

Good morning,



There were strange clouds in the sky over Departure Bay this morning (*first picture*). Atmospheric conditions shift and change and the clouds tell their own story as they roll in and roll out. From the time we closed public worship on March 17, 2020 until we opened again for worship on March 20, 2022, I spent many mornings sitting in front of the big windows in the sanctuary. I set up a small table and light with my laptop and phone handy for my alternate office upstairs. Being a morning person, I watched dawn break and the sky change for about 500 days. We all went through a lot of fear, anxiety and trouble during those years as the clouds came and went. We were traumatized and prayed for ourselves, the sick, hospital staff and scientists. We said "*The Lord is with us,*" and tried to encourage each other as we wrestled with worry. The cloud pattern this morning reminded me of so many of those mornings I photographed (*second picture*).

The lyrics of an old hymn by Isaac Watts (#632, vss 1,2,5,6 in our hymnal) are running through my memory. They were they reflect his thoughts on Psalm 90:

***O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.***

*A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.  
Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.  
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.*

The point of this recollection is that time, like an ever rolling stream, bore those years I spoke of away, they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day. We were scared. We had losses. We found each other in new ways and we got through. The Lord was with us and remains our hope for years to come. We are not alone. We still have each other and the Lord has us. For that I am **thankful**. Who else in your life needs a hopeful reminder?

Jesus adds in *Matthew 28:20*, "I am with you always, to the end of the age"

+

Coming up at Hope:

Oct 9 @ 1:00 p.m. *Mission and Witness Committee* meeting

Oct 10 @ 10:00 a.m. *Hymn Sing* on Zoom

Oct 11 @ 8:30 a.m. *Men's Group* in person and on Zoom

Oct 11 @ 9:00 a.m. - Noon. *Hope Quilters*

Oct 11 @ 10:15 a.m. *Hope Men's Chorus* practice

Oct 12 @ 9:30 a.m. *Council Executive* meeting

Oct 13 @ 10:00 a.m. *Thanksgiving Sunday Worship* (Zoom opens at 9:30 a.m.)

Oct 14 *Thanksgiving Monday*

The *Sunday service* and *Invitation to Zoom* will appear in your email as usual on Saturday morning.

The Lord is with us.

Pastor Terry

