

SERMON NOTES:

Passage: John 15 :1-17 Sermon Title: The Way to Abide

ALLEN AVENUE
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH



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PASTOR MARK HOFMAN
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM
APRIL 14, 2024

Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

Sunday, April 14, 2024 -- Pastor Mark Hofman

We Gather to Worship

Prelude *I am the Vine* (Ken Medema)

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Quiet (Matthew 28:8-10)

So, the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Call to Worship

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,

People: bless his holy name.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

People: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

Leader: who redeems your life from the pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

People: who satisfies you with good as long as you live

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

—Psalm 103:1-5, NRSV

*Opening Songs of Praise *O Come, My Soul, Sing Praise to God* LUYH 672:1,2
Ten Thousand Reasons LUYH 559

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

We Are Renewed in God's Grace

Call to Confession ~ Matthew 22:34-40

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Leader: Lord, you said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

People: Forgive us our lukewarm love and our disobedience.

Leader: Lord, you said, "You may ask for anything in my name."

People: Forgive us when we think we need to solve our own problems.

Leader: Lord, you said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

People: We confess that our lives are often consumed by worry & anxiety.

Leader: Lord, you said, "If you remain in me & I in you, you will bear much fruit."

People: Apart from you, Lord, we can do nothing.

Leader: Lord, you said, "Love each other as I have loved you."

People: Help us, Lord, to love one another as you have loved us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Song *You Shall Love the Lord* LUYH 724

Children's Blessing: The Lord loves you. He promises to go with you. Praise him for being so good. May he bless you as you worship him.

Prayers of the People Pastor Mark

God Speaks To Us

*Song of Preparation *Be Still for the Presence* LUYH 532

Scripture Passage John 15 :1-17
(Leader: "This is the Word of the Lord." **People: "Thanks be to God."**)

Message The Way to Abide

Prayer of Application

Sung Response *I Am the Vine*

We Are Sent Out

Our Offerings: General Fund
*[offerings may be given online at allenavechurch.org
or in the baskets at each entrance]*

*Song

*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song of Praise *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen* LUYH 205:1,3

*Postlude

We Live to B.L.E.S.S.

Believe. Love. Evangelize.

Support Christian Education. Serve.



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

4/14: Nursery: Renee Vlasma & Addie Maat

Coffee Fellowship: Randy & Becki Fisher

4/21: Nursery: Laurie DeJonge & Kristen Vlasma

Coffee Fellowship: Jim & Barb Malda

4/28: Nursery: Charry Snyder & Deb Anderson

Coffee Fellowship: Steve & Nancy Rop

5/5: Nursery: Lis Miedema & Karen Alphenaar

Coffee Fellowship: Russ & Deb Vlasma



ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES

***Pray for the * Missionary this Week**

Stephan and Alicia Lutz – Kenya

Rev. Jerry An – Back to God Ministries

Angel Community Church – Muskegon

Paul & Charlotte Mpindi – Mission French Africa

***Charles & Hensel Oh – Philippines**



ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

*Joann Deitz	Wilma Doctor	Jim Doornbos
Vicky Fisher	Lois Grinwis	Joel Stefanits
Betty TenBrink	Ro Verheul	June Walcott

*Please send a card to “**Care List Member**” **Joann Deitz!**
1350 W. Hackley Ave., Apt. 105, Muskegon, MI 49441

Dear Beloved Care Members,

You are so loved. More than you'll ever know.

Adored. Respected. Wanted. Worthy.

Pursued by the One who breathed the stars into existence.

Remember that today and always!

WELCOME TO ALLEN AVENUE CRC

A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Our Guests, Members!

We are rejoicing that you have come to join us in worship this Sunday as we celebrate & serve our Risen Savior! Please join us downstairs after the morning service to enjoy fellowship together over a cup of coffee and a sweet treat!

CRC DENOMINATION & AACRC COUNCIL NEWS

April 14, 2024, is Abuse Awareness Sunday in the CRC. The theme for this year's Abuse Awareness Sunday is *Safe People. Safe Congregations.* Often, when we think of abuse prevention, our minds go to policies and background checks and hall monitors. While these are all important strategies for abuse prevention, this year we invite people in CRC congregations to reflect on how they might contribute to a safe environment by being a safe person. Learn more and find resources at crcna.org/ChurchYear

Things to Do This Week: Pray for Our Council. Pray for vision, wisdom, leadership, steadfastness, and unity...for Brian Schuitema Sherrie Wolffis, Gabe Vlasma, Jean Botting, Pastor Mark, Judy Vaandering, Dave Miedema, Scott Schuitema, Charry Snyder, Barb Malda, Mary Kortman, Amber Johnson, & Nate Schout. Heartfelt thanks for serving and leading our church at this very important time in history...may you find “joy in your journey” on our council!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Ladies Bible Study: We will be meeting on April 18, to discuss Chapters 26-40. Our final gathering will be on Thursday, May 2, at 11:30 at Whitlow's for our luncheon. All ladies from the church are warmly welcomed to join us...looking forward to spending these times together as sisters in Christ!

The deadline for The Allen AveNews is Sunday, April 21. Please get all your newsworthy items to Sandy Volkers by then.

Looking for a great reason to get outdoors, boost your exercise routine, and help the local environment? Unity Reformed Church is organizing a run-walk, half-marathon/5K in Montague on Saturday May 4. Check out: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Montague/RedeemMiRun> Proceeds will go to re-wilding land previously used by the city for waste. What a great way to give back, get outdoors, and rejoice in God's good creation!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Muskegon Christian School has been very blessed with members from AACRC watching staff kids during Monday staff meetings/faith integration training. **Only TWO slots to fill...we are almost there! Need volunteers** on the following dates from 2:50-4:30pm: May 6 and 13.



Western Michigan Christian MS/HS is nearing the end a visioning process for a long-range infra-structure plan for the school and all of its many facets; including, but not limited

to, the school building and property. Objectives have been prioritized, creative minds have stirred, pen has been put to paper, and models are being built. All of this coming together with a common goal in mind that includes a realistic, achievable vision for WMC over the next 10+ years. **The Vision Team is planning on a full presentation to the WMC community in collaboration with our spring Community Forum on April 17, at 6:00pm in the Big Room at WMC.** On that night you will see what WMC can become as we move forward to educate with excellence, integrate faith with knowledge, and equip students to work and serve Christ in their communities.

Gospel Choir Concert - Join Calvin University's Gospel Choir in their spring concert! It will be an afternoon of worship and praise! The program will take place on Sunday, April 14, at 4:00 pm in the Covenant Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

Nature Challenge - One of the best ways to know our Creator better is to know the creation better. On April 28, 2:00-4:00pm, join with neighbors from around west Michigan to discover and record native plants and wildlife, in the City Nature Challenge at the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve and Native Gardens. No expertise required! Refreshments provided. This is free event.

Summer Camps at Calvin - Make the most of summer! Calvin University offers a variety of camps for kids and youth, ages 4-18, designed to help bridge the gap between school years -- while learning and having fun! Choose from camps themed on chemistry, health, music, nature, and sports. Learn more and register at calvin.edu/offices-services/camps/

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

We pray for parents, students, teachers, and all those in education both at Allen Avenue and in private and public schools: **Our Students:** Simon, Nora, Serenity, Yeabsira, Tekalegn, Maelin, Tayla, Taylor, Danny, Luke, Addy, Joel, Kayla, Devin, Asher, August, Aethan, Emily, Lily, Jessica, Molly. **Our Teachers and Principals:** MCS -Nate Schout, Lis Miedema WMC-Chris Ruiters, Dave Miedema Fruitport Public Schools (PE) - Becky Schout

Karen Alphenaar gives praises to God that her sister Kathy's cancer has all been removed. Both the colon and the urology surgeons feel they were able to get everything. The colon oncologist recommended preventative chemotherapy, but the urology oncologist was not recommending any treatment. Kathy has decided to take a natural approach at this time. She has healed from both surgeries and has such a positive attitude and knows that God is in control. She thanks the congregation so much for all of our prayers throughout this journey.

Carol Dirkse gives thanks that her grandson Kyle, wife Natalie, and great grandson Leo returned safely from a wonderful vacation at Disney World.

Warmest congrats to **John and Mary Kortman** with the birth of a healthy baby boy on Wednesday, April 10! **Walter "Wally" Beckman** arrived safely with lots of red hair! Mom Bethany and Baby Wally are doing great...thank you, Jesus!

Randy and Becki Fisher ask for prayers for their good friend **Chris** who has been diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer and is in hospice care. Chris asks for a peaceful homegoing & that his family would be OK without him here on earth.

Thanks for the safe return of all our Spring Breakers! We are grateful that God allows his people to travel, relax, explore, reconnect, unwind, and take sabbaticals from our everyday lives. Remember to savor the memories.



What a wonderful Creator we serve and the reminder on Monday with the eclipse that He is the God of the universe and has all things in His Control! "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaim His handiwork." --Psalm 19:1