

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: John 17
Message: Jesus Prays for Us

ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Contact Us:

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church
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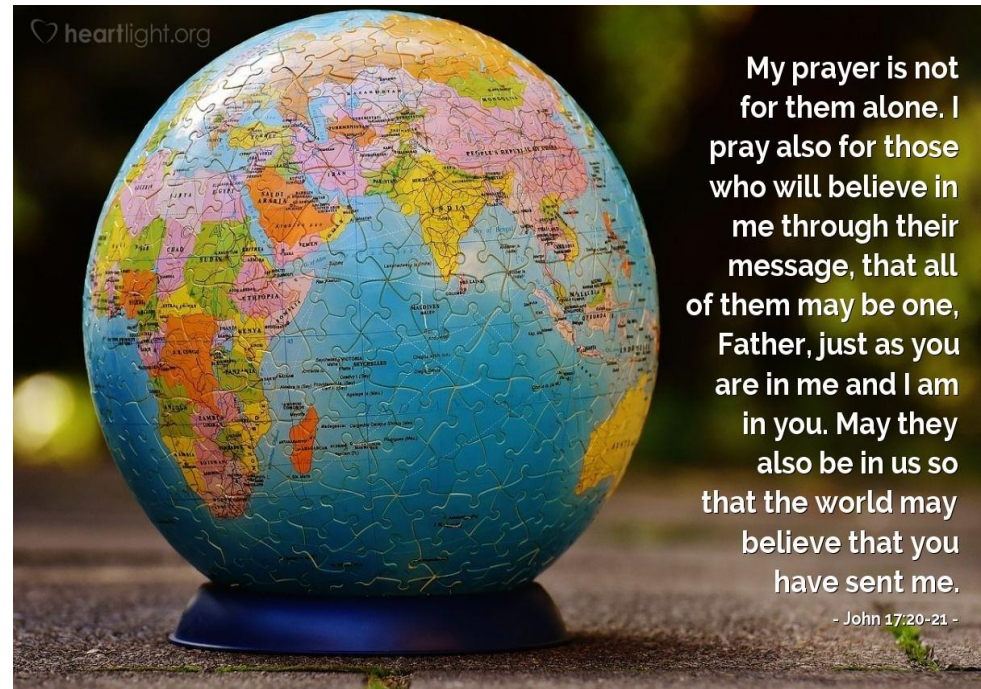
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My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

- John 17:20-21 -

**PASTOR STAN STURING
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 26, 2023**

Come...Now is the Time to Worship

1st Sunday of Lent

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship

Leader: O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

People: For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever.

—Romans 11:33, 36, NRSV

*Hymn of Praise *You Are My King (Amazing Love)* LUYH 360
 Worthy is the Lamb by Darlene Zschech

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

Reflection *The Prayers of Jesus/Go to Dark Gethsemane* LUYH 60/161

Reader 1: While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. ~Hebrews 5:7

Reader 2: "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. ~John 17:20-21

All Sing: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Reader 1: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help? Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer. Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief. ~Psalm 22:1-2

Reader 2: You are my rock and my fortress. For the honor of your name, lead me out of this danger.

I entrust my spirit into your hand. Rescue me, LORD, for you are a faithful God. ~Psalm 31:3,5

All Sing: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Reader 1: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. ~Matthew 11:25

Reader 2: I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people. ~ Psalm 22:22

All Sing: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Time of Prayer

Peg Rop via Video

Children's Blessing (in unison)

The Lord is good. He never stops loving you. Worship him with gladness. Come to him with thankful hearts. Go in joy and peace.

WE LISTEN TO GOD SPEAK

*Song of Preparation *O God, We Kneel Before Your Throne* LUYH 680

Scripture Passage John 17

« *The Word of the Lord* » « **Thanks be to God** »

Message: Jesus Prays for Us

Prayer of Application

WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE

*Song *As He Gathered at His Table* LUYH 155:1, 3-6

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

Offering: General Fund

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

*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song of Praise *Worthy is Christ* LUYH 605

*Postlude

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



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

- 02/26: Nursery: Carol Peterman and Becki Fisher
Coffee Fellowship: Rog & Laurie Slorf
- 03/05: Nursery: Sherrie Wolffis and Lily
Coffee Fellowship: Brian & Jill Schuitema
- 03/12: Nursery: Amber Johnson/Dale Johnson
Coffee Fellowship: Congregational Life
- 03/19: Nursery: Nancy Rop and Addy Maat
Coffee Fellowship: Phil & Charry Snyder

ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES



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



ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Nella B | Joann D | Wilma D | Jim D |
| Vicky F | Lois G | Pearl K | Joel S |
| Betty T | Ro V | June W | Tillie W |
| John W | | | |

-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 so glad you have come to join us in worship today! If you are visiting, please fill out the Welcome card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate as you leave the sanctuary. Join us in the Fellowship Hall in the lower level for a time of refreshments immediately following today's worship.

Live streaming of our worship service is slated to begin at 9:55am on Sunday morning. The live stream will be located under the videos section of the YouTube page. The worship videos will continue to be available as a recording if you are unable to watch the service live.

COUNCIL NEWS

The Installation Service for Pastor Mark Hofman will be Sunday, March 12.

A celebration dinner will follow the worship service. In order to provide the caterers with accurate numbers, the council is asking you to sign up on the clipboards by the coffee widow if you can join us on this very special day!

Today there will be a "partial" tour of our newly renovated parsonage for those of you that are interested. (Bedrooms and garage will be off-limits due to garage storage and cleanliness in the Hofman's bedrooms.) The tours will be held during the Coffee Fellowship time after worship. Be amazed!!!

A Letter from Pastor Mark Hofman:

Hello! I am writing to you from an echo-ing and mostly empty parsonage here in Alameda. The moving truck came on Sunday night, and we are getting ready to head out on our adventure of traveling to Muskegon tomorrow. We will be arriving in MI on Sunday, March 5th (probably in the afternoon sometime). We will keep Brian posted on the arrival of the moving truck and when we plan to show up at 699 Allen Ave as well :-)

Thanks to you all, and the Allen Ave CRC family for all the ways you've been supporting us already. We are so thankful to God for you! Thanks as well for all the preparations for the installation service on the 12th. If I know of more friends/family coming to join us on that Sunday, I'll pass along that updated information.

COUNCIL NEWS (cont...)

We ask for prayers for safety. Prayers of blessing for Alameda CRC in their transition. Prayers for Allen Ave CRC in preparation. Prayers of thanks for all the work, the heartfelt cards and emails, the prayers that have been offered on our behalf.

With gratitude and prayers, Pastor Mark

Did you know that Allen Avenue CRC has a FREE Church Assistance Program (CAP) with Pine Rest?

Contact Pine Rest COUNSELING SERVICES by calling 800-442-0809 and PRESS 1 to access their 24-hour Hotline and to schedule appointments. Please remember that the key to FREE services is when you make your call, please say, "I have a CAP with Allen Avenue CRC." (Otherwise, you will receive a bill in the mail.) Our CAP Benefits Include:

- 3 sessions of free, confidential counseling per episode of care
- Psychiatric Urgent Care Center services for ages 18+
- 24/7 hotline for crisis calls
- Free 30-minute legal consultation
- Free 30-minute financial consultation
- Free elder care consultation
- Personal Advantage online library access
- All benefits are available to the congregation member and EVERY person in their household.

Focus on the Cross – Lent is a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today devotional email series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Or download the eBook! Subscribe at: todaydevotional.com/lent.

Remember our Council Daily in Your Prayers – Brian S, Bob V, Sherrie W, Stan R, Gabe V, Kelly D, Karen A, Jean B, Judy, Scott, Dave, Charry, and Pastor Stan. For **joy in their journey** and knowing that **God chose them** to be in leadership at such an exciting time in Allen Avenue's history! May God be honored by their service.

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WMC's Musical Department invites you to "The Wizard of Oz"

on March 3 at 7:00pm and March 4 at 1:00pm & 7:00pm at the Orchard View Community Auditorium, 16 N. Quarterline Rd. Call 231.799.9644 for tickets and additional information. You will be amazed at how gifted and talented our WMC students are...you won't want to miss it!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

GEMS will meet in the church basement on Wednesday, March 1, from 6:00-8:00pm. Please bring along your Bible and pen. Also, keep working on those badges and bring in any finished badgework.

It's our turn to pray for Muskegon and all its people on Wednesday 3/1!

Please pray for all our leaders, first responders and their families, people who work in the County Building, especially Tim and DJ, as well as their assistants and their families. We pray that there will be no murders in Muskegon. Thank you for being praying people, dear church family!

Pastor Stan's Gospel Love: Grace, Relationships, and Everything that Gets in the Way

study will meet on March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. We plan to have a bite to eat together at 6:30 and then start the study. There is still time to join, so sign up in the church office!

Congregational member, Denise Koetje, has sold her house across from church and will be moving to Hudsonville to take care of her aging parents. She has a beautiful Hammond #333172 Colonade Organ that she would like to sell. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Denise at 231.375.9417. We will miss you, Denise. Blessings!

Prayer Changes Things - We know prayer is powerful; it can change hearts, relationships, and circumstances. In the "Prayer Guide" you'll find daily items of thanks, praise, request, and lament that can remind you and your fellow church members that God is in control, and cares for his world and all people. Sign up or print PDF pages to share at crcna.org/get-involved/pray

Allen Avenue Prayer Ministry Prayer Time is every Tuesday, from 7-8PM.

Join us by selecting this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81035650227?pwd=cUhpVTdzTVlUbEMyVGs3UTBLWE5pQT09> Passcode: 573272 Meeting ID: 810 3565 0227

For the Lenten season each Tuesday afternoon, a Special Lenten

Devotional will be included with the Prayer Time Outline email. It will focus on our vision statement "We Live to B.L.E.S.S." and is entitled, "Living the Vision." Wednesday's we focus on "B" Believe, Thursday's "L" Love, Friday's "E" Evangelize, Monday's "S" Support Christian Education, and Tuesday's "S" Serve. We pray our souls will grow stronger and wiser in Jesus Christ and our praises and works fill the earth and heavens with joy!

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Pray for Our Care List Member of the week – **John Walhout**

-Allen Avenue Missionaries of the week – **Zuni Christian School**

-We give thanks that **Pastor Mark, Stephanie, Asher, August, and Aethan** are coming to Allen Avenue on March 5. Pray for traveling mercies! Make sure you get to know our Triple AAA's by reading all about them on the bulletin boards in the narthex and in the Fellowship Room! They're amazing!

-We pray for our school children of all ages- Simon, Nora, Karrissa, Yeabsira, Tekalegn, Maelin, Tayla, Emily, Devon, Travis, Katelyn, Trevor, Tiffany, Molly, Taylor, Danny, Luke, Adele, Joe, Matthew, Carlie, Daniel, Serenity, Lily, Riley, Pao, **Kayla -whom I apologize for not including her in the past-so sorry Kayla-extra prayers for you! Also, we welcome Asher, August, and Aethan to our list.**

-For MCS and WMC as well as all schools, teachers-Lis, Dave, Nate, Becky, Stephanie

-May this time of Lent and this time of transition from Pastor Stan to Pastor Mark truly leave us with a joy that raises our eyes and focus on glorifying Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior, & Friend, not just during Lent but for the rest of our earthly life.

-Prayers for Pastor Stan and Melody as they begin to transition out of leadership at Allen Avenue. Thankfulness for sharing their gifts with us.

-Prayers for the Worship & Music Committee as they plan the services for Lent-especially Charry Snyder, Mary Kortman and Pastor Stan.

-Pastor Stan's Bible study on Thursday nights.

-Yeabsira Vlasma would like to thank his church family for his Valentine's Bag he received full of so many treats and cards! Meant a lot to him!

-Pearl Kitchen has pneumonia. Her lungs were not fully healed from the RSV yet and the doctor is worried about dehydration.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Continued prayers for those whose lives have changed through loss:

* **Judy, Eric and Stacy Vaandering** in the homegoing of **Case**

* **Vanderlaan families** in the loss of **Joyce**

* **Jim and Sue Secord** in the passing of Jim's brother, **George**

-Carol Schuitema asks for continued prayers for her breathing problems and for keeping her from more clotting. Thanks for praying.

-Nella Boeve's family has called in at-home hospice care for her, and **Norm** continues to suffer from COVID and pneumonia. The family does not think there is much time left for this godly, gentle saint. Please keep her, Norm and the family close in prayer as the family gathers to spend the last few days with mom.

-Carla Kieft - Continued prayers for healing of throat and swallowing problems.

-Tayla Vlasma - We are so thankful that Tayla continues to do well! Her labs all came back good, so thankful! Please continue your prayers.

-Sandy Volkens is so thankful to be off the oxygen during the day... so far it has been almost a week!

-Mary Kortman's brother-in-law, Hubert, is now on chemo treatments and is doing ok. Prayers for peace and for ease of breathing.

-Joanne Deitz had an ICD to continually monitor for irregular heartbeats (arrhythmias). Three out of four leads are working. Continue to pray!

-Carol Dirkse thanks God for having good reports from her dermatologist. No biopsies or freezing needed! Pray for results still not out yet finalized on her echo. This is probably due to Carol transitioning to a new physician as hers retired. Her new physician thought results were good, but they need cardiologists report to finalize the good news. Pray for her upcoming appointment with her new doctor and the cardiologist's report is completed by then.

Dear Prayer Partner Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church,

Greetings! Please, meet the Apostle Lope, one of the pastors receiving training at our training center in Kinshasa-Congo. Last Sunday, I preached at his local church in one of the crowded neighborhoods of Kinshasa. Apostle Lope has planted 30 local congregations in Kinshasa, one outside of Kinshasa, and many others in Angola, Brazil, Canada, and in Europe as well, mainly among Congolese immigrants. He has 50 pastors who lead these different local congregations. As usual, most of these pastors are barely trained. So, apostle Lope's network of local churches serves more than 10,000 members worldwide every Sunday! Now, it's beautiful during classes to watch Apostle Lope marvel as he discovers the depths of the Word of God being taught to him daily.

Today, he told me that next year, he will send more pastors to our training center to receive biblical training. I am so happy that God is using Lope and I to impact this servant of God so he can impact more people for Christ. Please, keep Charlotte and I in your prayers as ministry is getting more exciting but heavy as well. I am happy that these four coming weeks I am not teaching a full load as before and can actually rest between 10am and 5pm. I have only two classes. The first one goes from 8-10am and the second one from 5:30-7pm.

Charlotte is the one who really needs more prayers. Her classes go daily from 8am to 3:30pm with an hour break from 12:30 to 1:30pm. Charlotte is very popular here. All the students call her "mama", and it looks like she likes it!



Apostle Lope with mama Charlotte during a Bible lesson



Here are our prayer needs for this week:

1. Please pray for our safety and the safety of our student pastors. Today one of them shared that last night a stray bullet struck their home and ended up inside a bucket full of water. That's what kept it from ricocheting all over the place and hurting them.
2. Please pray for our safety as we drive in town. I lose half of my inner holiness screaming at nut drivers, and motorbike riders who pass from the right side of the road or literally drive on the wrong direction of one-way roads.
3. We praise the Lord for your continued financial support that is helping us serve without too many headaches.
4. Please pray for the maintenance crew to find the origin of the leak that is messing up the upstairs room every time it rains. We had maintenance people on the roof twice, but for some reason they seem not to be able to fix the problem.
5. Pray that our Heavenly Father may bless us with the building we have been asking him to provide for us. We need a miracle really. We will keep you informed when our Father, blesses us.



Many Blessings!

Pastor Paul & Charlotte Mpindi
Mission French Africa Ministries
missionfrenchafrica.org

