

The Connection



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
• A Congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church—EPC •
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 879

March 24, 2026

I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted and justice for the poor. Surely the righteous will give thanks to Your name; the upright will dwell in Your presence. (rf. Ps. 140:12–13 NASB)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn... (rf. Is. 61:1-2 NASB)

Jesus must be feeling somewhat like a tennis ball these days. His name is being bantered about by all kinds of people for all kinds of reasons. He is being used as tool of manipulation by political parties, corporations, movements, etc., all in the hope of gaining support for their particular cause, product or platform. Those who are doing this feel no shame in the effort. Obviously, they are quite ignorant of God's own directive: "*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain*" (rf. Exod. 20:7 NASB).

Those profaning the use of Jesus' name are also separating His name from His character and His mission. Some want Him to be their champion for the cause of dominion since He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Others desire to use His name to back their theological pursuits to liberate Christians from their old ways of thinking. Still more pander His name to secure and build their own empires, some even using churches to accomplish that task.

All the above are missing the point of Jesus and His calling. He came to "*set the captive free*" of the sin that separates him/her from Almighty God. He came to encourage and uphold those who have been trampled by the masses, namely, the "*afflicted*", the "*poor*", the "*brokenhearted*", and the oppressed. All encompassing, Jesus came to show the love of God the Father to those who were/are unlovable, unloved, and unredeemable. If we are honest with ourselves, spiritually, all of us fall into these same categories. The very fact that we know Jesus in a salvific way is testimony of His ability to love us who are not worthy of His love, much less of His salvation.

Our response as Christians is to exhibit the same love of Christ to those to whom He would minister were He here in the flesh. He gives us the opportunity to be His hands and feet, ministering physically to those who are as condemned as we were when He saved us and called us into His family. He wants His people to be generous and loving, especially to the same groups to whom Jesus ministered during His earthly tenure (i.e. the "*afflicted, poor and brokenhearted*").

He would also want His people to be discerning enough not to fall for those who use His name for their own ends. Our responsibility is to stay true to the calling of Christ, to "*love our neighbor as ourselves*" as a tangible way of disclosing that we also "*love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength*" (rf. Matt. 22:38-40). Those who "*take the name of the Lord in vain*" will face a severe punishment, not only because they used His name to fulfill their own greed and lust, but also because they separated His name from His character and mission, emptying it of the meaning that is inherent in that name. God will give them the justice they deserve which will not be enjoyable at all for them.

Therefore, let us as His children be about the mission of Christ. Let us share His love freely, especially with those whom society has rejected. Let us share our faith with those who have no other hope than Christ. Let us support all efforts to minister to those who are in need, physically and spiritually, so that Jesus will be pleased with our actions when He returns. May we hear Him say to us, "*Well done, good and faithful servant!...Enter into the joy of your Master*" (rf. Matt. 25:23 MEV).

Pastor Chris

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, March 25th
Supper at 6:15 pm
At 7 pm the Study of the Church and the
Last Days, followed by Prayer

Sunday, March 29th
Worship Team Practice
@ 8:30 am
Worship @ 10:00 am
Sunday School/Pastor's AfterChat

Wednesday, April 1st
Supper at 6:15 pm
At 7 pm the Study of the Church and the
Last Days, followed by Prayer

Thursday, April 2nd
Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 pm

Friday, April 3rd
Good Friday
Church open from 9 am to 1 pm for prayer

Helping Hands Ministries for March 29, 2026

Live Streaming

Ramsey Mallory

Soundboard

Rich Williams

ProPresenter

TBD

Communion Preparation

Lynn Joyner

Nursery

Al & Elizabeth Floyd

Communion Assistant

RE Ryan Hutchins

Prayer Support

RE Diane Williams

Welcome/Announcements and Scripture Reading

RE Ryan Hutchins

Giving to the Ministry of HOPE:

Online via QR Code



Or on our website:
www.hopechurchraleigh.org
or by check made out to:
"Hope Church Raleigh" and dropped
in plate during Communion

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

Women of HOPE

Meetings generally at HOPE on the
second and fourth Saturdays
every month from 10 am to Noon.

Next Meeting: March 28th
at HOPE Church (with Bible study
—See note below)

Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

"Food of the Month"

**ONE-MEAL CANNED SOUPS/
CANNED MEAT**

The collection bin is in the foyer

Holy Week 2026 is coming next week:

Palm Sunday—March 29th

Maundy Thursday—April 2nd

Good Friday—April 3rd

Easter Sunday—April 5th

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

TLC Devotion

On Wed. March 25th at 11 am
@ TLC

HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone else.

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is He who comes in the
name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!"
(rf. Matt. 21:9 MEV)

Saturday, March 28th, 2026 @ 10 am

Come join the Women of HOPE as they
continue in their study based on the book,
Becoming a Woman of Grace,
by Cynthia Heald
If interested, contact Alice Kinard
for further details.

Prayer Requests:

The Ernest Mbeng family, Jordan
Stevens, Kathy Herriman, Gene and
Becky Hale, Erin's parents & brother,
Burton, Pastor Chris & Lori King,
Sandy (Kathy's friend), Donna
(Joan's friend), Patty Moyer & son,
Brandon, Jerry Kinard, Alice Kinard
(transplant possibilities), Tom &
Donna Williams, Ron Clifton, Phil
Parton, Krishana, Sam, Rachel &
children, Joan Rollinson, Dianne
Reinoso, Cindy, Barbara (stroke),
HOPE Children & Youth ministries,
Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho,
Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome,
Mallory family, Carol and Colin,
Tommy, Skip, Walt, Loretta, Joan
Summers, Janice Worthington,
Donna Abel, Pastor Marty & Terry
Duffell, Laura Bradshaw (stroke
recovery), Tom Klein, Baby Sutton,
future plans & growth (spiritual &
numerical) for HOPE Church Raleigh!

Next Sunday's Sermon:

The Lord, Our Deliverer

(rf. *Mk. 11:7-10; Ps. 46*)

Pastor Chris King

To prepare for next Sunday, click on the
link and be blessed!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=QwGnEwFwH8&list=RDQwGnEwFw
H8&start_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwGnEwFwH8&list=RDQwGnEwFwH8&start_radio=1)

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals for Wednesday Night Suppers
Sound Board Volunteers
Nursery Helpers



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www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

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YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"
in the search box)