

SERMON NOTES:

Passage: Psalm 88 **Sermon Title:** Looking for Light in the Dark

ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



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PASTOR MARK HOFMAN
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM
NOVEMBER 5, 2023

"Come...Now is the Time to Worship"

Pastor Mark Hofman - Sunday, November 5, 2023

WELCOMED

Prelude

Invitation to Quiet

CALLED TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship (Psalm 104:1-3, 27-30, 33)

Leader: Praise the Lord, my soul. Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

All: The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.

Leader: All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

All: When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

Leader: I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live!

*Song of Praise *God of Wonders* LUYH 4

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

*Call to Confession (Psalm 139:1-12)

All: You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too

lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Hymn of Penitence and Hope: *He Will Hold Me Fast* CCLI: #7016161

Assurance of Pardon: John 1:1-5, 9, 16

Children's Blessing (in unison):

Remember: God keeps his promises. He loves you, He cares for you, and He promises to be with you always.

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mark

GOD SPEAKS AND WE LISTEN

*Song of Preparation *Spirit of the Living God* LUYH 749

Scripture Passage: Psalm 88

(Leader: "This is the Word of the Lord" **People: "Thanks be to God"**)

Message: Looking for Light in the Dark

Prayer of Application

Sung Response: *Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul*

Offerings: General Fund & World Renew [offerings may be given online at allenavechurch.org or placed in the baskets at each entrance]

SENT OUT

*Song *Here I Am to Worship* LUYH 567:1

*God's Parting Blessing

*Song *Here I Am to Worship* LUYH 567:2

*Postlude

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

Believe. Love. Evangelize.

Support Christian Education. Serve.



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

- 11/5: Nursery: Emily Snyder & Lily
Coffee Fellowship: Jim & Barb Malda
- 11/12: Nursery: Toni Schuitema & Becki Fisher
Coffee Fellowship: Phil & Charry Snyder
- 11/19: Nursery: Charry Snyder & Addie Maat
Coffee Fellowship: Scott & Toni Schuitema
- 11/26: Nursery: Karen Alphenaar & Mary Maat
Coffee Fellowship: ???



ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES

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

***Stephan and Alicia – Kenya**

- Rev. Jerry – Back to God Ministries
Angel Community Church – Muskegon
Zuni Christian School – Zuni, New Mexico
Eric and Judith – Western Asia
Paul & Charlotte – Mission French Africa



ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

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

*Send “**Care List Member**” **Pearl Kitchen** a card this week!
Robbinswood-Northcrest Campus, 2650 Ruddiman Dr., Muskegon 49445

We love and pray for all the families on our care list and for their care givers who so lovingly serve and help them...Bless them! Amen.

WELCOME TO ALLEN AVENUE CRC

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

We are rejoicing that you have come to join us in worshipping our amazing Lord and Savior today! After the worship service, please join us downstairs for a time of refreshments and conversation and living life together here & now!

CRC DENOMINATION & AACRC COUNCIL NEWS

The Full Council met on October 18, and proposed the following calendar:

November 5 – Preliminary vote on nominations and the budget is distributed after the morning service (members only).

November 19 – Town Hall meeting for discussion after the morning service.

November 26 – Congregational meeting after the morning service to draw names for Elder & Deacon and vote on the budget.

December 13 – Council meeting to elect officers.

Elder nominations:

Mary Kortman
Barb Malda
Steve Rop
Sue Sytsema

Deacon Nominations:

Deb Anderson
Laurie DeJonge
Becki Fisher
Amber Johnson
Denise Koetje
Nate Schout
Cam Vlasma
Ron Vlasma

***There will not be an
Ingathering at the Thanks-
giving Eve Service on 11/22.

The special offering for this Sunday, November 5, will be for World Renew.

Hunger for a World Where Hunger Does Not Exist! - No child should know the pain of hunger. Together, we hunger for a world where hunger does not exist! This week is World Hunger Sunday and through our gifts, we can help World Renew equip communities with the knowledge and resources they need to change the story of hunger.

Pray for our Council - for vision, wisdom, leadership, steadfastness, and unity...for Brian Schuitema, Bob Vanderlaan, Sherrie Wolffis, Stan Rop, Gabe Vlasma, Kelly Dauser, Karen Alphenaar, Jean Botting, Pastor Mark, Judy Vaandering, Dave Miedema, Scott Schuitema, and Charry Snyder.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

ADVANCE NOTICE: Mike Miller, director for Love INC, will be giving a presentation and updating us on what Love INC is doing. Please plan to stick around after the service on November 12 to hear what he has to say.

GEMS will meet in the church basement this Wednesday, November 8, 6:00-8:00pm. Tonight, we will be collecting the Operation Christmas Child shoebox items so be sure to bring those with you along with your Bible. Missed you last week! Hope to see you on the 8th and again on the 15th!

Thanks so much to those of you who have already taken tags for items for the shoeboxes. There are still tags for the OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD shoeboxes on the table in the basement of church, so if you haven't had the chance to get some, please do so TODAY. Purchased items need to be brought to church by next week SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5. The GEMS will be putting 25 shoeboxes together when they meet on Nov. 15 and then getting them out in the mail the next day. If you'd like to help but don't want to shop, you can donate towards the shipping costs of the shoeboxes. See Jill if you're interested in helping in that way. Thank you again for being such a vital part of this service project. Please pray already for those who will be distributing the shoeboxes and for the children who will be receiving them. May God's Kingdom grow!!

Ladies, you are invited! We are having another exciting craft afternoon at AACRC in the lower level. Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 2 at 2:00. We will be making Names of Jesus Christmas ornaments. Details to come. Be sure to invite your friends. Please sign up by November 26. Signup sheet is by the cookie window.

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece (May 31 - June 11, 2024): Travel by motor coach (7 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at weimje@calvinseminary.edu or [616-328-3110](tel:616-328-3110).

I am giving away my late husband's Yamaha Grand GC1 to a passionate instrument lover. If you know of a fellow teacher, student, family or a church that might be interested, please forward this information to them:
Elizabeth Lozano Tel: (714)332-5677 elizabethlozano2800@gmail.com



PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

PARTNERS in Prayer –May each child/student be enriched through this ministry. May you come to know the love of God through prayer for each other.

-Marie (from Dibs) reports her niece Princess (5-years-old) is back home. She is on medication for a kidney infection and continues to receive chemotherapy for leukemia. Also, Marie's brother Chris was just diagnosed with cancer in his throat, lungs, and stomach. He is a single father raising his 14-year-old son and a 9-year-old daughter. Please pray for these families!! --**Jill Schuitema**

-Prayers for all those in our congregation and around our city who experienced damage or loss of electricity and internet after the winter storm.

-I had a tree split and it landed on my house. PTL it could have been worse. I'm working with insurance to file the damages report. I feel blessed...prayers work. --**Denise Koetje**

-Prayers for my friend, Michelle, whose mom, Marsha, had a stroke and is in rehab. --**Sherrie Wolffis**

-Thanks to all who traveled to watch WMC's soccer team as they played and won the state semifinals on Wednesday evening!!! CONGRATS to Tekalegn Vlasma for scoring all three goals! Great teamwork! -- **Deb Vlasma**

-Sandy Volkers' heart ablation went well on 10/31, and she is home recovering.

-Wilma Doctor will be having an angiogram on her brain in November. She has had these before but asks for our prayers for peace for her and Ken.

-John Baker has a new place to "hang his hat," and we trust you will be very happy in this home! Blessings, John! Please note his updated address:
17283 Rosy Mound Lane, Apt. 216, Grand Haven, MI 49417, 231.955.7741.