

*(Order of Worship continued...)*

Leader: Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.

***People: Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.***

\*Song                      *In Sweet Communion, Lord, with You*                      LUYH 346:1-4

Scripture :                      Matthew 5 :3-12                      Pew Bible Page 1501

Leader: "This is the Word of the Lord."

***People: "Thanks be to God***

Message                      "Oh How He Loves Me"

Prayer of Application

\*Song of Response                      *Blest Are They*                      LUYH 117

***We Are Sent Out***

Offerings ~ Allen Avenue CRC General Fund

*[offerings may be given online at [allenavechurch.org](http://allenavechurch.org)  
or in the baskets at each entrance]*

\*God's Parting Blessing

\*Parting Song of Praise                      *We Receive Your Blessing*                      LUYH 947

\*Postlude

# *ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH*



***PASTOR MARK HOFMAN  
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 30, 2025  
WORSHIP 10:00AM***

## ***Come...Now is the Time to Worship!***

4th Sunday of Lent--March 30, 2025

Pastor Mark Hofman

### ***We Gather to Worship***

Prelude ~ The Beatitudes (Sweet Honey in the Rock)

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship (Galatians 2:20)

Leader: I have been crucified with Christ

**All: and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.**

Leader: The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God,

**All: who loved me and gave himself for me.**

\*Song of Praise                      *Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me*                      (*City Alight*)

\*God's Greeting

\*We Greet One Another

### ***We Lament the Brokenness in Our World***

Call to Lament

Prayer of Lament

God of Sorrows, we cry holy for a God who is moved to tears when met with the conditions of this world. We are grateful that You are not a God who drags us out of our pain before we are ready - One who is not threatened by our tears but beholds them as holy. This day, help us to make space for a faithful examination of injustice, death, and decay in this world.

**People: We confess that we so often reduce salvation to the personal; let ours be a salvation tethered to the liberation of the world. And so form us into people who truly see the world, in all of its beauty and depravity. And when we find ourselves tempted to look away, steady us, that we may see with clarity our most desperate need for a Christ.**

*As we remember God hung from the cross, let us bear witness to oppression, famine, war, neglect, loss, exclusion, loneliness, grief—all suspended by sin itself—let us resolve to see and name it all. That we would daily apprehend the breach*

*between what we were created for and the distortion we see in the systems and powers of this world today. Let us grieve the chasm.*

**People: And as we allow ourselves to weep with You, let us hope with You in the coming restoration of all things. Glory to the One who met the cross with tears on His face. We look to You. Amen.**

Our Assurance -- God's Will For Our Lives ~ Phil 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

\*Song                                      *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*                                      LUYH 347

Scripture Reading ~ Matthew 5 :3-12                                      Pew Bible Page 1501

Children's Blessing:

**God is good. He loves you. He cares for you.  
He promises to be with you. Gladly worship him today.**

Prayers of the People                                      Pastor Mark

### ***God Speaks To Us***

Reading from Psalm 73

Leader: Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

**People: But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. <sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**

Leader: They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure <sup>7</sup> have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.

**People: If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.**



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

*Believe. Love. Evangelize.*

*Support Christian Instruction. Serve.*



## NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

3/30: Nursery: Amber Johnson & Maelin Vlasma  
Sunday School

Coffee Fellowship: Jim & Barb Malda

4/6: Nursery: Laurie DeJonge & Beth VanRees

Children's in Worship: Bob & Susan Vanderlaan

Coffee Fellowship: Mike & Marcia Breuker, Kelly Dauser

4/13: Nursery: Sue Sytsema & Tayla Vlasma

Sunday School

Coffee Fellowship: Ron Friday & Sandy Volkens

4/20: Nursery: Carol Peterman & Melissa Vlasma

Children in Worship:

Coffee Fellowship: Easter Continental Breakfast

## 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

- |                   |                        |                   |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Betty TenBrink | 4) Lois Grinwis        | 7) Joel Stefanits |
| 2) June Walcott   | 5) Ro VerHeul          |                   |
| 3) Wilma Doctor   | 6) <b>Jim Doornbos</b> |                   |

\*Please call or send a card to "**Care List Member,**" **Jim!**

1900 Surrey Place, Apt. 11, Muskegon, MI 49442

*Psalms 71:17-19 – "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and grey hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come." We love our Care List Members!*



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

We are rejoicing that you have come to join us in worship this 4th Sunday of Lent. During Lent & Easter we will be hearing about how "Walking this Road to Joy Through Suffering" looks like the joy that was set before Jesus. He endured the cross for us, because He was willing to suffer for

our joy! After worship, please join us in the lower level for a time of gathering and conversation over a cup of coffee with the children of God at Allen Avenue!

## *COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS*

### **Holy Week Services:**

**Palm Sunday, April 13**—Chaplain Tom Walcott will lead us in worship. Special offering will be for World Renew.

**Good Friday Service and Potluck—Friday, April 18, at Celebration Church,** 1260 W. Sherman Blvd. The potluck will begin at 5:30PM. Bring a dish to share (but you don't have to!) to accompany the main dishes that will be provided. Pastor Mark will be delivering the message at the 6:30pm worship service.

**Easter Sunday Celebration, April 20**—Congregational Life Committee will be serving the Continental Breakfast from 9:00-9:45am followed by the Easter service for our Risen Savior & King! (If you would like to supply a breakfast casserole dish, please speak to Susan Vanderlaan.)

### **March Council Meeting Notes**

1. Building & Grounds committee reported that their painting project is nearly done. Bids for carpet are being reviewed.
2. Education Committee reported on plans for King's Kids VBS to be held in partnership with Angel Community Church at our location on July 14-18.
3. Council supported a recommendation from the Worship & Music Committee to join a Muskegon area Good Friday potluck and worship service hosted by Celebration CRC. There will be no Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services at our location.
4. Congregational Life reported on plans for brunch prior to our Easter Sunday worship.
5. Outreach Committee has extended the current pairings for messages and prayer between districts and missionaries through the month of April.
6. Members who wish to give individually toward current financial needs expressed by our missionaries should contact them directly.
7. Council meets again on April 23.

## COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

**If you haven't looked in the nursery, library, or Pastor's Office recently,** take a look at the hard work of many at Allen Avenue over the last few weeks. New paint and curtains, as well as some beautiful new decorations! A huge THANK YOU to the many who've been involved: Justin Wilson, Catherine (Wilson) Strauss, Bob & Susan Vanderlaan, John & Sue Sytsema, Laurie Slorf, Marcia Breuker, Lois VandenBosch, and others who've supported alongside. Another note of thanks for committee members who do so much behind the scenes to keep our church well maintained and lovely: Dave Bishop and the Building Committee, as well as Toni Schuitema and Sherrie Wolffis with the Decoration Committee. THANK YOU to all who give so much to Allen Avenue!!

**Forty Days of Prayer for Synod** - Join people from across the denomination and around the world for 40 days of prayer leading up to Synod 2025. Writers of different ages, abilities, backgrounds, and places, from CRC congregations and ministries have shared prayers on the theme, Journey With Jesus. Find resources and sign up at [crcna.org/synod/prayer](http://crcna.org/synod/prayer)

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**Wednesday, April 2, 6:00-8:00 GEMS** meet in the basement. We will be holding our GEMMIE auction so be sure you have this on your calendar!!

**Preliminary planning is underway for our fall mission trip!** This year, we're serving in Northwest Iowa to help repair flood damage from last year's storms. We'll be coordinating our efforts through Disaster Response Services (DRS).

### Trip Details:

- **Destination:** Northwest Iowa
- **Purpose:** Repairing flood damage from last year's storms
- **Coordination:** Disaster Response Services (DRS)
- **Possible Weeks:** Week of September 8th **or** September 15th
- **Cost:** Less than \$200 per person
- **Skill Requirements:** No special skills are needed—whether you're into cooking, cleaning, painting, carpentry, or any other area, we can match you with a suitable job!

If you are interested, have questions, or would like to sign up, please see Steve Rop or email at [rop.steven@gmail.com](mailto:rop.steven@gmail.com).

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**"CONNECT" Group:** Looking for a small group that's unique to your needs? Or trying to connect with others here at Allen Avenue? At a "CONNECT" Group Session, you will get acquainted with others and share your spiritual journey in an authentic, Biblical environment. "CONNECT" Group is an "in the moment"/ "come as you are" format to encourage relationship building while studying the Word of God together. It is a safe place to share and be cared for. Open to all ages 15 years old and older. Curious? Contact Denise Koetje 231-375-9417 or Charry Snyder 231-728-5170 for more information. We will begin to meet on Sunday, March 9, from 4-6pm. (At the time of this printing, Childcare is NOT available yet. Contact Denise for more updates.)

**The Outreach Committee, along with the Council, is encouraging each district member to reach out to a specific missionary during the months of March/April. Our March Missionaries are:**

District 1  
Jeffery Hough (Angel Community Church)  
1064 Wood Street  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
[pastorjah@angelcc.org](mailto:pastorjah@angelcc.org)

\*\*\*If you are unsure of your district, please see the lists on the bulletin board downstairs by the mailboxes.

**District 2**  
Eric and Judith Tuls (Operation Mobilization)  
817 Central Ave  
Spring Lake, Mi 49456  
Eric [eric.tuls@om.org](mailto:eric.tuls@om.org)  
Judith [judith.tuls@om.org](mailto:judith.tuls@om.org)

**District 3**  
Paul and Charlotte Mpindi (Mission French Africa)  
2221 Ridgewood Ave S.E.  
Grand Rapids, Mi 49546  
[contact@missionfrenchafrika.org](mailto:contact@missionfrenchafrika.org)  
Mission French Africa, P.O. 120191, Grand Rapids, Mi 49528-0104

**District 4**  
Charles and Hensel Oh (Resonate Global Mission)  
Best to use email because they are moving to Japan in July after 11 years in the Philippines  
[coh@crcna.org](mailto:coh@crcna.org)

## ***CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES***

**MCS is looking for “Grace-Filled Grannies and Grandads”** who are available during the school day hours 8:00am-3:10 pm to help out in our Early Childhood wing. Volunteers would be assisting with littles ranging from 18-months to age 5 as needed. Coverage is needed on short notice (day before or the morning of) to assist in a classroom and maintain staff ratio. Our challenge is when staff have sick children of their own or an appointment that comes up. A call would go out to volunteers, and the need would be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. Hours will vary based on needs and volunteer availability. Please talk to Nate Schout about this awesome opportunity to “Live to B.L.E.S.S.” in such a practical way!

## ***PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS***

**Emma Peklar** If you would like to send Emma a card of encouragement after her skiing accident and upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> surgery, here is her home address: Emma Peklar, 1296 Morningside, Muskegon, MI 49442.

Congratulations to **The Synder** family as they celebrate the engagement of **Devin & Annabell** ! We rejoice with this great news!

**Continue to pray for our Schools, Students, Parents, Teachers, Administrators:** (Lis, Dave, Becky, Nate & Chris), and all connected to ministering to our Children.

**MCS: Nate Schout**-For the Wonderful MCS Fifth Grader Devotionals-including our own Aethan! For the week and a half before break and the time after. For the decision to hold off creating a new kindergarten until another evaluation the following year.

**Travis & Jasmine Snyder** moved to Ohio for Travis' work. Here is their new address for your church directories: 1023 National Avenue, Toledo, OH 43609.

**June Walcott** passed away last Friday, March 21, after a fall. We are thankful she was able to have been visited by her many grandchildren and children before Jesus took her home. June was such a wonderful part of our lives at Allen Avenue and will be missed so much. We pray for God's comfort for all who grieve yet rejoice that she is home.

## ***PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS***

**Sally Mokma**-in the loss of her dear Mom. She offers prayers of gratefulness as well as sadness. “My Mom, Irma Mokma, went back to her Creator, Savior, and Comforter on Monday, March 24. She was 87 and had a serious hemorrhagic stroke on 3/23 and she remained unresponsive until her last peaceful breath.” Funeral services are planned for 11:00am Monday, March 31, at Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church, 14 W 14th St., Holland. Rev. Benj Petroelje will officiate. Burial will be in Beaverdam Cemetery. Visitation is scheduled for 2:00-4:00pm Sunday, March 30, at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E 16th St., Holland. Memorial contributions may be made to Holland Christian Schools and/or Muskegon Christian Schools. Condolences may be left online at [www.langelandsterenberg.com](http://www.langelandsterenberg.com).

**Craig Bytwerk (former member)** has asked to share that his brother Mark Bytwerk has been In Mercy ICU for the last month. He has had serious health issues, and a treatment plan is yet to be determined. Please pray for a successful and healing plan.

**Nate Schout's Father, Gary**-for completed treatments, for hospice presence, for his time left with us.

**Kay Lindsay's sister, Kathy Lindsay**, passed away after a very painful year of fighting cancer and having a large undiagnosed mass on her backbone. Kay said she, family and friends surrounded her as she passed. May God comfort them.

**Ron Friday and Sandy Volk**-as they travel home this week from Florida. Ron was in the ER last week and diagnoses with a hernia that needs surgery as soon as he returns home. Pray for safety as they drive, that the hernia does not get worse before his return. Praises for both Sandy and Ron as his daughter **Pam gave birth to a little girl Hazel Grace** this past week. Mom and baby are well. Thanks, also, that they were unharmed during the wildfires as they traveled in the FL Keys.

**Bob & Elaine Holwerda** give thanks for much healing for their daughter-in-law Karyn and for their estranged son Christian and his new wife McKenna who have taken small steps of reconciliation to them...pray for more progress & salvation.

Continue to lift **Jim & Sue Secord and Mike Fongers** up with their ongoing health concerns that make life tough and discouragement & weariness sets in.

## SERMON NOTES

Scripture : Matthew 5 :3-12 Pew Bible Page 1501

Leader: "This is the Word of the Lord."

***People: "Thanks be to God"***

Message "Oh How He Loves Me"