

SERMON NOTES:

Sermon : « The Joy Set Before Jesus » **Scripture :** Hebrews 12 :1-3

***ALLEN AVENUE
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH***



Contact Us:

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church
695 Allen Ave. Muskegon, MI 49442



(231) 722-6411



www.allenavechurch.org

pastor@allenavechurch.org



susan.vanderlaan@allenavechurch.org



***PASTOR MARK HOFMAN
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT - APRIL 6, 2025
WORSHIP 10:00AM***

Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

5th Sunday of Lent—April 6, 2025

Pastor Mark Hofman

We Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship (from Psalm 63)

Leader: You, God, are my God,

All: earnestly I seek you;

Leader: I thirst for you,

All: my whole being longs for you,

in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

All: I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.

Leader: Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

All: I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

*Songs of Praise *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* *LUYH 610*
Wonderful, Merciful Savior

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

We Are Renewed in God's Grace

Call to Confession ~ Hebrews 12:7-11

⁷Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God of compassion,

All: you are slow to anger and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts. Receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you.

Leader: Seat them at your bountiful table of grace, that, with all your children, they may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart.

All: We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Assurance

*Song *Cry of My Heart* *SNC 81*

Children's Message

Pastor Mark

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

Judy Vaandering

God Speaks To Us

*Song *May the Mind of Christ, My Savior* *LUYH 334:1,2,4,5*

Scripture Passage

Hebrews 12 :1-3

Pew Bible Page 1717

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

Message

« The Joy Set Before Jesus »

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response *Oh, to See the Dawn* *LUYH 177*

We Are Sent Out

Offerings ~ Allen Avenue CRC General Fund

*[offerings may be given online at allenavechurch.org
or in the baskets at each entrance]*

*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song of Dedication *Beneath the Cross* *LUYH 825:1,3*

*Postlude

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

*Believe. Love. Evangelize.
Support Christian Instruction. Serve.*



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

4/6: Nursery: Laurie DeJonge & Beth VanRees
Children in Worship: Amber Johnson & Susan Vanderlaan
Coffee Fellowship: Mike & Marcia Breuker, Kelly Dauser
4/13: Nursery: Sue Sytsema & Tayla Vlasma
Children in Worship: Barb Malda & Judy Vaandering
Coffee Fellowship: Ron Friday & Sandy Volkers
4/20: Nursery: Carol Peterman & Melissa Vlasma
Children in Worship: Stephanie Hofman & Courtney Vanderlaan
Coffee Fellowship: Easter Continental Breakfast – 9:00am-9:45am
4/27: Nursery: Amber Johnson & Maelin Vlasma
Sunday School
Coffee Fellowship: Jack & Laurie DeJonge

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
- 2) June Walcott
- 3) Wilma Doctor
- 4) Lois Grinwis
- 5) Ro VerHeul
- 6) Jim Doornbos
- 7) **Joel Stefanits**

*Please call or send a card to **"Care List Member," Joel!**
SKLD. 1061 W. Hackley Ave., Muskegon, MI 49441

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 5th 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.)

The special offering for Sunday, April 13, is for World Renew. World Renew is compelled by God's deep passion for justice and mercy, joining communities around the world to renew hope, reconcile lives, and restore creation.

Forty Days of Prayer for Synod - You're invited into 40 days of intentional, guided prayer leading up to Synod 2025. Echoing the Emmaus Road theme from Gather events, we hope to "Journey With Jesus" as we ask for God's guidance, with prayers written by a wide variety of CRC contributors. Learn more and sign up at crcna.org/synod/prayer for either daily Scripture and prayers OR a week's worth of Scripture and prayers that will be emailed to you. The 40 days of prayer will begin on Sunday, May 4.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

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.

"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.)

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!

Ladies Bible Study will meet Thursday, April 17, at 1:30pm, Chapter 6.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

We pray for **Jim Doornbos** as he is having difficulty swallowing and is having a scope of his esophagus on Friday. He would appreciate our prayers.

Mike Fongers had pneumonia this week. He also had testing done last week on his bladder and colon. May he find relief from pain and a good treatment plan.

Please continue to ask God to bring comfort to the **Walcott, Lindsay, and Mokma** families in the homegoing of their dearly loved ones. May He hold them close in the days ahead.

May God give **traveling mercies** to all who are going on Spring Break and that their time away will be filled with wonderful memories and relaxation with family.

Pray for upcoming surgeries for **Ron Friday** (hernia) and **Charry Snyder** (leg).

Please lift up our Council for great wisdom, unity, vision, and dedication.

Pastor: Mark Hofman

Officers: President: Jack DeJonge, Vice President: Scott Schuitema Clerk: Barb Malda, Assistant Clerk: Mary Kortman Treasurer: Amber Johnson Assistant Treasurer: Cam Vlasma

Elders: Jack DeJonge, Mary Kortman, Barb Malda, Scott Schuitema, Judy Vaandering, Susan Vanderlaan

Deacons: Amber Johnson, Nate Schout, Charry Snyder, Cam Vlasma, Russ Vlasma

OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS: WE LIVE TO B.L.E.S.S.

We are called by God to:

Believe – We Believe in One Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We Believe that the Bible is the true and inspired Word of God. Our belief is reinforced by our active, wholehearted worship as the body of Christ.

Love – We Love and care for one another in unity as the body of Christ. As children of God, we show and express that love to those around us.

Evangelize - We Evangelize by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with our neighbors, coworkers, friends, and those we meet. We support and participate in mission efforts locally, nationally, and across the globe.

Support – We Support Christian instruction of both adults and children, in the church, in the home, and in our Christian schools with our gifts, prayers, and time.

Serve - We Serve those around us with the compassion of Christ allowing opportunities to meet their physical and spiritual needs.