



Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 8, 2026

Hope Lutheran Church of Rossmoor

www.hoperossmoor.org 925-709-4673 (Voicemail ONLY)

The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop, Pastor

Prelude

Instrumental Music

Carlyn Obringer

Welcome & Introduction

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

All: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

All: **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn**Gather Us In-ELW 532 (vs 1,2)****Judy Ryken**

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,

van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,

brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Greeting

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

All: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Children of the Heavenly Father- ELW 781

Judy Ryken



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, fä - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - use e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

P: Let us all pray together.

All: **Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

Karen Peterson

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually and

satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Psalm 112:1-10

Karen Peterson & Congregation

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire up- on their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Karen Peterson

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. ¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th Chapter

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

All: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A

city built on a hill cannot be hid.¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord
All: Praise to You, O Christ.

Special Music

One Little Candle

Hope Choir

Message

Everything Will Change for Those Who...

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

Hymn of the Day

Christ, Be Our Light-ELW 715 (vs 1,2)

Judy Ryken

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, Your word a - lone
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

Apostles Creed

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

Each petition ends with: Merciful God, **Response: receive our prayer.**

Offering

*We invite you to place your **Offering** in the offering plate as it is passed.*

Special Music

Gift of Music

Carlyn Obringer

Offering Prayer

P: As we lift up our offerings to the Lord, let us pray.

All: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Offering Song



Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Holy Communion: Words of Institution

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

The Lord's Prayer

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.

At Hope we practice Open Communion. We believe the invitation to the table comes from Jesus Christ himself. Therefore, you do not need to be a member of this or any other congregation to join in the meal. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please let the pastor know you prefer one when your turn comes. To preserve the solemnity as guests at Christ's table, please return silently to your seat and refrain from talking while others receive Holy Communion. There will be plenty of opportunity afterwards at our coffee hour.

Instrumental Music

Carlyn Obringer

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray.
All: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing (Please stand as you are able)

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever.
All: Amen.

Peace I Leave With You

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you; Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled; Neither let it be afraid. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Amen.

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

All: Thanks be to God.

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Announcements

Pastoral Needs – For any pastoral need, you can call or text Pastor Andreas Pielhoop at 415-577-5461 or via email at pielhoop77@earthlink.net.

Meet with Pastor Andreas – Pastor Andreas will have office hours on February 5 & 19 from 1pm-3pm in Card Room 1 upstairs at Stanley Dollar Clubhouse. You can make an appointment but walk-ins are welcome too.

Birthday Blessings go out to **Mark Krauth** who celebrates his birthday on Feb 9; **Larry Deibler** who celebrates his birthday on Feb 11

Thank you to **the Hope Choir** for providing special music for today's worship!

Immediately following worship please join us for our 58th Annual Congregational Meeting. This meeting is very important to the life of Hope. We will review & approve the budget for 2026 and elect Council Representatives. Please sit at one of the tables.

Women of Hope – The women's Bible study group will be meeting on Saturday, February 14, from 10:00-11:30am in the Mulligan Room at Creekside. We'll be covering the second session about prayer in the Dec/Jan/Feb issue of Gather Magazine. We will explore the ways we can pray not only for creation but with creation. The session concludes with the glorious vision in Revelation 22 of a restored world. We will enjoy lively discussion and snacks. Please see Priscilla Mah if you have any questions.

Ash Wednesday is February 18. We will be having our Ash Wednesday service at 2pm in the Fireside Room. This service will NOT be live-streamed.

Bible Study with Pastor Andreas – On Tuesday, February 17, we will meet at 2:00pm in the Bunker Room at Creekside. All are welcome.

Our **Tenor-Bass (TTBB) Choir** will rehearse & sing at worship on Sunday, Feb 22, at 9:15am. Come join us!

Anchor Newsletter – if you are not currently receiving Hope's Anchor newsletter and would like to, please give Robin your email address so you can be added to the distribution list.

Helpers & Worship Assistants for:

Today – February 8	Next Sunday – February 15
Presider Pastor Andreas Pielhoop	Presider Pastor Andreas Pielhoop
Altar Priscilla, Jean	Altar Jean, Gerda
Greeters Yolanda Campo, Lois Nelson, Robin	Greeters Beth Abinanti, Bill Kuhnsman, Robin
Lay Reader Karen Peterson	Lay Reader Nancy Conrad
Communion Assistants Lois Nelson, Robin	Communion Assistants Mark & Karen Krauth
Ushers Nancy Conrad, John Odne	Ushers John Moilan, Karen Peterson
Livestream Jaxon	Livestream Chase
Special Music Hope Choir	Special Music Laurie Carlson

Readings for next Sunday, Feb 15: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Fellowship – Immediately following worship, please join us for a time of sharing coffee, goodies and great fellowship. Thank you to those helping with the set-up and clean-up. We ask one person from each table to bring their tray up to the counter at 12:15pm. This helps the clean-up tremendously. You are welcome to stay, socialize and drink coffee beyond that but we must have the clean-up completed by 1pm.

Rides to Church – Our volunteer drivers to worship are Sally Lionetti, Camilla Durham, Nancy Conrad (3rd, 4th, 5th Sundays only). If you need a ride to church, please contact them for the possibility of a ride.

Our Worship Service is available to live-stream and view online each week on our website. The link to the live-stream worship service is <https://bit.ly/3v6JTXm> The bulletin is available on the Hope website under the tab "Worship". Select "Worship Bulletin" and click on the desired week.

Your Offering – If you would like to mail us your offering (including QCDs), please send it to: Hope Lutheran Church, 399 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek CA 94598 (This is Hope's mailing address, not our worship location).

Please remember in prayer: Paula Tagliareni, Joan Birke (Carole Weyand's friend), Haley Thaning (Todd's daughter), Nancy Siebenand, Sandy Williams, Joseph Aiello (Karen Krauth's dad), Wayne Anderson, Michael Foreman, Lina Hale, Steve & Kathy Peterson, Camilla Spanjer, Barrie Christensen, Sara Wood, Carolyn Schick, Doris Johnston, the family of Inge Knight, the family of June Payne, Tom Lee