



**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 4, 2022 14th Sunday of Pentecost, Year C

Celebration of Prayer and Labor "Ora et labora" St. Benedict

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:** Wisdom 9:13-18 not in NRSV

**Responsorial Psalm:** 90:2-17 selected verses inside this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 201

**Gospel:** Luke 10:1-12 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament Pg. 71

\*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

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. \*\*\*\*

This is Labor Day weekend. I have chosen special readings for today for the second reading and the Gospel. The first reading and the Psalm scheduled for today were in line with Labor Day. I reflected on St. Benedict's motto, "Ora et labora" prayer and labor. The lectionary does not suggest a set of readings for this celebration of Labor Day. It took some reflection and reading sections of Scripture to put together some lessons on sanctifying our work and doing it for the Lord. It seems to me that being allowed to work should be a right guaranteed to every person in Society. Our economies require work to acquire money to trade for the items we need for living. The denial of equal opportunity to work is one of many ways of controlling who can succeed, own property, own a vehicle, have children and raise them above poverty. When a Country declares war on another Country, the destruction of the working economy is often one piece of the act of war. If we deny people access to work, they may be denied access to participate in the economy. Therefore, we aim to make labor accessible to everyone in the United States. In the United States, we also protect workers' rights, their health and safety at work, and even the ability to retire and not have to labor as hard as once.

As we listen to the readings today, see if we can learn more about developing a spiritual ethic regarding our labor and work. St. Benedict of Nursia based his life motto on this concept: "ora et labora" prayer and labor.

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 185 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 28,199 29,096 30,004 documented deaths by gun violence in the USA this year of 2022 as of Saturday September 3, 2022. That is 908 violent gun deaths since publishing last week's bulletin on Saturday, August 27. In the thirteen weeks we have been documenting this chart, and there have been 12,454 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.**

**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 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 #46. We also remember those who have died from COVID-related illnesses around the world, 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, and praising God in song, we now prepare our hearts to be renewed by receiving God in the Word, the Holy Scriptures. 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.

**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 Creating and Eternal God, all life in the Universe gives You praise and glory. You invite us to explore and learn your wisdom. You make your presence available to us. But unfortunately, we often close ourselves to spiritual sources of wisdom and practices. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-4: Christ Jesus, you call us to share the Love of God with everyone we meet. These days, people seem more concerned with dividing our Society and exploiting our disagreements. There may be ways we could help improve people's relationships. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

L-4: Holy Spirit, you desire to help us understand our circumstances and the Society in which we live. You give us gifts of discernment, wisdom, knowledge, and reverence for the Lord. But, unfortunately,

sometimes we choose our way and do not listen to your guidance.  
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 reading these Scriptures increase our love for one another and our dedication to you. Please speak to us through the declared Word we are about to hear. 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 Wisdom, Chapter 9, verses 13 through 18. This reading is not found in our pew editions of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

<sup>13</sup> For who can learn the counsel of God?

Or who can discern what the Lord wills?

<sup>14</sup> For the reasoning of mortals is worthless,  
and our designs are likely to fail;

<sup>15</sup> for a perishable **body** weighs down the **soul**,  
and this earthy tent burdens the thoughtful **mind**.

<sup>16</sup> We can hardly guess at what is on earth,  
and what is at hand we find with labor;  
but who has traced out what is in the heavens?

<sup>17</sup> Who has learned your counsel,  
unless you have given wisdom  
and **sent your holy spirit from on high?**

<sup>18</sup> And thus the paths of those on earth were set right,  
and people were taught what pleases you,  
and were saved by wisdom."

**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 90 verses 2-17. This Psalm was especially chosen for our celebration of Labor Day. The response today is "Lord, give success to the work of our hands."

**R. Lord, give success to the work of our hands.**

Before the mountains were created  
Or the earth and world brought forth,  
You are from everlasting to everlasting, Our God.

**R. Lord, give success to the work of our hands.**

You turn us back to dust,  
saying, "Return, O children of the earth."  
For a thousand years in your sight  
are as yesterday, now that it is past,  
or as a watch of the night.

**R. Lord, give success to the work of our hands.**

You make an end of people in their sleep;  
the next morning they are like the changing grass,  
Which at dawn springs up anew,  
but by evening withers and fades.

**R. Lord, give success to the work of our hands.**

Teach us to number our days aright,  
make us know the shortness of our life  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Return, O LORD! How long?  
Have pity on your servants!

**R. Lord, give success to the work of our hands.**

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,  
that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.  
And may the gracious care of the LORD our God be ours;  
prosper the work of our hands for us!  
Prosper the work of our hands!

**R. Lord, give success to the work of our hands.**

**+ Second Reading**

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The second reading is in the Colossians, chapter 3, verses 14-15, 17 and 23 through 24.

The reading is on page 201 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

Brothers and sisters:

<sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ<sup>[a]</sup> rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

<sup>23</sup> Whatever task you must do, work as if your soul depends on it, as for the Lord and not for humans, <sup>24</sup> since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ.

**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 was chosen for our celebration of Labor Day.** The Gospel reading is on page 71 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 10, verses 1 through 12.

**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.**

**10** After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup> Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup> Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' <sup>6</sup> And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will

return to you. <sup>7</sup> Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup> cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' <sup>10</sup> But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

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."



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**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 4, 2022

NRSVue 2021 <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Revised-Standard-Version-Updated-Edition-NRSVue-Bible/>

**PROCESS OF THE REVISION**

The review managed by the Society of Biblical Literature included seven general editors and fifty-six book editors, with several general editors serving also as book editors. The general editors were divided into three teams: Old Testament (also known as the Hebrew Scriptures), Apocrypha (also known as the Deuterocanon), and the New Testament. In addition to the seven general editors, the National Council of Churches appointed two members of its Bible Translation and Utilization Advisory Committee to serve as liaisons to the committee of general editors appointed by the Society of Biblical Literature. Three members of the Society's staff participated in and managed the project.

Beginning in 2017, each book of the Bible was assigned to one or more book editors. Over the course of two years (2018–2019), the book editors submitted their proposed updates to the general editors. Each of the three teams of general editors met at least once a month for two years (2019–2020) to review and discuss the proposed updates submitted by the book editors. The accepted updates were submitted to the National Council of Churches in 2021 for its final review and approval of what is now the *NRSVue*.

The *NRSVue* presents approximately 12,000 substantive edits and 20,000 total changes, which include alterations in grammar and punctuation.

Like its predecessors, this *NRSVue* has relied on the best results of modern discovery and scholarship. The mandate primarily focused on two types of revisions: text-critical and philological. The *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue)* is not a new translation

Today's first reading: Wisdom 9:13-15 <sup>13</sup>For who can learn the counsel of God?

Or who can discern what the Lord wills?

<sup>14</sup>For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail;

<sup>15</sup>for a perishable **body** weighs down the **soul**, and this earthy tent burdens the thoughtful **mind**.

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Readings on contentment when in God's service.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 May 23 the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete (whole, sound) and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## **Body, Mind, Soul , Spirit**

The difference between soul and spirit. A modern majority of Bible teachers argue the idea the spirit is our eternal part created by God and once created is forever. The soul, therefore, is created in our mother's womb and is the part that we train through education along with our bodies throughout life. (<https://activechristianity.org/soul-vs-spirit-what-is-the-difference> )

Often writers to use these terms interchangeably:

While the two words are often used interchangeably, the primary distinction between soul and spirit in man is that the soul is the animate life, or the seat of the senses, desires, affections, and appetites. The spirit is that part of us that connects, or refuses to connect, to God. Our spirits relate to His Spirit, either accepting His promptings and conviction, thereby proving that we belong to Him (Romans 8:16) or resisting Him and proving that we do not have spiritual life (Acts 7:51). (SOURCE: <https://www.compellingtruth.org/difference-soul-spirit.html> )

In the glossary of the USA version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church the word "soul" is defined this way:

The spiritual principle of human beings. The soul is the subject of human consciousness and freedom; soul and body together form one unique human nature. Each human soul is individual and immortal, immediately created by God. The soul does not die with the body, from which it is separated by death, and with which it will be reunited in the final resurrection.

Further, the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 362-368)

The Church teaches that every spiritual soul is created immediately by God—it is not "produced" by the parents—and also that it is immortal: It does not perish when it separates from the body at death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection.

Sometimes the soul is distinguished from the spirit: St. Paul for instance prays that God may sanctify his people "wholly," with "spirit and soul and body" kept sound and blameless at the Lord's coming. The Church teaches that this distinction does not introduce a duality into the soul. "Spirit" signifies that from creation man is ordered to a supernatural end and that his soul can gratuitously be raised beyond all it deserves to communion with God.

The spiritual tradition of the Church also emphasizes the *heart*, in the biblical sense of the depths of one's being, where the person decides for or against God. (CCC 362-368)



Wisdom 9:15 a perishable **body** weighs down the **soul**,  
and this earthy tent burdens the thoughtful **mind**.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Luke 1:46-47 And Mary said: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ...."

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

Acts 7:59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Luke 23:46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

1 Corinthians 2:11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Luke 8:52-55 <sup>52</sup> They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." <sup>53</sup> And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. <sup>54</sup> But he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!" <sup>55</sup> Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat.



**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 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 pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 3:** For all sick and suffering from natural disasters and crises 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:** We pray for equal and fair access to education and work. We pray that leaders in Society will recognize the value of a workforce that represents the ratio of ethnic demographics in their communities, we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 3:** We pray for safe and positive work environments where people will can thrive and enjoy being at work, 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:** 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 worshipping 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 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!  
**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

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

## + 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 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  
God world with - out end. A men! Al - le - lu - ia  
A men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!



## 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:**

**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 August 21 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8

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

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

Kaiden Benedict gave \$2,000.00 to the building fund. Thank you, Kaiden. Veronica

Floyd gave \$200.00 to the general fund. Thank you, Veronica. 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.**

September 4, 2022 Pentecost Week 13 Year C page: 30

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](https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia?_r=1) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser: [https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia?\\_r=1](https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia?_r=1) Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**OUR CALENDAR**

Tuesday, September 6, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment scheduled.

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.

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.



**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 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



**MCINERNEY**  
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.

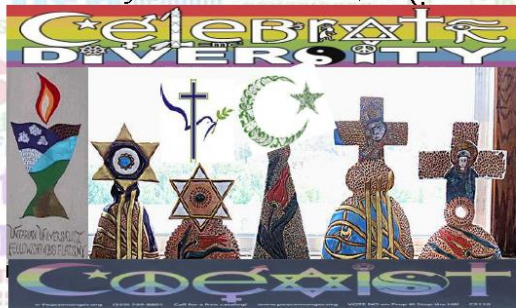
October 25 Rev Michaela St. Marie is a chaplain at Arnot-Ogden Hospital and will be sharing with us the importance of having a **health care proxy** as well as what a **DNR** is. These are two documents you may want to file with your other important papers for your loved ones

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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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Visit us on line:

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)