

# The Connection



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

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 880

March 31, 2026

*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and He raised us up and seated us together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, so that we should walk in them. (rf. [Eph. 2:1, 4-10](#) MEV)*

As we approach Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our focus is undoubtedly upon Him. His resurrection was God the Father's seal of approval upon the life, ministry, and atoning death of His Son. Not even the power of death and hell could prevent Jesus from being raised from the dead. The stone was rolled away, the grave is empty, and He lives ever to make intercession for all those who believe and trust in Him alone for salvation (rf. [Heb. 7:25](#)).

The Apostle Paul in his explanation of the salvation process makes personal application of the resurrection of Christ upon those who trust and follow Him. Paul plainly states that each of us in Christ have personally experienced resurrection from the dead as well, though in a spiritual sense. In Romans 3, Paul makes the point that "*all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*" (rf. [Rom. 3:23](#) MEV). Not only have we all sinned, but because of our innate sinful nature, we are spiritually dead, having the same abilities as a corpse. We cannot literally lift a hand to save ourselves from our sin. If left to ourselves, our spiritual death would lead us to eternal damnation as would be just from the decree of our righteous Judge.

However, what we could not do ourselves, God did by applying the atoning blood of His Son to us, by sending His Holy Spirit to raise us from our spiritual death, and to make us willing and desiring to receive His free gift of salvation. This is the reason the Scriptures declare that "*salvation is of the Lord*" (rf. [Jonah 2:9](#)). Our salvation is totally the work of God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ by the power of His Holy Spirit. Indeed, it is the Triune God who does all that is necessary to make us one of His children.

Out of this new life that we have in Christ, we have been given a list of works that He desires for us to accomplish. We know that works do not save us as Paul clearly declares, "*not of works, so that no one should boast*" (rf. [Eph. 2:9](#)). Rather the "*good works*" we are to do have been predestined for us to accomplish as part of His overall will and plan ("*created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, so that we should walk in them*"—rf. [Eph. 2:10](#)). Not only has He put together the plan (i.e. Plan A with no Plan B), He has also purposed our living and serving as an important part of the execution of said plan. God is proactive about making sure His will is done.

So as we celebrate Easter, individually and corporately, let us not only praise the Lord for the resurrection of Jesus, "*the author and finisher of our faith*" (rf. [Heb. 12:2](#)), but also praise Him for resurrecting us from spiritual death so that we might experience new life in Christ, accomplish His purposes for us while here, and enjoy the "*surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus*" (rf. [Eph. 2:7](#)). How great is our God!

*Pastor Chris*

# HOPE Calendar

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

Sunday, April 5th  
Worship Team Practice @ 8:30 am  
Worship @ 10:00 am  
Sunday School/Pastor's AfterChat

Wednesday, April 8th  
Supper at 6:15 pm  
At 7 pm the Study of the Church and the Last Days, followed by Prayer

## 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: April 11th at HOPE Church (with Bible study —See note below)

### Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

“Food of the Month”

#### Cereals

The collection bin is in the foyer

## 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 “Day of the Lord” Has Arrived!  
(cf. *Mal. 3:1-4; 4:1-6; Heb. 8:6-13*)  
Pastor Chris King

## Helping Hands Ministries for April 5, 2026

### Live Streaming

Franklin Johnston

### Soundboard

Rich Williams

### ProPresenter

Dianne Reinoso

### Communion Preparation

Lynn Joyner

### Nursery

Caroline Hutchins & Duart Johnston

### Communion Assistant

RE Bill Joyner

### Prayer Support

RE Elizabeth Floyd

### Welcome/Announcements and Scripture Reading

RE Bill Joyner

### 2026 Holy Week services

Maundy Thursday—April 2nd at 6:30 pm  
Good Friday—April 3rd, church open for personal prayer 9 am to 1 pm  
Easter Sunday—April 5th at 10 am

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### TLC Devotion

On Wed. April 29th at 11 am @ TLC

### HOPE Meal Ministry

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

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf-svStcvS8&list=RDlf-svStcvS8&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf-svStcvS8&list=RDlf-svStcvS8&start_radio=1)

### SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals for Wednesday Night Suppers  
Sound Board Volunteers  
Nursery Helpers

## Giving to the Ministry of HOPE:

Online via QR Code



Or on our website:  
[www.hopechurchraleigh.org](http://www.hopechurchraleigh.org)  
or by check made out to:  
“Hope Church Raleigh” and dropped in plate during Communion

The Maundy Thursday service is planned for 6:30 pm this Thursday. It will be a special time when we experience together the setting of the Lord's Supper so long ago.

### Saturday, April 11th, 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.



HOPE Church Raleigh EPC  
4911 Green Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
919-508-6827

[www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org](http://www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org)  
[www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh](https://www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh)  
Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh  
YouTube.com (type “HOPE Church Raleigh” in the search box)