



HOPE <sup>IN</sup> CHRIST  
CHURCH

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A Christian Reformed Church

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Glorifying God by Knowing,  
Living and Proclaiming  
our Hope in Christ

**TODAY'S MESSAGE**

The Cry of the Oppressed  
*Psalm 10*

**AUGUST 20, 2023**

Senior Pastor Scott Roberts  
Associate Pastor Ethan Rogers

## ***Welcome!***

Welcome to Hope in Christ Church. We are so glad you have joined us today!  
May God bless you as you worship with us.

## ***Order of Worship***



*Everlasting God*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

*Is He Worthy*

*He Will Hold Me Fast*

*Be Still My Soul*

*I Will Wait for You - Lord from the Depths I Call to You*

### **Prayers**

**Scripture Reading** Psalm 10  
Cain Orr, reader

**Message** The Cry of the Oppressed

*The Lord is My Salvation*

### **Benediction**

*Hymn of Heaven*

## ***God is Moving Mountains***

### **CHINA: CHRISTIAN HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER 'DISAPPEARED'**

*...five years and nine months missing.*

An internationally acclaimed human rights lawyer and religious liberty champion, Gao Zhisheng is without a doubt China's most severely persecuted Christian of this era. Since 2006, Gao has been forcibly 'disappeared' numerous times, brutally beaten and horrifically tortured, held for extended periods in solitary confinement, isolated and denied access to medical care – all because he refuses to be silenced. When Gao Zhisheng emerged from three years secret detention in August 2014 severely malnourished and traumatised, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) thought it had finally and irretrievably broken him. But the CCP was mistaken. Despite being under house arrest in a remote location with no medical care, Gao rallied and secretly managed to write both a memoir and a 40-page human rights report. In August 2017 Gao escaped from his government minders and after 23 days on the run, Gao was found by police and 'disappeared' into a secret prison in the northern province of Shaanxi. No-one has seen or heard from him since. ***Please Pray the truth about what has happened to Gao will come to light and bring peace to his family.***

For more information, contact Rebekah Roberts at  
Rebekah@ChristianResponse.org

## ***Prayers***

Each week we pray for members of our church family. Suggested prayers are for their spiritual growth, opportunities to see Christ in their everyday lives, and anything else that God puts on your mind for them.

This week please pray for:

Linda                      Gina                      Don N  
Dan, Tanya, Amber, Chantel, Micah      Cain

## ***Today's Offering***

The suggested donation for the offering this morning is the Outreach Fund.

## Sermon Scripture: Psalm 10

### The Cry of the Oppressed

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- I. Have you ever looked and contemplated that the course of evil seemed better than the course of good?
  
- II. This is the cry of the oppressed (Ps 10:1)
  - A. Who are the oppressed in this psalm?
  
  - B. The person praying wants to know why God seems so far away when the wicked are abusing others.
  
- III. Reasons for the cry (Ps 10:2-11)
  - A. Arrogantly pursues the poor
  
  - B. Pridefully live as atheist
  
  - C. Personal reflection
  
- IV. The hope of the oppressed (Ps 10:12-15)
  - A. The hope is that God really does see (v14)
  
  - B. The hope is that there is a day of reckoning

V. Conclusion

A. The best way one can approach those times where God is far away is:

1. Admit it and state it

2. Explain why you feel/see it this way

3. Declare your hope and what you want

4. Finally, come to this fourth aspect of the psalm and declare the truth to your weary wondering soul

B. The truth is

1. God is King (v16)

2. Oppression will stop (v16)

3. God hears the needy cry for help (v17)

4. God strengthens the suffering (v17)

5. God will judge every oppressor (v18)

## ***Announcements***

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS/HELPERS NEEDED:** It is already time to start thinking about back-to-Sunday School! Pastor Ethan has been busy gathering materials, and he is ready to assign teachers to classes. Please help him finish getting ready by choosing the dates you would like to serve and adding your name to the notebook in the foyer. Thank you!

**FALL YOUTH RETREAT:** A retreat is being planned for middle-school-aged kids and older (under 21 years) for October 13-15. Sign -up information is in the foyer.

**GRACEFUL EATS, REAL TALK DINNER GROUPS:** Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer for anyone interested in participating. The vision for these groups is to eat together and talk about politics, religion and economics with people inside and outside the church and to leave as friends with a greater understanding of one another.

**DID YOU HAPPEN TO FIND** ... a green Tupperware container filled with utensils (forks, knives and spoons) at the church picnic at Birch Bay last Sunday? If you did, please call Ruth.

**VOLUNTEER TO HELP CASCADE CONNECTIONS:** The Cascade Connections board of directors is seeking new volunteer board members to help support and guide the organization and its work in Whatcom County. If you have a passion for the disabilities field and community and are interested in joining, read the statement of faith and board of directors requirements ([https:// cascadeconnections.org/about-us/board-of-directors-requirements/](https://cascadeconnections.org/about-us/board-of-directors-requirements/)) and contact George Beanblossom at (360) 714-9355, ext. 1107, or [gbeanblossom@ccsite.org](mailto:gbeanblossom@ccsite.org).

## ***Servants for Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>***

**Greeter:** Lou                      **Prayer Room:** Ken  
**E-Street Taxi:** Ida                **Foyer Monitor:** Dan O  
**Scripture Reader:** Don R

## ***Council Members and Districts***

**Council President:** David Richards (360-961-0459)

**Elder Chairperson:** Lou Kooistra (360-820-2548)

**Deacon Chairperson:** Mike Button (360-739-5435)

### **District - Last name A to C**

Elder: Lou Kooistra (360-820-2548)

Deacon: Jolene Skovron (360-550-7220)

### **District - Last name D to Ka**

Elder: Jerry Hop (360-734-9510)

Deacon: Doug Konn (360-224-1254)

### **District - Last name Kn to N**

Elder: David Richards (360-961-0459)

Deacon: Philip Bergman (360-201-3873)

### **District - Last name O to R**

Elder: Mark Ruiten (360-398-0101)

Deacon: Mike Button (360-739-5435)

### **District - Last name P to Z**

Elder: Don Recker (360-393-4179)

Deacon: Rachel Carlson (509-899-3963)

### **District - Council Members**

Pastor Scott Roberts (360-733-6177)

## ***Team Leaders***

**Education Director:** Pastor Ethan Rogers (360) 733-6177  
ethan@hopeinchristchurch.org

**Custodian:** Don Recker (509-949-7441)

**Worship:** Jerry Hop (360-734-9510)

**GEMS:** Darlys Recker (360-393-4179)

**Friendship:** Tanya Obbink (360-393-5171)

**Safe Church Coordinator:** Don Recker (360-393-4179)

**Health Minister:** Alice Brakke (360-671-2155)

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Mon.: Closed  
Tues., Wed., Fri.: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Thursday: noon - 3 p.m.



## **BULLETIN DEADLINE**

All bulletin items are due on Thursdays at noon.



## **HOPE IN CHRIST CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

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