

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: Acts 3 :17-26 **Message:** Refreshed to Bless

Intro: The Real "Fresh-Maker"

1. Refreshed to _____ is a fulfilled promise.

God promised _____ he'd bless all nations through his offspring.

God promised _____ he'd bless Israel through the greater prophet/servant.

God promised _____ he'd bless his chosen ones through Christ (Messiah)

2. Foretold, Appointed, and Raised Up for *such a _____ as this*

The Spirit declared through the Prophets from _____ times.

The Spirit refreshes us during _____ time.

The Spirit will restore all things in _____ time.

3. We are called to _____ toward God, to _____ away from sin, and to _____/_____ Jesus.



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ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



PASTOR MARK HOFMAN
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM
MAY 21, 2023

Come...Now is the Time to Worship

Sunday, May 21, 2023

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Welcome and Invitation to Quiet

Scripture Reading *Christ Ascends to Heaven* Acts 1:1-11

*Call to Worship

Leader: God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

People: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Leader: For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

People: God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

—Psalm 47:5-8, NIV

*Songs of Praise *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* LUYH 208:1,2,4
Crown Him with Many Crowns LUYH 223:1-3

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession (from Psalm 51)

Sung Prayer of Confession *Whiter Than Snow* Celeb 653

Our Affirmation (from Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 18)

Q. What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven"?

A. That Christ, while his disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth to heaven and will be there for our good until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.

Q. But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?

A. Christ is truly human and truly God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit he is not absent from us for a moment.

Q. How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

A. First, he pleads our cause in heaven in the presence of his Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven—a guarantee that Christ our head will take us, his members, to himself in heaven. Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee. By the Spirit's power we make the goal of our lives, not earthly things, but the things above where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

Prayers of the People

Children's Blessing:

Jesus is Lord of all. Love him with all your heart, all your strength, and all your mind. Praise and worship him alone.

WE LISTEN TO GOD SPEAK

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

Scripture Passage ~ Acts 3 :17-26

Message: *Refreshed to Bless*

Prayer of Application

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering: General Fund

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

*Song of Response *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God* LUYH 746

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song of Praise *Soon and Very Soon* LUYH 482

*Postlude

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

Believe. Love. Evangelize.

Support Christian Education. Serve.



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

- 05/21: Nursery: Carol Peterman & Becki Fisher
Coffee Fellowship: John & Carol Schuitema
- 05/28: Nursery: Sherrie Wolffis & Deb Anderson
Coffee Fellowship: Russ & Deb Vlasma
- 06/04: Nursery: Amber Johnson & Addy Maat
Coffee Fellowship: Ron Friday & Sandy Volkers
- 06/11: Nursery: Nancy Rop & Maelin Vlasma
Coffee Fellowship: Kristen Vlasma & Jessica Wolffis



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

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

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

WELCOME TO ALLEN AVENUE CRC

A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Guests, Members! Today is Ascension Day, and we also look toward the coming of the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives. We are very glad you have come to join us in worshipping our Savior 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 refreshments after the worship service.**

COUNCIL NEWS

Allen Avenue CRC now has a hearing loop system installed to help those who need help hearing the service better. This system uses telecoils, also known as t-coils which are small copper wires coiled discreetly inside hearing aids or cochlear implants. They can receive electromagnetic signals from our sound system and are generally activated easily with the touch of a button. There is one unit which may be used without a hearing aid that is available at the sound booth. If you have questions about the system, or determining if your hearing device has a t-coil please see a sound tech after the service. They will be at the booth after the service to answer questions.

We give thanks and pray for those who are serving on our church council: Brian Schuitema, Bob Vanderlaan, Sherrie Wolffis, Stan Rop, Gabe Vlasma, Kelly Dauser, Karen Alphenaar, Jean Botting, Judy Vaandering, Scott Schuitema, Dave Miedema, Charry Snyder, and Pastor Mark Hofman.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Mission Trip? If you are interested in joining us on a mission trip this fall, please come to the front of the sanctuary immediately following the worship service, so we can plan the dates and possible location for our trip. If you can't make the meeting, please get in touch with Steve or Stan Rop.

Discussion Time: Interested in going deeper in your faith? Have questions you want to discuss with other believers? Come join us on Sunday, May 21 after church for a discussion time in the lounge (room next to the kitchen). We will be discussing the issue of suffering under a good God. You won't want to miss this!

"Faith Practices" Summer Sermon Series and Study The Faith Practices Project, created by CRCNA's [Faith Formation Ministries](#), invites you to refresh your spirit by learning and practicing life-giving spiritual disciplines. Follow the

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

link (<https://www.crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject>) to read more about 12 areas of faith practice that will guide our summer preaching series here at Allen Ave Church. Starting on June 4, we'll be working our way through the disciplines of *Sabbath, Gratitude, Generosity, Hospitality, Engaging Scripture, Justice and Mercy, Listening, Celebrating, Prayer, Wonder, Remembering, and Service*. An \$8 companion [booklet](#) is available for further growth and study, which is a great starting place for individuals or small groups who'd like to become more aware of and sensitive to God's voice in their everyday lives. Please contact Pastor Mark (pastor@allenavechurch.org) or Charry Snyder (cmnsnyder@yahoo.com) to place an order of how many booklets you'd like to order before Sunday, June 28th.

It's coming to an end! The time to order your reduced UNITY CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL tickets is NOW!! Colton Dixon, Rachael Lampa, Jordan Feliz, Casting Crowns, Ben Fuller, We the Kingdom, Blessing Offor, and for King & Country, among others, will be at Heritage Landing AUGUST 9 - 12. Tickets are only \$75.00 for the 3-day (plus one free day) event. Get signed up on the sheet in the basement of church and get your money (or check made out to Alive on the Lakeshore) to Jill Schuitema by Sunday, May 28. If you have never been and would like to know more, please see Jill. Don't miss out on this very special event!!

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Pray for Our Care List Member of the week – **Wilma Doctor**

-AACRC Missionaries of the week – **Reverend Jerry-Back to God Ministries**

-We pray for our school children of all ages- Simon, Nora, Yeabsira, Tekalegn, Maelin, Tayla, Emily, Devin, Travis, Katelyn, Molly, Kayla, Taylor, Danny, Luke, Adele, Joe, Matthew, Carlie, Daniel, Serenity, Lily, Riley, Jessica, Pao, Asher, August, and Aethan.

-For MCS and WMC & local schools, teachers-Lis, Dave, Nate, Becky, Stephanie

-Muskegon Christian School thanked us recently for the gift AACRC gave them: "Thank you for helping us make an impact in a child's life with your gift! We are deeply encouraged by supporters like you who put your faith into action and make Christian education more accessible to our children at MCS. Your donation furthers our mission to equip minds and hearts to love, learn, and lead." In Christ, Nate Schout, Administrator

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-We rejoice with **Stephanie and Pastor Mark** that after the recent visit to meet her new **U of M health team of doctors**, testing showed she is still in remission from her leukemia! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!!

-Evan, April, & Reid Vanderlaan continue to need prayers for healing as Evan has been moved to Mary Free Bed for rehab after his tragic fall last week.

-Kelly Dauser gives thanks and praise for our prayers for her sister Kim who had a job interview and was hired the next day!

-We give thanks to those from Love, INC and our church who installed an aluminum ramp in Twin Lake for a woman on Monday. She is so thankful that she can now get out of her house—she is in her 40's and has M.S.

-John Rop – Retha Johnson's brother is in hospice care. Keep him, his wife Ellen, Retha, and the family in your prayers as God prepares to bring him home.

-Continue to pray for Mary Kortman's sister Sharon and husband Hubert as his final days are near...for God's strength and mercy in these difficult days.

-Jim Secord has been suffering with some serious back issues and much pain. Testing and appointments have been scheduled but are so far out, and in the meantime, he is frustrated and hurting. Please, Lord, move mountains for him!

-Please keep **Renee' Vlasma** and her family in your prayers as they are constantly "on call" for her mom, Peggy who suffers from Alzheimer's. Give them all protection from burn out and the freedom to offer care when needed.

-Prayers for clarity for **Laurie Slorf** as she is listening to God's direction on a crafting ministry. Pray that the ideas be God's and that these events are a fun place for women of all ages to gather and grow friendships within our church, but even more importantly, so we can bring more women into our church.

-Continued prayers for the **family of Alia Zuidema** who passed away unexpectedly from a blood clot. Prayers for the GH and WMC communities.

-Angel church and Pastor Jeffrey. Thanks to those who are offering help to fix the water damage in their church. Please pray that God will guide us as we look at ways to help them.