

**SERMON NOTES:**

**Passage:** Luke 2:8-15 **Sermon Title:** *In the Highest Heaven, and on Earth*

**ALLEN AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH**



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**PASTOR MARK HOFMAN  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 8, 2024--10:00AM**

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

Second Sunday of Advent -- December 8, 2024

Pastor Mark Hofman

## GATHERED TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Video

Call To Worship

Advent Carols

*Joy to the World*  
*How Great Our Joy*

*LUYH 92:1-3*  
*LUYH 90:1-3*

\*God's Greeting

\*We Greet One Another

Call to Confession ~ Isaiah 1:2-3

Prayer of Confession

***God of grace,  
you have given us Jesus,  
the light of the world,  
but we hide in darkness  
and are drawn to things that keep us from the brightness of your love.  
Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life.  
Baptize us with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed,  
we may share your Word with the nations  
and tell of your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ,  
our Lord and our light forever. Amen.***

Assurance of Pardon ~ Isaiah 5:15-17

Song

*Away in a Manger*

*LUYH 86*

Children's Blessing (in unison):

***May the story of God's love  
when he gave the baby Jesus  
bring joy to each one of you.  
Worship the Christ child with all your heart.  
Go with his blessing.***

Prayers of the People

## LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK

\*Song

*What Child is This*

*Hymnal for Worship & Celeb: 137*

Scripture Passage:

Luke 2:8-15

~ page 1459

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

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

Message:

*In the Highest Heaven, and on Earth*

Prayer of Application

## SENT OUT

Offering: General Fund

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

\*God's Parting Blessing

\*Parting Song of Praise

*Joy to the World*

*LUYH 92:4*

\*Postlude

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

*Believe. Love. Evangelize.*

*Support Christian Instruction. Serve.*



### NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

12/8: Nursery: Dale Johnson & Kristen Vlasma

Coffee Fellowship: Justin & Carolyn Wilson

12/15: Nursery: Renee Vlasma & Sherrie Wolffis

Coffee Fellowship: Scott & Toni Schuitema

12/22: Nursery: Sue Sytsema & August Hofman

Coffee Fellowship: Dean & Amber Johnson

12/25: Christmas Day Nursery: Nancy Rop & ???

1/05: Nursery: Stephanie Hofman & Beth VanRees

Coffee Fellowship: ???



### 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) Jim Doornbos |                   |

\*Please call or send a card to **"Care List Member," Lois!**  
Christian Care #212, 1530 McLaughlin, 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 second Sunday of Advent as we come to prepare for the Babe of Bethlehem. Please join us after this for a time of gathering in the lower level with our brothers and sisters in Christ to catch up and be a blessing to one another during this special season.

### **COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS**

**The deacons are grateful for the outpouring of over \$3,000 in our Thanksgiving special offering!** Specifically \$580.34 was given for Angel Church, \$832.63 for Love INC, \$749.62 for Muskegon Rescue Mission, \$354 for WMC, \$408 for MCS, \$10 for GEMS and \$100 for Cadets. Thank you to everyone for your financial and prayerful support of these organizations.

**\*Christmas Program:** Sunday, December 22—10:00am

**\*Christmas Day:** Wednesday, December 25—10:00am

--The special offering for Christmas Day will be for Love, INC or the Rescue Mission.

**Christmas is soon approaching.** Let's remember our **Care List members** with cards, treats and Christmas joy. Gift bags are on a table in the Fellowship Room. Let's fill them up as we remember these special people--Betty Ten Brink, June Walcott, Wilma Doctor, Lois Grinwis, Ro VerHeul, Jim Doornbos, Joel Stefanits. We also have three additional bags this year for special circumstances--Alan Wolffis, John Baker, Jim Secord.

### **CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES**

**Steve & Nancy Rop** will be doing the bulletin next week, so please get your newsworthy items to them before Thursday, December 12. Thanks!

**Here is a Spotify playlist of Advent & Christmas from music from Pastor Mark:** <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/10WYjaXx5SZcmA7MKk84fW?si=72323475d6fd4b13>

**Men's Bible Study** will meet Monday, December 9, at 6:15pm.

**Cadets** will meet on Wednesday, December 18, at 6:30pm for their Christmas party.

The deadline for the January/February **Allen AveNews** is Sunday, December 22.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Continue praying for **Jim and Sue Secord**. They have agreed to have two days of vigorous testing this month before a team will decide if Jim would be a lung transplant candidate. If approved, Jim and Sue will determine whether to pursue or not. Please pray for them in all of these things. Thank you!

**Denise Koetje**-prayers for someone to shovel snow for me this winter. May we think of others who are not able to shovel anymore for themselves and be open to helping them.

**Becky & Randy Fisher**- Prayers for our granddaughter, **Melanie Fisher (8-years-old)** who will need surgery for her stomach issues on January 6, 2025. -Becky's mom, **Nancy Tjapkes** continued prayers for healing after breaking her wrist a couple weeks ago. She is in a cast for six weeks. Pray that she is able to function with one good arm.

**John Baker**-we are thankful that John is recovering from his broken hip at his daughters home near Grand Rapids. We pray for a good recovery!

**Dave & Joanne Bishop**- Please continue to keep him and Joanne close in prayer through his hip recovery.

**Dave & Lis Miedema** - Pray for continued health for our little one and a safe delivery as we enter the final week!

**Alan Wolffis** - Continued prayers for Alan and his family as he has now been admitted into hospice care at the Poppen House. We thank God for giving him a peace-filled Spirit as they await Jesus' perfect timing in taking him home for Christmas.

**Thankful for those newly coming to our church services** and for activities such as Cadets, Gems, Bible Studies and Small Groups! We lift them up and pray for God's blessing on them as they interact with us. May they behold the Spirit in our church.

**Praying for peace** in our justice and political systems...for Tim Maat and DJ Hilson.

**Thanks for the wonderful Thanksgiving service** we shared with Bethany, Grace & Angel churches. May God be glorified as we worshiped Him together.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

**Pastor Mark, Stephanie and Pastor Jeff & Evelyn Hough as they minister to our neighborhoods.** May God plant good seed on fertile soil as they sow His Word and offer hope to all they meet. Pray for strength, fire from the Holy Spirit, needed words, and energy during this Advent/Christmas season.

**Prayers for all those involved in Advent activities**, fundraisers, ministry, food, decoration, worship planning, bulletin, Allen Avenue News, projection, planning, preaching, teaching, giving of time and money, coffee/cookies, cleaning, shoveling and all that goes into making this season a season of hope. May each one be blessed and appreciated for what they do—encouragement, thanks, help, and prayers are always fruitful and cherished by our spirits. Most of all, may God be glorified by our service to Him.

**Prayers for the Advent/Christmas Season** to revitalize ourselves, church, neighborhoods, cities, states, country, and world. May God's name be heard from every mountain top, every valley, every kindness, gift so the fruits of His Holy Spirit set fire to our hearts and places where light is not seen or allowed. May Christ's birth change lives today and tomorrow until He comes again!

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*Dear Family of God at Allen Avenue,  
Are you and your spouse feeling more like roommates than  
soulmates?*

*We invite you to join us for **Resist the Drift**, a special Focus on the Family Marriage Event hosted by Love INC of Muskegon this Valentine's Day. Whether you're newlyweds or have been married for decades, this event is designed to help couples reconnect, strengthen their relationships, and keep Christ at the center.*

*Event Details:*

- *Dates: February 14 & 15*
- *Location: Calvary Christian Schools*

*Don't miss this opportunity to invest in your marriage!  
For more information and to purchase tickets, visit  
[www.loveincmuskegon.com/marriage](http://www.loveincmuskegon.com/marriage)*