”

⁴ Then the officials said to the king, “This man ought to be put to death, because he is discouraging the soldiers who are left in this city, and all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm.” ⁵ King Zedekiah said, “Here he is; he is in your hands; for the king is powerless against you.” ⁶ So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king’s son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. Now there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

Jeremiah Is Rescued by Ebed-melech

⁷ Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, a **eunuch in the king’s house**, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern. The king happened to be sitting at the Benjamin Gate, ⁸ So Ebed-melech left the king’s house and spoke to the king, ⁹ “My lord king, these men have acted wickedly in all they did to the prophet Jeremiah by throwing him into the cistern to die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city.” ¹⁰ Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, “Take three men with you from here, and pull the prophet Jeremiah up from the cistern before he dies.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ Psalm

Reader: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The Psalm today is number 40, selected verses with a responsorial verse. The response today is “Lord, come to my aid.”

R. Lord, come to my aid!

I have waited, waited for the LORD,
and the LORD stooped toward me.

R. Lord, come to my aid!

The LORD heard my cry,
and drew me out of the pit of destruction,

out of the mud of the swamp.

The LORD set my feet upon a rock;
and made my steps firm.

R. Lord, come to my aid!

The LORD put a new song into my mouth,
a hymn to our God.
Many shall look on in awe
and trust in the LORD.

R. Lord, come to my aid!

Though I am afflicted and poor,
yet the LORD thinks of me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
O my God, hold not back!
R. Lord, come to my aid!

+ Second Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The second reading is in the Book of Hebrews, chapter 12, verses 1 through 4.

The reading is on page 226 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ 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 on page 75 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 12, verses 49 through 53.

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

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

Jesus the Cause of Division

⁴⁹ “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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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+ Sermon

NOTES

*** 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."



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

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

Sermon Notes August 14, 2022

There are a few points I want to bring to attention in the readings today.

In the First Reading Jeremiah is in trouble for prophesying that the army of Israel is going to fall into the hands of the King of Babylon. So the spiritually bankrupt King, and his princes - officials - decide to kill Jeremiah by throwing him into a cistern to sink in the mud, starve, and die. In this way they intended to silence his message so the army would return to following their plans and forget about the religious prophet. Notice Jeremiah shows complete trust in the Lord. Notice Jeremiah does not retract his prophecies to save his own life. In fact he accepts being thrown into the cistern without complaint. Jeremiah is willing to serve to the point of death.

In our second reading today Paul writes "In your struggle against sin you have not resisted to the point of shedding your blood." In the earlier verses Paul uses the example of Jesus persevering with the unpopular message even to the point of complete rejection by the religious and secular leaders, even when they condemned Jesus to death. (Heb. 4:2-4)

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter (author and finisher) of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Finally, the Gospel is not troublesome when one realizes Jesus is specifically talking about how families will betray their own relatives during the Tribulation Period. What Jesus is referring to when He says He comes to bring fire upon the Earth and how he wishes it was already started is the fire that comes out of his mouth and devours the armies of the Anti-Christ both at the start of the Millennial Kingdom and at the end of it. See Revelation 19:11-21 and when God rains down fire on the enemies of Christ

in Revelation 20:7-10. There is no difficulty when this Gospel reading is taken in context.

Jesus is prophesying about the seven year Tribulation Period where every person who is brought before the government and is not willing to reject Jesus publically will be executed. This will divide families and friends and relatives as everyone will have to publically choose a side. Similar choices may be experienced in most conflicts in life, but especially where there is war and oppressive governmental authority. Likewise, during the seven year Tribulation Period that is still in the future, those who choose Jesus will do so with an amazing silent resolve and confidence that Christ will greet and reward them greatly in the hour of their death. This is the primary reason these readings are associated today; to serve God with complete confidence that even death will not separate us from the Divine Life.

When clergy teach Amillennialism they cannot explain this fire brought to the earth and family members dividing and betraying one another. Therefore the Amillennial Clergy are forced to make the text symbolic of something else.

Now for some very queer fun!

It is the Eunuch named Ebed-melech an Ethiopian in the king's house who saves Jeremiah by first going to the king and pointing out what an injustice has been done by trying to kill Jeremiah. We can be sure there was a lot more discussion than we have here. What the Scriptures do tell us is the eunuch is successful and the king orders Jeremiah to be brought out of the cistern.

Eunuchs are people in the Bible that we now understand to be LGBT persons. There is a lot of scholarship on this but I only have time to feature one, so it is going to be Fr. John J. Mc Neill in his ground shattering book "The Church And The Homosexual" 1976, pgs. 64 +

Eunuchs are forbidden to the house of worship in Deut.23:1. Fr. McNeill: "However, in Isaiah 56:2-8 there is an explicit prophecy that with the coming of the Messiah and the establishment of the new covenant the eunuch, who

was formerly excluded from the community of God, will be given a special place in the Lord’s house and an immortal value. The application of this prophecy to the homosexual can be defended, because the term ‘eunuch’ in the New Testament is used not only in its literal sense - i.e., those who have been physically castrated - but also in a symbolic sense for all those who for various reasons do not marry and bear children. For example, in Matthew 19:12, Jesus, discussing marriage and divorce, says to his apostles: ‘There are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.’

The first category - those eunuchs who have been so from birth - is the closest description we have in the Bible of what we understand today as a homosexual. It should come as no surprise, then, that the first group of outcasts of Israel that the Holy Spirit includes within the new covenant community is symbolized by the Ethiopian Eunuch.”

In her book “Our Tribe Queer Folks, God, Jesus, and the Bible” Rev. Nancy Wilson include an Appendix on page 281 titled: The Roll Call of Eunuchs.” She then gives thirty - four references in Scripture where eunuchs appear. All of the eunuchs in the Bible are on God’s side, they know how to play both sides of the fence to get information, are masters at intrigue and insider information, and in the end they are always saving the representative of God who is in trouble. It sounds like a marvelous court of queens to me.

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WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Leader – 3: Having heard the Word Of God we bring our prayers to God in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today we will offer communal prayers. Our response will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: We continue to pray for all people who are caught up in the conflicts of war, those who are grieving the loss of loved ones due

to war. We pray for peace in the world, in each Country, and in every home. For these intentions we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: For those who serve us in government, that they would lead and guide with the good of all people in mind, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: For persons who are sincerely challenged by their abilities and therefore find the requirements to access help too difficult, that they will be given helpers and guidance, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: For all who are sick and suffering in any way, that they would be aware of Your presence, O God and trust in your will in their lives. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: For all who are sick and suffering due to natural disasters and crisis caused by climate change such as famine, fires, and floods. That the leaders of world governments would rise and come to the assistance of our sisters and brothers, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: At this time everyone is invited to add their own petitions in silent prayer.

(silent prayer)

Leader – 3: Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers and we ask you in intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen



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

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

****** Leader:**

At this time we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, which is His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Those in the chapel may use the offering plate, while those worshiping with us on the internet may go to our website and use the [PayPal link](#) or you may mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira NY 14901. Please give what you can, but never give your last.

At the same time, we will prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of water in a side cup, and a side napkin. The ideal situation is you are celebrating with us during the live webcast. We do understand you may be viewing this video at another time. We do not encourage private practice and reception of Communion as your normal, weekly worship routine. 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, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.*)

Each of you in the chapel will find at your seat a small plate, communion wafer, plastic chalice of grape juice and a napkin. Please take the plate and wafer from the baggie and shake the chalice gently in case there has been settling of the contents. Please do not remove the top from the chalice until the Celebrant announces that Communion is served. Once you have

received Communion, place the plastic chalice on top of the plate and someone will collect while the Table of the Lord is being cleared.

(* The offering is received. The Altar and Tables are set.

A song may be sung or silent prayer is maintained. *)

SONG:

Leader -2: (*Pray a prayer over the offering giving thanks and praise.*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Pastor: Please lift your bread at this time as I pray this prayer.

(*Another person may be invited to say this prayer out loud.*)

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that 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.

Pastor: Please set down your bread.

Now pour your wine or grape juice into your cup, if you have not done so already. Then add a small amount of water to the cup. With this

water, we remember Jesus is human, and with this fruit of the vine we remember He is divine forever.

Now, please lift your cup with me at this time as I pray this prayer.
(*Another person may be invited to say this prayer out loud.*)

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Pastor: Please set down your cup.

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.

(Impromptu prayer offered.) May our voices be one with their praises right now as we sing our song and join in their unending hymns of praise.

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Pastor: Jesus said: “..truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by God in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matthew 18:19-21)

ALL: Further, Jesus also said: “Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to God. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that God may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.” (John 14:12-14)

Pastor: Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time I 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

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

Pastor: Please lower your hands now. Please lift at this time the Eucharistic Body Of Christ, the Bread of Salvation and together we will say aloud our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

ALL: Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted, He took the bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.

(** pause for adoration**) (**you may bow or genuflect if you choose to**)

Pastor: Please set down the Bread of Life. Please lift now, the cup of salvation. Now, for the cup we say aloud:

ALL: When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He

gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

(pause for adoration**) (**you may bow or genuflect if you choose to**)**

Pastor: Please set down the Cup of Salvation.

+ A Proclamation Of Our Faith

Pastor: We proclaim our faith together.

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

+ Prayers of Dedication and/or Intercession for other Ministries.

Pastor (or other person designated): While we are gathered here together we ask your blessing on all religious leaders of every religion known to humanity. We pray that religious leaders everywhere would recognize and act upon their obligation to guide all people to you, Almighty God. We also pray that religious leaders will guide people to work for freedom, equality, and respect for everyone. We ask your blessing, Almighty God upon every community of seekers, and those with no faith or formal Religion.

We also pray for all people who have been driven from faith because of the sins of those who have misused religion to hurt others. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not included. May all people everywhere come to the knowledge that they too are the living light of God. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Please elevate the Holy Eucharist as a gesture of praise, thanksgiving, honor, gratitude, and the offering of the entire Church, the Body Of Christ, to God.

Pastor: Together we pray:

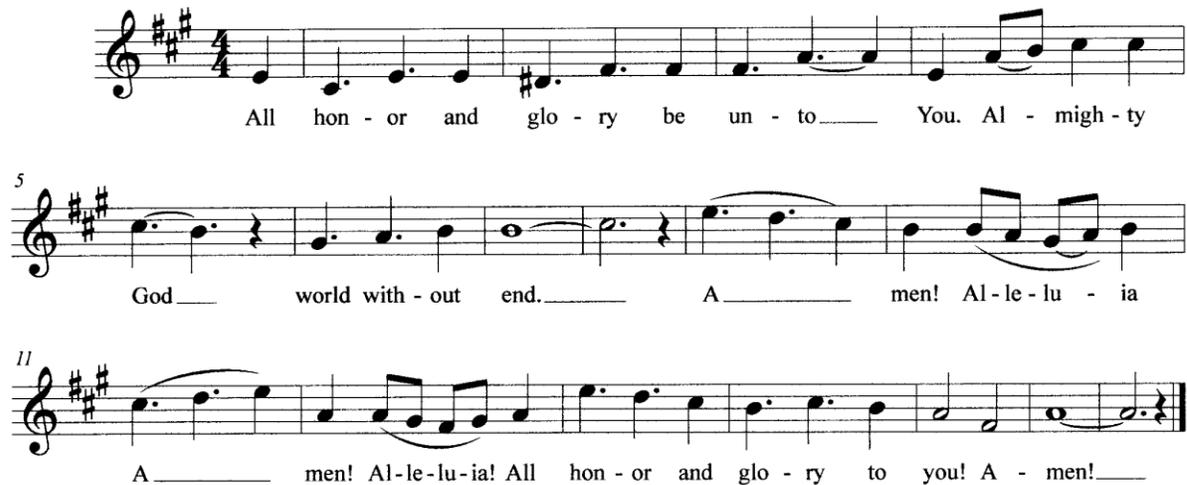
ALL: It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

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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The Reception of Holy Communion

+ The Lord's Prayer **Pastor:** Having heard the Word of God and having remembered 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**

+ Sign Of Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

+ The Lamb Of God

Pastor: Please break the bread as we pray together:

**ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

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

Pastor: At this time I ask you to lift with me the Blessed Sacrament.

Pastor: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29,36) Behold Jesus 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. (John 6:50, 51, 54) Blessed are those who come to His Table. All are welcome.

**ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your
Word I am healed.** (This prayer is credited to Fr. James Callan, Spiritus Christi of Rochester, NY.)

Pastor: Please set down the Bread and Cup at this time.

Pastor: I assure you, by the promises of Christ that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will surely live forever and be raised by Christ to new life.

+ Invitation to the Lord's Table

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION. 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.

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.

+ Priestly Prayer For All People

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in your love and your mercy we now partake of your body and blood as you commanded. We pray that our participation does not bring us condemnation as St. Paul warned, but brings us sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit. We pray that all God's people will one day be reassembled without the loss of anyone in your kingdom of love and glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN

Pastor Benedict: Communion is now served. Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other church to receive

Holy Communion. This is the Table of Jesus Christ, He invites you to come and receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet.

At this time those who are joining us on the Internet and those who are in the chapel may receive the Body and Blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Receive them now and with them your salvation as Christ promised.

SONG:

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](#).



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)

Pastor: We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

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

General Offering for the week of July 31 \$1,703.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

General Offering for the week of August 7 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

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

Lisa Frost donated the \$70.00 annual copyright license fees for our printed music. Thank you, Lisa.

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

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, and a larger project day for removal of carpet and replacement with new carpet. 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.

Dear Friends and Members,

Ray Of Hope Church is completely dependent on the financial support, the gifts given, and the prayers of the people who participate in this ministry. To assist financially you may use the offering plate, go to http://rayofhopechurch.com/DONATE_RAYOFHOPE.htm the PayPal link, you may email me at lvmusic3@yahoo.com or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira NY 14901, Att: Lisa Frost, Treasurer. Remember, we always say give what you can, but never give your last.

Thank you,

Lisa Frost, Treasurer

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?_r=1 Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible

and producing our videos.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR CALENDAR

August 16, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Bible Enrichment scheduled.

Friday August 26, 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday September 18 Southern Tier Anniversary - Celebration of the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, and Semi-Annual Meeting

Sunday October 2 World Communion Sunday all-City @ 10:00 a.m.

United Baptist Church hosting. Elmira Area Clergy presenting.

Sunday October 9 Abrahamic Walk 2:30 We shall begin the event with gathering at the IAFL Islamic

Center (499 Hickory Grove Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845); have a brief program including intro to Islam & Muslim community and a tour of the facility for those who desire to do so... (Driving distance to here will vary depending on where you begin).

- From IAFL, we shall proceed to **St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church** (410 E. McCanns Blvd., Elmira Heights, NY 14903) - about 12 minutes (8.5 miles) **drive**.
- From **Ukrainian Church** we shall proceed to Congregation **Kol Ami** (1008 W. Water St., Elmira, NY 14905) - about 9 minutes (4.3 miles) **drive**.
- Next, we shall park at the **Kol Ami** and walk to the **Hindu Temple** (304 Demarest Pkwy, Elmira, NY 14905) - about 9 minutes (0.4 miles) **walk**.
- Next we shall walk back from **Hindu Temple** to **Kol Ami** for the final program of the event and a culminating reception.

The moderator has appointed all members of the Council to serve as the nominating committee for selection of Council members.

The nomination window for anyone interested in joining the Council is open from Sunday August 1st - August 21st. Anyone interested in being considered who has been a member for at least a year can reach out to a member of the nominating committee prior to August 21st. Please also consider serving on a committee of the council or assisting any of the council members in their duties, **you do not have to be a member to serve on a committee or assist. Your support would be a tremendous gift.**

Veronica

Greetings Members and Friends,

(From a recent email sent by Veronica Floyd, Moderator.) We hope you see some opportunities to get involved and use you gifts and talents for the Glory of God here at Ray of Hope. We are seeking input in regards to our Council meeting times. We meet most months on the 4th Friday of the month at 2:00 pm however we want to have future meetings when you would be able to attend. The Council meeting is open to all and we want you there. Please send me some times when you would be open and available to attend Council meetings in the future. I will gather the input and see if there is a better time for us all to meet.

Thank you and Christ Peace

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

=====**Who can receive the Holy Spirit**=====

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

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

Everyone is invited to 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.

It is not required that you 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 really 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 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 would 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.

I have thought about this extensively and have decided to 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 teach people about this gift. I have stated in other places, **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 in that life.

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

We begin by inviting those who are on the fringe of society, those who have been pushed aside, those who are poor, who are not accepted, who are sick, who need God's help in special ways. We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone who has been told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to all persons who have ever been 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)

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

See this in a PDF format from our website and 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 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 web site;
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 at this time as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. All of our regular services will be available live on Skype and we are adding Facebook Live. To get the information on how to use Skype to participate with us [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). As soon as it reasonably safe and prudent the chapel will be reopened. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray.

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*.

Name: _____

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 on line:

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

—————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)