

**SERMON NOTES:**

**Scripture:** Matthew 13 :52-58    Pew Bible Page #1394

**Message:** "Hometown Treasure"

**ALLEN AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH**



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**Contact Us:**

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



(231) 722-6411



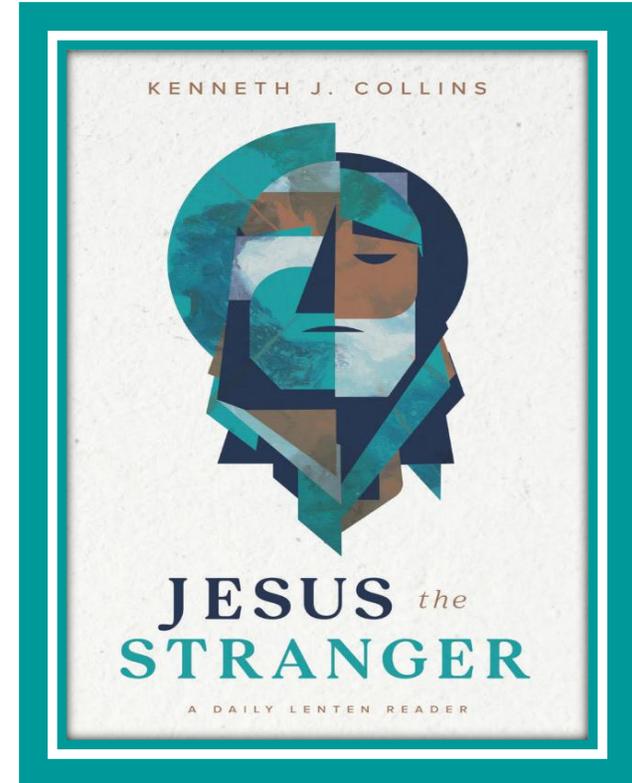
[www.allenavechurch.org](http://www.allenavechurch.org)



[pastor@allenavechurch.org](mailto:pastor@allenavechurch.org)

[susan.vanderlaan@allenavechurch.org](mailto:susan.vanderlaan@allenavechurch.org)

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**Pastor Mark Hofman**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 15, 2026--10:00am**

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent--March 15, 2026  
Pastor Mark Hofman

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude  
Welcome and Announcements  
Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship  
"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls."  
—Matthew 11:28-29, NIV

\*Opening Hymn of Praise      *Meekness and Majesty*      LUYH 157

\*God's Greeting

\*We Greet One Another

## RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

*Call to Confession — Isaiah 30:15, 18*

Leader: In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is God of justice.

**All: Blessed are all who wait for him!**

*Prayer of Confession*

Leader: Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon      Ephesians 5 8-14      Pew Bible Page #1668

\*Song      *We Are Called*      LUYH 296:1,2

*Children's Blessing*      **Jesus loves you.  
He suffered for you. He died on the cross for you.  
He paid the price of sin for you. May you worship him with thanksgiving.**

Prayers of the People      Susan Vanderlaan

## GOD SPEAKS TO US

\*Song of Preparation      *The Kingdom of Our God is Like*      LUYH 118:1,2,4

Scripture Passage      Matthew 13 :52-58      Pew Bible Page #1394  
Leader: "This is the Word of the Lord." **People: "Thanks be to God."**

Message      Hometown Treasure

Prayer of Application

Song of Response      *Lord, I Need You*

## WE ARE SENT OUT

Our Offerings      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 Are Called*      LUYH 296:3

\*Postlude

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

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



## NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



3/15: Nursery: Nancy Rop & Aethan Hofman  
Sunday School/**No** Catechism  
Coffee Fellowship: Randy & Becki Fisher  
3/22: Nursery: Becky Schout & Melisa Vlasma  
Children in Worship: Judy Vaandering & Deb Anderson  
Coffee Fellowship: **?????**  
3/29: Nursery: Amber Johnson & Maelin Vlasma  
Sunday School/Catechism  
Coffee Fellowship: Ron Friday & Sandy Volkers  
4/5: Nursery: Susan Vanderlaan & Beth VanRees  
Children in Worship: Laurie DeJonge and Carol Peterman  
Coffee Fellowship: Continental Easter Breakfast 9-10am

## ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES



***\*Pray for the \* Missionary this Week***  
***\*Eric & Judith Tuls – Operation Mobilization***

Rev. Jerry An – Back to God Ministries  
Pastor Jeffery Hough – Angel Community Church  
Paul & Charlotte Mpindi–Mission French Africa  
Charles & Hensel Oh – Japan



## ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

- 1) Betty TenBrink \*Please call or send a card
- 2) Ro VerHeul to Care List Member, Wilma!
- 3) Joel Stefanits 3637 Whispering Woods Dr.
- 4) **Wilma Doctor** Muskegon, MI 49444

***Dear Care List Members, This season is not wasted. Quiet moments can be powerful times for reflection, creativity, and connection with God and others in new ways. Hope is still alive. Even in stillness, life can surprise you with joy, beauty, and blessings. Remember today & always, you are loved!***

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



We are so blessed to have you worshiping with us on this fourth Sunday of Lent. During Lent at Allen Avenue, we'll be reading stories of Jesus in the Gospels where he encounters disciples, family members, fellow Jews and religious leaders who all fail to understand who he really, truly is – the Messiah. Our own ways of being familiar with Jesus will be challenged, so that we might once again meet him as he greets us. We'll be reminded that to follow him takes a willingness to bear our cross; to put the sin in our flesh to death (Romans 8:13). We will be invited to once again be led toward the grace and power of Jesus' death and resurrection. And when we encounter Jesus in his resurrection appearances, we will meet him once again as the God who makes himself known in Jesus' face (2 Cor. 4:6). Please join us downstairs after the service for a time of reconnecting with the family of God here at AACRC!

## COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

### **February Council Meeting Notes (Next Meeting Wednesday, March 25.)**

1. The Council feels grateful and blessed for all the support given by our church family as we hosted Classis Muskegon at our location.
2. A Maundy Thursday worship service is being planned for Holy Week.
3. The Congregational Life committee will provide a fellowship breakfast prior to our Easter worship service.
4. Angel Church will again partner with us to provide King's Kids VBS this summer. We will teach from the book of Acts using the theme "Spirit Power."
5. At her request, the membership of Courtney Vanderlaan has been lapsed, since she is currently an active member at Grace Church in Ann Arbor, a Reformed congregation that does not operate under a transfer of membership system. God bless you in your service for the Kingdom at Grace Church, Courtney!

**THRIVE Formation Tip:** The New Testament Gospels all include the account of a woman who interrupts a dinner party and pours out a precious perfume to anoint Jesus (Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-8). The disciples are offended at the intrusion. Jesus calls it a fitting tribute to his love, and a preparation for the way he will lay down his life. This week be mindful of incidents that interrupt your plans, or of individuals who intrude on your time and space. See each one as a divinely orchestrated opportunity to reorient your attention to the Savior who poured out his life for you.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**CONNECT small group** has started up again. We will meet every other week in the lounge off the kitchen from 11:30-12:30...see you on 3/15 & 3/29.

**GEMS** will meet on Wednesday, March 18, from 6:15-8:00pm in the church basement for a night of baking and badge completion.

### **Next Sunday, March 22, is the date for our annual GEMS BAKE SALE!!!**

Please come prepared to go home with some baked goods. We ask for a donation that will go directly to our GEMS program. Thank you so much for all your past support with this fundraiser and we thank you in advance for your support this year as well.

**Men's Bible study** will meet on Monday, March 23 at 6:15pm, Lesson 16.

**It's Allen Avenue's turn to assist the residents of Christian Care** with their worship and Lord's Supper on Wednesday, March 19, at 1:00pm. If you are able to serve with Pastor Mark, please talk to him today.

**Looking for AACRC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pamphlet**...was last seen in the library. If you know its whereabouts, please talk to Dave Bishop so he can return it to the rightful owner!

**Muskegon Christian School** has been very blessed with members from AACRC watching staff kids during Monday staff meetings and faith integration training. We are prayerfully looking for volunteers on the following dates from 2:50-4:30pm: April 13, and May 4 & 11.

**Ladies, You are Invited to Another Craft Lab Event!** Sign up to paint spring whimsical tulips on canvas! This is a beginner painting with step-by-step instructions. Join us April 4 in the lower level of church at 10:00am. Brushes, canvas, paints and refreshments will be provided. Cost is \$5.00 per person to cover expenses. Pay when you arrive. Sign up by March 29 or call Laurie Slorf 736-9240. Invite a friend!

**CRC Heritage Fund: Did you know you can give stocks to your favorite CRCNA Ministry?** - Did you know cash isn't the only way to give to CRC Ministries? You may be able to increase your potential impact— and experience significant tax benefits — by giving stock, real estate, or other non-cash assets. Email: [plannedgiving@crcna.org](mailto:plannedgiving@crcna.org) or call Josh Remer, CRCNA Planned Giving Advisor, at 616-223-5885. Learn more at [crcna.org/heritagefund](http://crcna.org/heritagefund)

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

I would like to thank everyone who has been praying for my dad, **Steve Rinks**. It has meant so much to all of us. He has completed radiation on his femur and will not be doing any more chemotherapy. Instead, he will do immunotherapy to build his immunity system back up. He is currently at home and feeling really well, and for this I am so grateful! Your prayers have not gone unnoticed! Thank you! **-Melisa Vlasma**

**Patti Steigenga** had surgery for her cancer removal on Monday, March 9, at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. Her doctors feel the surgery was very successful. She hopes to be home by this weekend followed by three rounds of chemo coming up. Patti and Kendall thank the congregation at Allen Avenue for their continued love and prayers. They were so felt and appreciated more than words can say! Thank you, God!

Continue to pray for **Jim Doornbos' family** as they mourn his loss but rejoice that he is now with his Heavenly Father. May God hold them all very close.

