

“Our Point Of Reference”

Romans 8:28-39



3225 Roosevelt Road, Muskegon MI
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Thursday, December 31, 2020
New Year's Eve

Good evening and welcome to worship!

Welcome to worship this evening! Tonight, we look back on 2020. We certainly remember that there were some trying times this year, but there were some good moments too!

And, now we also turn our thoughts forward to 2021. Although there are many uncertainties, we can be sure that God will always be with us. He will bring good out of all circumstances.

That makes 2021 a year to look forward to!

Our sermon title tonight is, "Our Point of Reference."

Opening Song

"Draw Me Close to You"

**Draw me close to you never let me go
I lay it all down again
to hear You say that I'm Your friend**

**You are my desire no one else will do
'Cause nothing else could take Your place
To feel the warmth of Your embrace
Help me find the way bring me back to You**

**(CHORUS) You're all I want
You're all I've ever needed
You're all I want**

Help me know You are near (REPEAT ALL)

(ENDING) Help me know You are near

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Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Lord, you have been our dwelling place

C: in all generations.

P: So teach us to number our days.

C: Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. Psalm 90:1, 12a, 14a; 124:8

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Time of Confession and Forgiveness

P: God's Word regularly calls us to confess our sins to God and He will welcome us. Please join me as we confess to Him.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C: Amen.

(silence for reflection)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Upon this, your confession, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Dear Gracious God, on this last day of the calendar year, 2020, we thank You for Your gracious care throughout the year. Although we have faced many great challenges, Lord You have provided for all of our needs. Open our minds and hearts to hear Your Word, so that we may be encouraged and strengthened in our faith. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:8-13

God's ways are far above human dreams and aspirations

R: The Old Testament Reading for New Years Eve is from Isaiah, the fifty-fifth chapter.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading

Romans 8:28-39

We are more than conquerors through Him.

R: The Epistle is from the eighth chapter of Romans.

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-6

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Christ be my leader by night as by day;
safe through the darkness, for he is the way.**

**Gladly I follow, my future his care;
darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.**

**Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him; though shifting as sand,
doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.**

**Christ be my savior in calm as in strife;
death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.**

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

"Our Point of Reference"

Romans 8:28-39

Offerings

(Thank you for your continued offerings to the Lord!)

Prayers of God's People

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs..

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing & Benediction

P: We know that for those who love God, all things work together for good for those who have been called according to His purpose.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn

"One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)"

**Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
One thing remains
One thing remains**

(INTERLUDE)

Your love Your love Your love will never change

**Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
One thing remains
One thing remains**

***(CHORUS) Your love never fails
It never gives up
Never runs out on me (REPEAT 3X)
Your love***

**On and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid
One thing remains
One thing remains *(CHORUS)***

**(BRIDGE) In death in life I'm confident and
Cover'd by the power of Your great love
My debt is paid there's nothing that
Can separate my heart from Your great love (REPEAT BRIDGE)**

**Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
One thing remains
One thing remains
Your love**

Announcements

Continue to join us for worship on our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/tlcmuskegon or on our website at www.tlcmuskegon.org.

GIVING AT TRINITY Thank you for continuing to give generously to Trinity and support the ministry with your Offerings. You may do so by mailing your Offering envelopes to Trinity at 3225 Roosevelt Road, Muskegon, MI, 49441 or by giving online. To set up an online giving account, please visit www.tlcmuskegon.org/give

OFFERING ENVELOPES are being delivered to your homes this week.

2020 YEAR END CHARITABLE GIFT & DONATION GIVING TO TLC If you plan to take an itemized charitable deduction on your 2020 tax return, your donations/offerings must be to us by December 31, 2020. Donations charged to a credit card by December 31 are deductible for 2020, and a gift by check also counts for 2020 as long as it is dated and received no later than December 31, 2020. We thank you for all your generosity this year at Trinity. We are truly blessed by all of you!

2021 DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE *Want a great resolution for 2021? How about reading through the Bible in one year. Here is a great guide from a great organization--Lutheran Bible Translators...Go ahead and give it a try!* [2021 DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE](#)

LOOKING FOR DRIVERS Please let the church office know if you would be interested in delivering CD's & DVD's of our services or any other information that we need to get out to our members during the time that we are closed to in person worship.



MONTHLY MIRACLE DRIVE For the months of December and January we are collecting monetary donations and diapers for Muskegon Pregnancy Services. You may send a check to Trinity with the notation MPS on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

We rejoice with those who celebrate birthdays this week; Marisa Caldwell, Bill Jandt, Drew Roberts, Isla Marrs and Carol VanBemmelen!

If you wish to have contact information, please call or email the church office at telephone number - 231.755.1292 or email info@tlcmuskegon.org



ONE WEEK BIBLE STUDY "Why Do the Nations Rage? A Study of Psalm 2" You are invited to join Pastor Appold on Zoom on Sunday morning January 3, 2021 for a one week lesson on Psalm 2. Psalm 2 explains the peace and hope that Jesus brings, even though the world tries to rage against Him. This Psalm is a perfect study for Christmas and the New Year of 2021. This study is only one lesson, so please join us at 11 AM on January 3rd. [Zoom ID 204 576 0929 Passcode Trinity](#)

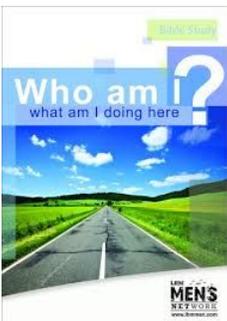
You're invited to join the Thursday night Bible Study group for 2021

I sense that believers in Jesus Christ struggle to grow deeper in their Biblical understanding of the meaning behind the words and phrases of Jesus. Often these insights into the words and phrases are anchored in the Hebraic context of the Old Testament which was the Bible that Jesus read. Some of these key words and ideas are in Lois Tverberg's book: "Listening to the Language of the Bible." Her observations provide rich insights into the root of Hebrew words used in the Bible. These insights will teach us new perspectives for looking at God & at our lives. I would like you to join me on this ZOOM journey as we open Scripture and discover keys that will unlock hidden treasures for our life in Christ. Each Thursday beginning January 7, 2021 at 7 pm we will meet on-line to discuss and grow together in Biblical insights. This adventure will cost you:

1. \$ 10. for the book & companion study book
2. Preparation time – to read and prepare the lesson
3. An hour every Thursday evening (@ 7-8 pm)

I hope you decide to join the group as we unlock a more complete "Hearing the Bible through Jesus' Ears." (subtitle for the book)

Send an email to me to reserve your copy of the books and receive the information on the ZOOM class beginning January 7th. dennlass03@gmail.com Pastor L



NEW BIBLE STUDY beginning, Sunday, January 10th.

The class is titled, "Who Am I, and What Am I Doing Here?" This class will focus on the purposes of our lives, why God has us here, and how we can make the most effective use of our time. This class will be led on Zoom, (and in person when we are able). This class will take place every Sunday morning, beginning January 10th at 11 AM on Zoom--

ID 204 576 0929 Passcode Trinity Please join us!

Contributions			
November Totals (General & Building/Debt)			
Monthly Need	\$34,000	Monthly Total	\$28,377
December 27, 2020		December Month-to-Date	
General Fund		General Fund	
Weekly Need	\$5,600	MTD Need	\$22,400
Offerings	\$5,521	MTD Total	\$25,233
Building Fund		Building Fund	
Weekly Need	\$1,200	MTD Need	\$4,800
Offerings	\$193	MTD Total	\$2,282
Total		Total	
Weekly Need	\$6,800	MTD Need	\$27,200
Offerings	\$5,714	MTD Total	\$27,515