



HOPE ^{IN} CHRIST
CHURCH

A Christian Reformed Church

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

TODAY'S MESSAGE

*The Appearance of Hope:
A Sermon of Epiphany*

Matthew 2:1-12

JANUARY 7, 2024

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

Opening Song

Call to Worship

Songs of Praise

Congregational Prayer

Matthew 2:1-12 Scripture Reader, David Richards

Sermon The Appearance of Hope: A Sermon of Epiphany

Communion

Closing Song

The Lord's Supper, which we celebrate today, is a way for the Christian to remember the sacrifice of Christ. If you have not yet believed in Christ as Savior, we invite you to watch and learn. We are glad you are here! If you have questions about Jesus, please see Pastor Scott after the worship service.

The bread we use is allergen free and contains no wheat, dairy, nuts or soy. However, it may contain egg.



God is Moving Mountains

Lost But Not Forgotten

Christians who irritate religious or political tyrants routinely end up jailed, dead, or disappeared/missing. Cases of missing Christians include: (1) a pastor and three elders arrested at a church in Burma's Chin State on Sunday 16 July 2023; (2) theologian and apologist Gratia Pello arrested and charged with blasphemy in Indonesia's East Java on 6 December 2022; (3) German Catholic priest 'Father Ha-Jo' abducted by Islamic jihadists in the Malian capital, Bamako, on Sunday 20 November 2022; (4) Catholic priest Father Père Joël Yougbaré abducted by Islamic jihadists in Burkina Faso's terrorist-infested north on Sunday 17 March 2019; (5) internationally acclaimed Chinese human rights lawyer and religious liberty champion, Gao Zhisheng, severely persecuted since 2006, missing since August 2017. ***Please pray***, for the sake of their loved ones that what has happened to them will come to light and that they will be returned to their families.

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

Servants for Sunday, January 14th

Greeters: Jerry & Faye **E-Street Taxi:** Doug S
Scripture Reader: Philip **Prayer Room:** Chuck
Cookies: Connie, Melissa, Winnie

Today's Offering

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

Sermon Outline

The Appearance of Hope: A Sermon of Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-12

I. Introduction

A. History of Epiphany

1. A Literal Etymology
2. A Proper Explanation
3. The Differences in the West and East

B. The Importance of Epiphany

1. Fulfillment of Prophecy (Isaiah 60:6, Isaiah 42:1-4)
2. Reflects the Importance of Our Relationship with Jesus
3. Represents the Grafting in of the Gentiles

II. The Three Kings

A. The Origin of their Understanding

1. Daniel's Prophetic Writings
2. Ancient astrology verses modern astrology
3. Revelation from God

B. The Outworking of their Understanding

1. They knew that the understanding they have ultimately came from God
2. They travel long and far to see Christ
3. They do not lose hope when they lose the star
4. They offer their gifts to Jesus
5. They trust in God, who revealed to them by a dream that they should go the other way

C. The Depth of their Understanding

1. Their Gifts show that they understand Jesus' mission: king, God, sacrifice
2. Jesus is King over the Gentiles (Daniel 7:13-14)
3. Jesus is the God of the Hebrews (John 8:58)
4. Jesus is the sacrifice for all (Ephesians 2:14-16)

III. What Epiphany Means to Us

- A. We are made part of God's story- we are made heirs with the Jewish people because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.
- B. Because we are made a part of God's story, we have joy, purpose, and hope
- C. Malcolm Guite's "A Poem for Epiphany"

Announcements

JANUARY SERIES SIMULCASTS COMING: The January Series of lectures and cultural arts is coming to Third CRC weekdays at 9:30 a.m. from Jan. 15 to Feb. 2. The award-winning simulcasts from Calvin University are free. Enter the church basement Gathering Room off Sixth Street at Liberty Street. This is the first week's schedule: Lerone Martin, Stanford professor and author, "Soul Force: The Challenge of Martin Luther King Jr." (Jan. 15); Dan Tepfer, pianist-composer, recorder, and performer, "From Bach to Natural Machines: Algorithms as the Shapers of Music" (Jan. 16); Robert George, director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton, "Religious Liberty and the Human Good" (Jan. 17, virtual presentation); Caroline Randall Williams, poet, young adult novelist, and cookbook author, "Soul Food and the Collective Cultural Memory" (Jan. 18); Matthew Desmond, sociologist, author and founder of Eviction Lab at Princeton, "Poverty, By America" (Jan. 19).

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.

WEEKDAY AFTERNOON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Christian Health Care Center residents need friendly, fun people to help them with crafts, bingo, and other life-enriching activities. Even one hour per week would be great. Call Michele at (360) 354-4434 or visit the website chccllynden.org/about/volunteering to learn more.

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)

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

712 East Sunset Drive, Bellingham, Washington 98225

(360) 733-6177

Email info@hopeinchristchurch.org

Website hopeinchristchurch.org