



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**

*Creation, Fall, Redemption*

***Genesis 1:1-5***

**MAY 17, 2026**

Pastor Mitchell Senti

## ***Welcome!***

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

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## ***Order of Worship***

*How Great Thou Art*

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

*The First Place*

*This is My Father's World*

**Confession & Assurance**

*You Alone Can Rescue*

**Prayer**

**Genesis 1:1-5**

**Sermon: Creation, Fall, Redemption**

*His Glory and My Good*

**Benediction**

*To God Be the Glory*

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

Sermon Outline  
**Creation, Fall, Redemption**  
*Genesis 1:1-5*

1. Creation

2. Mankind fell from God's design

3. Redemption comes through Christ

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

“[My Father] said, ‘I cannot stop you from reading your Bible, but if you become a Christian, I will be the one to kill you.’” ‘Aweis’ is a Christian from Somalia who serves the Somali church across the horn of Africa. At one point, he was part of an underground church, but only two members remain. The rest have been martyred.

Christians in Somalia live in one of the harshest environments in the world, a place where openly following Jesus is impossible. Christians often fall victim to both ideological targeting and the collateral damage of a criminalized war economy. In Somalia as a whole, it is illegal to convert from Islam to Christianity under the 2012 Provisional Constitution. Sharia law is upheld in all regions and this, coupled with social and clan pressure, forces Christians to practice their faith in secret and isolation. Conversion to a different religion is seen as betrayal and a dishonoring of country, clan and family. This can lead to violence, being disowned by family, and even execution, often by family members. Christians have no legal protection. Officials participate in or condone surveillance, harassment and intimidation – creating an environment where Christianity is criminalized.

The militant extremist group Al-Shabaab has grown in dominance in certain areas due to a worsening political and security situation. This group wishes to eradicate Christianity and openly executes anyone suspected of being a Christian.

Christians are vulnerable even in areas under the Somali federal government (as well as in the northern, semi-autonomous regions), where Islam is the sole legal religion. Believers in these areas face widespread social hostility and surveillance, and are legally forbidden from converting, worshipping or sharing their faith.

### **How to Pray:**

1. Lord, we pray that the small number of believers would find shelter and safety in the arms of Jesus.
2. Lord, we pray that Somali believers would know they aren't alone, even if they are forced to worship in secret.
3. Father, we pray that your Spirit would minister to the Somali's who are traumatized, and bring healing to their minds and spirits.

### **For More Information Visit:**

<https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/persecution/countries/somalia/>

## ***Announcements***

**ELDER/DEACON REPLACEMENTS:** Last Sunday the following members names were drawn by lot to become our new elder and deacons. For Elder: Brian Koning; and for Deacon: Rockelle Ruiter and Chidubem Uchefuna. We give thanks to Mark Ruiter for his service as Elder, and to Barb Zylstra and Philip Bergman for their service as Deacons. Ordination of our new office bearers will take place on Sunday, June 7.

**OFFICE CLOSED:** Tanya will not be in the office May 20-26.

**EMAIL UPDATE:** An increasing number of people are having church emails delivered to their spam/junk folder. Efforts to resolve this issue have not produced adequate improvement, therefore it's been decided to set up the Alternate Sending feature available through our Breeze database software. Church email addresses sent via Breeze will now end with "...@mail.breezechms.com." Replies to these emails will still go directly to the sender (ie. Info@hopeinchristchurch.org).

**PRAY FOR SYNOD 2026:** Please pray with CRC members, leaders, and friends for God's presence and guidance for the CRC and this year's Synod 26 gathering, which runs from June 12 to 18. Learn more and find prayer resources at [network.crcna.org/topic/spiritual-formation/prayer/40-days-prayer-synod-2026](https://network.crcna.org/topic/spiritual-formation/prayer/40-days-prayer-synod-2026), including a link to sign up to receive daily e-mails with prayers written by people from across the denomination.

**BCHS THEATER PRODUCTION:** Come support Evan, Brenna and the rest of the crew at BCHS as they perform "Little Women: The Musical." This event will take place in the Cordata Presbyterian Church gym (400 Meadowbrook Ct.) on May 21 & 22 from 7:00—9:30pm. General admission tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/little-women-the-musical-2>

### ***Hospitality for Sunday, May 24, 2026***

**Provide:** Needed

**Set-up:** Needed

**Serve:** Needed

**Clean-up:** Needed

### ***Servants for Sunday, May 24, 2026***

**Greeters:** Darryl

**Scripture Reader:** Needed

**Foyer Monitor:** Clair

**Prayer Room:** Needed

## HOPE IN CHRIST CHURCH

710 East Sunset Drive, Bellingham, Washington 98225

(360) 733-6177

info@hopeinchristchurch.org

www.hopeinchristchurch.org

**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday, 10am - 3pm

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

**Council President:** Dan Obbink (360-393-5171)

**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 Ruiten (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 Mitchell Senti (360-392-0289)

**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)