



**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 September 18, 2022 16th Sunday of Pentecost, Yr. C  
Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. Southern Tier 26<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

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:** Numbers 21:4-9 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 139

**Psalm:** 78 selected verses with responsorial verse

**Second Reading:** Phillipians 2:5-11 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 197

**Gospel:** John 3:13-17 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 94

\*We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament. The NRSV Bible 1st Testament numbers are 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.**

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



## **WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND 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 online through Skype and Facebook. You may participate in some parts or all of this worship event as you feel comfortable.

At Ray Of Hope Church, we assist people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page and song numbers, and using a psalm response verse.

Today, those 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

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Ray Of Hope Church. We celebrate the Lord's open table, where everyone is welcome. Those celebrating at home, please prepare the following items at this time and bring them to your table; 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. We will use these items for Holy Communion during the second half of the worship service.

The bulletin with the worship order is available on our website's front page. Look for the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION for the links to Skype and the Order of Worship bulletin. [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com) Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly.



**Bell's 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

\*\*\*\* Here is something we can all do to help our municipalities during this water shortage. If you have an indoor dehumidifier that fills a bucket you empty by hand, empty it into the toilet. Returning unused water will help the local water department keep more rather than lose it to evaporation during this shortage. I recently listened to a radio program where the host suggested we return our unused water to the water systems. \*\*\*\*

The first worship event of Ray Of Hope Church in the Southern Tier was held on Saturday, September 14, 1996, the Feast of the Triumph Of the Holy Cross; 26 years ago this weekend. Were we aware of the significance of the celebration that day? I do not recall if we were underlining the triumph we were part of at the actual time.

We stop here now and pray for all the people in the war still raging in the Country of Ukraine, and we pray for an end to these hostilities that started 214 days ago. We continue 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 28,199 29,096 30,004 30,883 31,696 documented deaths by gun violence in the USA this year of 2022 as of Saturday September 17, 2022. That is 813 violent gun deaths since publishing last week's bulletin on Saturday, September 10, 2022. In the fifteen weeks we have been documenting this chart, and there have been 14,146 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 multi-dimensional relationship 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.**

**Leader -5:** Today, this very day, is the day that God has made for us;

**All: we rejoice, and we are glad.**

**Leader -5:** O come, and together worship and bow down.

**All: Together, we raise our hearts and bend the knee in adoration of God our Maker.**

**Leader -5:** Blessed be the Holy Name of God from this time on and evermore.

**All: From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the Name of Our God be praised! We bless you God, both now and forever. Amen.**

**FIRST SONG:**

## + The Candle Of Hope

**Leader -1:** Please be seated. At this time, we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope. Each week we light this candle as 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

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\_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. It is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to remember those who died of AIDS, especially since the churches rejected many who were very sick and dying, who were very much alone, and needed spiritual guidance. Today we are reading the names on Block #48. We also remember those who have died from COVID-related illnesses and 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 by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

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

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

**SECOND SONG:**



**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

**Leader -2:** Please be seated. (wait) After gathering, greeting one another, and praising God in song, we now prepare our hearts to accept renewal when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. In preparation, we confess our sins to Christ in silent prayer and receive the forgiveness He promises to give us.

(silent prayer)

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

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

L-4: Loving God, you call us to give witness to the truth that You created us with our gender and sexual orientations. You call us to stand up to church traditions that condemn most of us. Sometimes we become timid, even afraid to speak up when we hear words that condemn us and our allies. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-4: Christ Jesus, you have given the Church the ministry of reconciliation and healing. You have blessed the Church with outstanding scholars who have studied and published the truth that we are accepted and embraced. Though these scholars have published since 1953, many of us have not spent the time to read their gifted work so that we can respond with fact and faith. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

L-4: Holy Spirit, you are always ready to give us wisdom and understanding. You can see into the minds and thoughts of those who need to be set free from the false teachings and traditions of condemning denominations. But unfortunately, we do not always turn to your guidance, and we often try to answer from our wisdom, which usually fails us. 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:** O Loving, Most Holy God, here we are on this Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross, our 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ministry in the Southern Tier. We thank you for bringing us on this way of the Holy Cross all these years. As we listen to these familiar Scripture readings, may we receive a new and relevant understanding that will carry us into the next decades of ministry. 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 Numbers, Chapter 21, verses 4-9. This reading is in the first testament of the NRSV Bible on page 139. Here begins the reading:

#### **Inclusive Bible Version: The Bronze Snake**

<sup>4</sup> The Israelite traveled from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea, in order to avoid Edom. But the people grew impatient along the way, <sup>5</sup> and they addressed their concerns to God and Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? We have no bread! We have no water! And we are disgusted with this terrible food!" <sup>6</sup> Then YHWH sent venomous snakes among the people. They fatally bit many of the people. <sup>7</sup> So the people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against YHWH and against you. Intercede for us, and ask that God remove the snakes from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> And YHWH said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it on a pole. \*\* Anyone who is bitten and looks at it will live." <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then whenever the people were bitten by a snake, they looked at the bronze snake and lived.

(The Inclusive Bible - © 2007 by Priests for Equality) \*\*\* This is the origin of the caduceus symbol used in the medical profession." (Priests for Equality note on page 91)

**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 78 selected verses. Today's response is, " Always remember, and celebrate the works of the Lord!"

**Refrain: Always remember, and celebrate the works of the Lord!**

Hearken, my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable,  
I will utter mysteries from of old.

**Refrain: Always remember, and celebrate the works of the Lord!**

While they were losing the battle, Israel  
sought and inquired after God again,  
remembering that God was their rock  
and the Most High God, their redeemer.

**Refrain: Always remember, and celebrate the works of the Lord!**

But they flattered God with their mouths  
and lied to God with their tongues,  
Their hearts were not steadfast toward God,  
nor were they faithful to the Most High's covenant.

**Refrain: Always remember, and celebrate the works of the Lord!**

But God was merciful time and time again.  
God forgave their sin, and destroyed them not;  
often turning back anger  
and not allowing the righteous wrath of God to be roused.

**Refrain: Always remember, and celebrate the works of the Lord!**

## + Second Reading

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The second reading is in Phillipians, chapter 2, verses 5-11. The reading is on page 197 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

**5** Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus: **6** Christ, though in the image of God, did not deem equality with God something to be clung to-- **7** but instead became completely empty and took on the image of oppressed humanity: being born into the human condition, found in in the likeness of a human

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being. **8** Jesus was thus humbled—obediently accepting death, even death on a cross! **9** Because of this, God highly exalted Christ and gave to Jesus the name above every other name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend in the heavens, on earth, and under the earth, **11** and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God: Jesus Christ reigns supreme!

(The Inclusive Bible - © 2007 by Priests for Equality, page 763 with some additions made by Br. Benedict)

**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 94 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verses 13 through 17.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

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

**13** No one has ever gone up to heaven except the One who came from heaven--the Chosen One the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. **14** As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so I must be lifted up, **15** so that everyone who believes in the Christ might have eternal life. **16** Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life. **17** God sent the Only Begotten into the world not to condemn the world, but that through the Only Begotten Son of God the world might be saved. (The Inclusive Bible - © 2007 by Priests for Equality, page 699)

**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

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## Sermon Notes September 18, 2022

on prayer: This reading was actually scheduled for today.

1 Timothy 2:1-8 Beloved:

First of all, I ask that supplications, prayers,  
petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone,  
for kings and for all in authority,  
that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life  
in all devotion and dignity.

This is good and pleasing to God our savior,  
who wills everyone to be saved  
and to come to knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God.

There is also one mediator between God and men,  
the man Christ Jesus,  
who gave himself as ransom for all.

This was the testimony at the proper time.

For this I was appointed preacher and apostle  
— I am speaking the truth, I am not lying —,  
teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

It is my wish, then, that in every place the men should pray,

\*\*\*" This is the origin of the caduceus symbol used in the medical profession." (Priests for Equality note on page 91)



Wikipedia: The modern use of the **caduceus as a symbol of medicine** became established in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th century as a result of well-documented mistakes, misunderstandings of [symbology](#) and classical culture.<sup>[1][2][3][4][5][6]</sup> The correct symbol for medicine is the [Rod of Asclepius](#), which has only one snake and no wings.<sup>[5]</sup> ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caduceus\\_as\\_a\\_symbol\\_of\\_medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caduceus_as_a_symbol_of_medicine) )



In [Greek mythology](#), the **Rod of Asclepius** (☯; [Ancient Greek](#): *Ράβδος του Ασκληπιού*, *Rábdos tou Asklepiou*, sometimes also spelled **Asklepios**), also known as the **Staff of Aesculapius** and as the **asklepian**,<sup>[1]</sup> is a serpent-entwined rod wielded by the Greek god [Asclepius](#), a deity associated with healing and medicine. Theories have been proposed about the Greek origin of the symbol and its implications. In modern times, it is the predominant symbol for

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medicine and health care, although, because of [a misunderstanding](#) concerning  and , the [Caduceus](#) (the symbol of commerce) is sometimes seen in this context,<sup>[1]</sup> although both rods, from which these symbols represent, were each gifted to Asclepius and to [Hermes](#) by [Apollo](#).  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod\\_of\\_Asclepius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_of_Asclepius) )

Notice, our story from the Book of Numbers is not included in these articles.....

Doctrine of the Only Begotten Son Of God:

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

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/files/Jesus%20the%20Only%20Begotten%20Son%20Of%20God.pdf>



### 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 pray for all people living through the conflicts of war, especially those who are grieving the loss of loved ones due to war. We pray for peace in the world, in each Country, home, family unit, and collective of friends. 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 honestly with the good of all people in mind, we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 3:** For persons who are challenged by their abilities and 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 ask for your healing and direction. We pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 3:** For all people who are sick and suffering from natural disasters and crises caused by climate change, such as famine, fires, earthquakes, mudslides, and floods. That the leaders of the world's 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:** We pray for equal and fair access to education and work for everyone of every ethnic population. We pray that leaders in Society will recognize the value of a workforce representing the ratio of ethnic demographics in their communities; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 3:** We pray for safe, healthy, and positive work environments where people will thrive and enjoy being at work; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 3:** We pray for a renewal of commitment to the success of the church's ministry in the world. We pray that people prioritize the hours of life to give worship, service, and study of God's Word, the time we need to grow in our faith and witness, we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 3:** We thank you, Lord Jesus, for these twenty-six years of ministry in the Southern Tier. We bless you for all the people who have come through our door, wherever we were worshiping. We thank you for each person and organization that hosted us before we had our building. We thank you for every person who has labored in any way for this ministry. So that we would continue to be faithful to this work of the Gospel, we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 3:** We invite you to add your petitions in silent prayer.  
**(silent prayer)**

**Leader – 3:** For these silent prayers, we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 3:** Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. 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, 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

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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 that you celebrate 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 regular, 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 a small communion set at your seat. When we announce Communion is now served, shake the kit gently in case the contents have settled. After receiving Communion, someone will collect the cup 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!

**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.

## + 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: Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Savior of the world.**

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

**Pastor (or other person designated):** While we are gathered together, we ask your blessing on all religious leaders of every Religion known to humanity. We pray that religious leaders everywhere 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

September 18, 2022 Pentecost Week 16 Triumph of the Cross Year C page: 24  
pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and  
wrongly not included. May all people 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 that we would receive 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:**

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| **General Offering** for the week of August 29 \$943.00 (some people give monthly  
| rather than weekly) Attendance 7

| **General Offering** for the week of September 4 \$568.00 (some people give monthly  
| rather than weekly) Attendance 10

| **General Offering** for the week of September 11 \$428.00 (some people give  
| monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

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

| **Thank you Michael Quinnell for driving down from Syracuse to bring us two  
| boxes of candles. Michael donated about \$50 in gas and saved us at least that  
| amount in postage. We are very grateful and ask God to bless Michael.**

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

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Financial Update for Council 9-1-2022  
Ray Of Hope Church  
Prepared by Lisa Frost, Corporation Treasurer

**Bills Due and Payable**

9/10/2022	NYSEG	Gas	\$355.97
8/10/2022	F.A.S.T.	Annual Fire Inspection	\$130.00
9/12/2022	NYSEG	Electricity	\$185.69
9/7/2022	Finger Lakes Fire and Casualty	Liability Insurance	\$706.75
9/15/2022	City of Elmira	Second half sanitation/fire insp.	\$212.50
<b>Total due in next few weeks</b>			<b>\$1,590.91</b>

We will be able to pay the above obligations with the amount currently in the building fund, due to recent donations. However we need ongoing, regular donations to not only pay the regular monthly bills, but to also pay for much needed repairs.

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.

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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**OUR CALENDAR**

Tuesday, September 13, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment scheduled.  
Today, Sunday September 18 is the 26<sup>th</sup> Southern Tier Anniversary -  
Celebration of the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, and **Semi-Annual Meeting** Worship at 10:30 am, shared refreshments at 12:30 pm, meeting at 1:00 pm. We expect to be finished by 1:30 pm.

Friday September 23 7:00 – 8:30 Music Rehearsal for World Communion  
Sunday @New Beginnings

Saturday, September 24, Blessed Birthday to Cheryl Allen.

Friday September 30 7:00 – 8:30 Music Rehearsal for World Communion  
Sunday @New Beginnings

\*\* Is there anyone you would like remembered who has passed in these last two years, especially from COVID related illnesses? There will be a special slide show of pictures and names during the song “Precious Lord.” This has to be in to Gwen Beckman by Sunday September 25. Email the information to Gwen at: [gwenbeckman02@gmail.com](mailto:gwenbeckman02@gmail.com)

\*\* Write an Intercessory prayer on the theme “radical welcome” and we have to turn this in by Monday, September 19 to Gwen. Our intercessory prayer is: That all churches would readily welcome everyone just as Christ has welcomed us, we pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

We will need a reader for this in the service.

\*\* Do we want to link our paypal to the worship bulletin for WCS?

\*\* Psalm is ours to read and lead in the WCS worship.

Sunday October 2 World Communion Sunday all-City @ 10:00 a.m.  
United Baptist Church hosting. Elmira Area Clergy presenting.



**Hello All-City Ecumenical Singers!!!!**

Let's be together and sing our hearts out for World Communion Sunday, October 2. This year we will sit in the choir area at New Beginnings / United Baptist Church, facing the congregation, and singing strongly so as to lead the people in the congregation. The goal is to inspire the participating worship community to sing out in full voice with us.

There are seven songs in this Service. Leading them will be a very significant ministry.

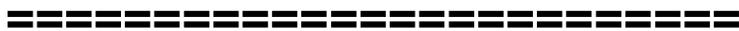
Precious Lord, Take My Hand (Dorsey)  
 One Bread, One Body (Foley)  
 Thy Word (Grant / Smith)  
 We Are Called (Haas)  
 Holy, Holy, Holy (Heber /Dykes)  
 Gift Of Finest Wheat (Westendorf)  
 What A Fellowship / Leaning On the Everlasting Arms (Hoffman / Showalter)

Please come to at least one of the two scheduled rehearsals even if you know these songs so that we can rehearse together and bring them very close to the distinctive performance styles represented: Christian Folk Choir, Christian Contemporary Ballad, Black Gospel slow, Black Gospel fast, and Traditional Hymn. The emphasis will be on distinctive style articulation so there will be obvious variety in this worship music. We will have a lot of fun. The larger the group the better for this event.

Attend both or one rehearsals:  
 Friday, September 23, 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
 Friday, September 30, 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
 New Beginnings United Methodist Church  
 300 E. Miller Street, Elmira

It is my prayer that we have a marvelous worship experience together.

Br. Shawn Benedict,  
 Music Director for World Communion Sunday  
 October 2, 2022

## Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition (STIC)

Invites you to its **2022 Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, September 18, 2022 @ 3:00 P.M.**

**The Park Church**, 208 Gray St., Elmira, NY 14901

***Faiths and Migrants: The Role of Ithaca Welcomes Refugees.***

**Keynote Speaker**

**Dr. S. Zeeshan Rizvi (IWR)**



Dr. S. Zeeshan Rizvi - an Engineer by profession, working full-time at Corning Inc. - leads the Organization Development and Volunteer Onboarding at Ithaca Welcomes Refugees, Inc., which is an Ithaca

September 18, 2022 Pentecost Week 16 Triumph of the Cross Year C page: 32 based nonprofit organization. IWR works with State Department designated resettlement agencies to help migrants and refugees in the area settle and integrate into our communities. At IWR, Dr. Rizvi mainly is responsible for recruiting and training volunteers and connecting them with the different functional teams within the organization so their skillsets can be best utilized to benefit the arriving families.

**All are welcome.**

**Refreshments will be Served After the Program.**

*"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable..., Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."* (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

**Organized & Sponsored by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition (STIC)**

**It is a hybrid program; click below to Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89540551673?pwd=a0hMMyszRFRsVStETmZaUkVmcC9RUT09>

**Meeting ID: 895 4055 1673 Passcode: 398714**



**New Beginnings United Methodist Church**  
*Proudly announces a Lunch and Learn series*

September 7, 14 & October 4, 18, 25  
12:00 – 2:00 PM  
300 E. Miller St. | (607) 734-2293

Registration Requested.

***In collaboration with:***



**Office for the Aging**

Arnot Ogden Health Center



**MCINERNY**  
Funeral Home

**September 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> (TBD)**

**LifeFolio:** H&H Financial Group Learn how organization can help with your estate planning.

1. Organize important documents
2. Discover gaps in your estate plan
3. Review/evaluate your financial goals
4. Have these conversations with your family

**September 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> (TBD)**

**Planning for your funeral:** McInerny Funeral Home Mr. Kevin McInerny will be here to discuss how preplanning your funeral helps your loved ones know how you would like to be remembered in their time of grief. He will also share the option of prepaying for your funeral expenses.

**October 4**

Office of the Aging presents:  
**Medicare 101:** A overview of Medicare coverages, counseling, and assistance program (HIICAP): what is available, enrollment dates and conversation about commonly asked questions. |

**October 18<sup>th</sup>**

Office of the Aging Presents:  
**Caregiver and Dementia Support Services:**  
Information about caregiver and dementia support services, educational workshops and seminars, caregiver discussion group, respite care, information, and assistance on a wide variety of services and topics.

**October 25** Rev Michaela St. Marie is a chaplain at Arnot-Ogden Hospital and will be sharing with us the importance of having a **health care proxy** as well as what a **DNR** is. These are two documents you may want to file with your other important papers for your loved ones

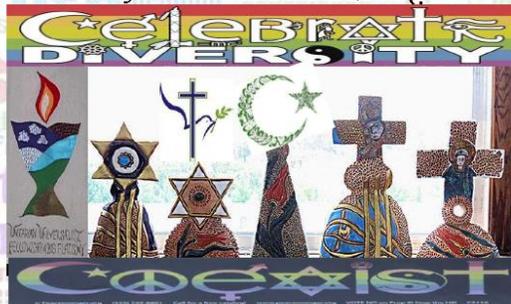
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# Abraham Path Walk

10<sup>th</sup> Annual STIC Walk



Faiths Walking Together, Celebrating Our Faiths.

## Sunday, October 9, 2022 @ 2:30 PM

- *Walk (the Event) begins with gathering at the IAFL Islamic Center (499 Hickory Grove Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845)*
- *From IAFL, we shall proceed (drive) to St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church (410 E. McCams Blvd., Elmira Heights, NY 14903) - about 12 minutes (8.5 miles) drive.*
- *From Ukrainian Church we shall proceed (drive) to Jewish 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 Walk is based on the story of Abraham, a prophet common to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.*

**Contact:**

- ✓ Imam Zaman Marwat (Islamic Center), (607) 731-3858 \* [sufizaman@yahoo.com](mailto:sufizaman@yahoo.com)
- ✓ Jenny Monroe (The Park Church), (607) 738-5069 \* [jmonroe@stny.rr.com](mailto:jmonroe@stny.rr.com)
- ✓ Rabbi Oren Steinitz (Kol Ami), (607) 333-4400 \* [oren.steinitz@gmail.com](mailto:oren.steinitz@gmail.com)
- ✓ Fr. Teodor B. Czabala, Jr (Ukrainian Catholic Church) | 203-906-3093 | [snucceh@stny.rr.com](mailto:snucceh@stny.rr.com)

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."*  
 (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

*Organized & Sponsored by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition (STIC).*

=====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 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](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.

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