



HOPE ^{IN} CHRIST
CHURCH

A Christian Reformed Church

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

TODAY'S MESSAGE

What is Heaven?

Revelation 21:1 - 22:5

DECEMBER 17, 2023

Senior Pastor Scott Roberts
Associate Pastor Ethan Rogers

Order of Worship

Opening Song

Advent Candle Lighting

Songs of Praise

Prayer

Scripture: Rev 21:1-22:5 Jen Roberts

Sermon: What is Heaven?

Songs of Response

Benediction

Closing Song

Today's Offering

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



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.

God is Moving Mountains

NIGERIA: TERRO IN KADUNA AND PLATEAU

Militant Muslim Fulani herdsmen, often working in conjunction with Islamic jihadists, continue to attack predominantly Christian villages in Nigeria's Kaduna and Plateau states. At 7am on Friday 15 September hundreds of militants surrounded Dogon Noma village in predominately Christian Southern Kaduna's Kajuru Local Government Area (LGA) and shot anybody in sight. At least 15 Christians were killed and 32 were abducted. Meanwhile, Christian communities in neighboring Plateau State have been under sustained attack since mid-May from militants estimated to be around 800 in number. Mangu, Barkin Ladi and Riyom LGAs have been most severely affected. There is mass displacement. Most recently, at 8:40pm on Sunday 10 September, militants invaded the predominantly Christian community of Kulben in Mangu LGA, killing 10 Christians, wounding others and destroying property. ***Please pray for the believers in Nigeria who are constantly living under the threat of terrorist attacks.***

Prayer Requests

1. Thank God for the courageous faith of believers in Nigeria, who refuse to deny Christ despite the dangers they face.
2. For an end to the violence inflicted by militant groups across Nigeria.

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

WHAT IS HEAVEN?

Revelation 21:1 - 22:5

- I. What is Heaven?

- II. Heaven is a world without a sea (Rev 21:1)
 - A. Does John literally mean that there is no large giant body of water?

 - B. So, what did the sea evoke in the ANE world where this image is being presented? (Genesis 1:9, 21; Ex 14:27-28, Job 38:8–11; Jeremiah 5:22–23, Lk 17:2, Rev 13)

- III. Heaven is the place where God dwells with his people (Rev 21:2-3, Jn 1:14)

- IV. Heaven is the place where sin and its effects are not felt/ experienced anymore (Rev 21:4) Why do we have tears accd. to the Bible? (2Ki 20:2-5)
 - A. Tears imply suffering, death, and hardship (Ps 6:6)

 - B.. Isa 25:7-8 is a key passage on tears

V. Heaven is certainly coming (Rev 21:5)

VI. Heaven is present already (Rev 21:6)

VII. Heaven: Take 2 (Rev 21:9-22:5)

A. Heaven is the place where God's character is lived out (Rev 21:11, 23-24)

B. Heaven is the place of security (Rev 21:12, 16)

1. No temple because access to God is now unimpeded.
2. No sun/moon b/c people walk and live according to God's character and ways.
3. The unclean can't enter it, but only the ones who walk with Christ (Rev 21:27)
4. Heaven is the place where the very life of God flows from his throne into the lives of people so that they are healed from all that harmed, twisted, or contorted them. (Rev 22:1-2)

VIII. Heaven is the hope of the gospel bringing joy to the heart (BC Article 37)

Announcements

CHRISTMAS EVE AT HCC: The Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service will be at 6 p.m. It had been previously announced for 6:30, but now will begin at 6. Our Legacy Church friends will be joining us!

CAROL SING-ALONG: You are invited to a Community Christmas Carol Sing-Along today, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lynden American Reformed Church, 8868 Northwood Road. Let's celebrate the true meaning of the season together. Cider and cookies will be served. If you are unable to attend, you can join livestream: <https://m.youtube.com/@lyndenarclivestream1156>

CONCERT OF CAROLS: The community is invited to a Concert of Carols for congregation and organ featuring Michael Plagerman on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Lynden American Reformed Church, 8868 Northwood Road. Admission is by donation.

THRIFT STORE EXTENDS TIMES: The Summit Thrift Store is extending its times to accept donations to match the hours the store is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please drop off in the alley behind the store, which is located at 404 Front St., Lynden. Be sure to ring the doorbell in the back and allow the attendant to help you before dropping items off. The store is still in need of volunteers; no experience is necessary. For more information or to volunteer, call (360) 312-4105 or visit www.summitthriftstore.org and click the volunteer tab. The store is raising funds to support the Summit Houses run by Envision Mission.

Servants for Sunday, December 24th

Greeters: Clair & Hildred **E-Street Taxi:** Alice
Foyer Monitor: Dan O. **Scripture Reader:** Cain
Cookies: Diane, Helen, Faye

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 Ruitter (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)

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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