



HOPE^{IN}CHRIST
CHURCH

A Christian Reformed Church

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

TODAY'S MESSAGE

A Donkey's Dentures

Judges 15

JANUARY 11, 2026

Pastor Scott Roberts

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

Almighty

Welcome

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:8-15

Psalm 62

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

How High and How Wide

Confession and Assurance

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

Prayer

Judges 15, Reader - Chidubem

Sermon: A Donkey's Dentures

Ancient of Days

Benediction

Our God Will Go Before Us



Today's Offering is for the General Fund.
There is a collection basket next to the sound booth.



God is Moving Mountains

Brunei is a Muslim-majority nation under the rule of a dynastic sultan and Islamic law. There are fewer than 20 registered churches in Brunei and few opportunities for Bruneians to hear the gospel. While oil wealth has ensured that few people lack in material needs, spiritual needs are great. Despite the risks, a few bold evangelists and missionaries continue to bring the light of the gospel to this dark land.

The government is the main persecutor of Christians. Islamic education is required for children. Bibles in Malay, the country's official language, are illegal and are confiscated if discovered. No bookstores in Brunei sell Bibles.

Almost 80 percent of Bruneians are Sunni Muslims, and nearly all of the 9 percent who are Christians are ethnically Chinese.

While some historic churches exist in Brunei, no new church buildings are allowed. Churches are often afraid to reach out to Muslims because they are monitored closely by the religious police. Even inviting a Muslim to a Christmas celebration would be problematic. The penalty for evangelizing Muslims is a \$15,000 fine, up to five years in prison or both. Nevertheless, several Bruneians have been baptized.

How to Pray:

1. Pray that Christian youth will receive discipleship at home and church.
2. Pray that Bruneian Christians will seize opportunities to share the gospel in their daily relationships.
3. Praise God for Bruneians who have come to faith in Christ despite harsh restrictions.

For More Information Visit:

[https://www.persecution.com/globalprayerguide/brunei/?
_source_code=WBPGGPG20B](https://www.persecution.com/globalprayerguide/brunei/?_source_code=WBPGGPG20B)

Sermon Outline
A Donkey's Dentures
Judges 15

I. Humor of the text

A. Folly of the Philistines (Judg 14:18-20, 15:4-20, 16:2-3, 19-20)

B. A donkey's jawbone as the weapon of choice for a Nazirite
(Judg 16:15)

C. Hebrew for *donkey* and *heap* are spelled the same

D. God has a sense of humor (Judg 3:12-30, 1Kings 18:27,
Isa 44:14-17)

II. Practical lessons

A. Revenge cycles never stop (Mt 5:44-45, Rom 12:19)

B. Don't get used to the enemy ruling over you (Judg 15:11)

1. Spiritual oppression and enemies should not be a normal and
expected part of our life (2Tim 1:7, Gal 5:22-23)

2. We have a king who is victorious (Rev 19:16)

C. When the Spirit comes, anything is possible (Judg 15:14-15)

D. Your life comes from God - you are dependent on him
(Judg 15:18-19, Mt 4:4)

III. Christological Reading

A. As Samson went back to his wife, so Jesus is always coming for his bride who has ploughed with others (Judg 14:18, Jn 14:2-3)

B. Jesus is the avenger of injustice and he uses extreme measures to defeat the enemy (Phil 2:8, Rev 19-20)

C. Jesus was bound by his own people and handed over
(Mt 26:53, 27:2)

D. Jesus was dependent on the Father to sustain him when death seemed imminent (Mt 26:42, Lk 23:46)

Announcements

PRAYER PARTNERS: If you're both present, take time after the service to connect with your prayer partner while enjoying some coffee or juice and cookies together.

PASTOR APPRECIATION: This month, we are celebrating Pastors' Appreciation Month! We are incredibly blessed to be shepherded by Pastor Scott, along with Pastor Mitch and Pastor Don, and very grateful for their faithful, godly service to Hope In Christ Church. We highly encourage you to make special mention of them in your prayers of thanksgiving this month, and also encourage you to tell them in person or write them a note to let them know how much you appreciate them!

CRAFTING WITH DARLYS: Darlys is hosting 'Crafting with Friends' on Saturday, January 17 from 8am—10pm. Come join her in the foyer. Turn fun crafting ideas into reality while enjoying time with others.

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS IN GREECE: Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (3 days) on April 3-13 to sites in Greece connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of archaeological, biblical, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more info, contact Weima at (616) 328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

Hospitality for Sunday, January 18, 2025

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Provide: Needed | Set up: Needed |
| Serve: Needed | Clean up: Jerry, Faye |

Servants for Sunday, January 18, 2025

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Greeters: Jerry, Faye | Scripture Reader: Chidubem |
| Foyer Monitor: Rachel | Prayer Room: Needed |

Council Members and Districts

Council President: Dan Obbink (360-393-5170)

Elder Chairperson: David Richards (360-961-0459)

Deacon Chairperson: Jenn Boer (360-820-6164)

District - Last name A to C

Elder: Glen Hendricks (616-581-9055)

Deacon: Barb Zylstra (360-927-3583)

District - Last name D to Ka

Elder: Jay Kaemingk (360-319-4671)

Deacon: Darlys Recker (509-833-8357)

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 Ruiter (360-398-0101)

Deacon: Hildred Abee (385-229-2121)

District - Last name S to Z

Elder: Dan Obbink (360-393-5170)

Deacon: Jenn Boer (360-820-6164)

District - Council Members

Pastor Scott Roberts (360-733-6177)

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 (360-920-8123)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thurs: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



BULLETIN DEADLINE

All bulletin items are due on Wednesdays at noon.



HOPE IN CHRIST CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

710 East Sunset Drive, Bellingham, Washington 98225

(360) 733-6177

Email info@hopeinchristchurch.org

Website hopeinchristchurch.org