



*stories on
the way to
redemption*
a Lenten Journey

March 1 - Ash Wednesday

Noon Prayers

**12:30 - 5:00pm - the sanctuary will be
open for prayer and personal reflection.**

5:15 Supper / 6:00pm Worship

March 5 - April 9 - Sundays

9 & 10:30am Worship

April 14 - Good Friday

**12:00pm Community
Worship Service**

April 16 - Resurrection Sunday

**7:00, 9:00 & 10:30am
Celebration Services**

PILLARCHURCH.COM



First Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2017

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. — John 12.24-26

Welcome

Welcome to Pillar Church this morning. We're glad that you're here. If you've been worshipping here for a long time or you're entering the doors of a church for the first time today it is our hope that you'll experience a kind welcome, a sense of genuine community and the grace and truth of Jesus Christ that the Christian Church has celebrated for centuries.

Note on Communion

We celebrate Communion via intinction, that is, we dip the bread in the cup before partaking in the sacrament. During the 9:00 service there are three stations up front (with one gluten-free & vegan-friendly station by the timpani available at both services) During the 10:30, there are five stations in the front and one in the lobby. A communion server will be available to serve you if you are in need of assistance.

Note on Baptism

Today we have the joyful privilege of celebrating the baptism of Benjamin Richard Obbink, son of Tim and Kelly Obbink. We give thanks to God for this visible sign of this invisible grace, and for the faith and life that Christ has claimed for us.

Approach to God

Gathering Music

Welcome

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Call to Worship

Hymn of Praise

#220 *At the Name of Jesus*, vv. 1,3&5

Call to Lament

Prayer of Lament

Psalm 126

Our mouths they were filled, filled with laugh - ter
The na - tions will say, "He has done great things."

Our tongues they were loosed, loosed with joy
The na - tions will sing songs of joy

Re - store us, O Lord Re - store us, O Lord!

refrain: Al-though we are weep - ing, Lord help us keep sow - ing,
the seeds of your king - dom, for the day you will reap them

Your sheaves we will car - ry, Lord please do not tar - ry,
all those who sow weep-ing will go out with songs of joy

Assurance of Pardon

Peace

Children may leave for children's activities at this time.

Word of God

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;
praise him a-bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Offering

Baptism

Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Song of Response

#23 *Children of the Heavenly Father, vv. 1-4*

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sanctus

O, ho - ly are you, Lord, the earth pro- claims your glo - ry;
We join in to a - dore, O, you are ho - ly Lord;
Bles - sed is the one who comes in your good name;
Save us, Lord, we pray; Ho - san - na in the high - est

Most righteous God we remember in this meal...
Together we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

*Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.*

So, send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray...
Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Communion

Spirit of God Who Dwells Within My Heart



1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3. Teach me to feel that Thou art al - ways nigh;
 4. Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King?
 5. Teach me to love Thee as Thine an - gels love,



Wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 No sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear.
 All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
 One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;



Stoop to my weak - ness, might-y as Thou art;
 No an - gel vi - sion, no op' ning skies;
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the re - bel sigh,
 I see Thy cross; there teach me to cling;
 The pre - sence of Thy de - scend - ed Dove,



And make me love Thee as I ought to love.
 But take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!
 My heart an al - tar, and Thy love the flame.

Communion Prayers

Prayers of Meditation for Those Not Communing

If you are not coming forward to receive Communion, please feel free to use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayers for Those Searching for Truth

“Lord Jesus, you claimed to be the way, the truth, and the life. As I search for spiritual truth, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the life that you promise. Amen.”

Prayer of Belief

“Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Trusting in God’s love and in your death and resurrection on my behalf, I ask you to forgive me, most merciful Lord, and fill me with your Holy Spirit. Relying on your grace, I promise to confess you publicly before others, to serve you daily and to walk in your way. Amen.”

Prayer of Commitment

“Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.”

Response to God

Benediction

Sending Song

Psalm 126 (refrain)



Re-store us, O Lord Re-store us, O Lord Although we are weep - ing,



Lord help us keep sow - ing, the seeds of your king - dom, for the day you will



reap them Your sheaves we will car - ry, Lord please do not



tar - ry, all those who sow weep-ing will go out with songs of joy

Postlude

Worship Leaders Today

Preacher: Jenna Brandsen
Liturgists: Jon Brown and Leah Wielenga
Musicians: Jonathan Gabhart, Anna Gabhart, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski, Rob Housman, Ellie McLaren and Chris DeVos
Organist: Sheryl Beerens
Sound: Ben Oegema
Communion Bread Baker: Martha Wing
Communion Servers:
9:00 Paul & Jan Probst, Jenna Brandsen, Jon Brown and Leah Wielenga

10:30 Scott, Jill, Kate, Ben, Andrew & Emily Nelson, Rick & Jan DeBoer, Laura, Eleanor & Kimia McMullen, Steve & Martha Wing, Steve Dykstra, Jon Brown, Jenna Brandsen and Leah Wielenga

Worship Leader on March 12

Preacher: Jon Brown

Sources and Permissions

“Psalm 126” words and music by Isaac Wardell, 2011.
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Deacons’ Announcements

Please include the following people in your prayers: For health and healing for Jodi Syens as she has completed her cancer treatments, for Greg Diekema’s healing and for Caroline Kanis.

Long time Pillar member Ron Nykamp passed away on Feb. 27. Please keep his wife, Velma, and his family in your prayers,

March’s special offering is designated for Audio Scripture Ministries. Friend of Pillar, JP Sundararajan, is the India-Asia director of this ministry which records and distributes audio Bibles across the world to ensure no one is barred from access to God’s word. This offering will be received on Sunday, March 19, but at any time this month, feel free to give and mark your gift as “ASM.” (There is no distribution offering this month.)

Adult Formation

Join a City Group! City Groups are an integral way Pillar Church can be “for the city.” They are a place to belong, be discipled, and to serve together. If you would like to join a group, email jenna@pillarchurch.com!

Student Ministries

Middle School

- 1) City group this week and next week at 9:15am in the Hope College Admissions building.
- 2) Youth group tonight from 4:00-5:30pm

High School

- 1) City group today and next week at 9:15am in the Hope College admissions building.
- 2) Youth group tonight from 6-7:30pm. Friends are always welcome!

Children’s announcements

Sunday School begins at 9:15 am for children aged 4 - 5th grade. Please sign your children in downstairs at the table before you drop them off in their classroom and pick them up immediately following the end of the worship service.

Children and Worship (for kids 4 years to 2nd grade) will meet today during the 10:30 am service. Please bring your child to the lobby during the passing of the peace where they will be greeted by a children’s ministry volunteer. Please pick your children up on the lower level immediately following the worship service.

Little Lambs (2-3 year olds) meets today during the 10:30 am service today. You may sign your children in prior to attending church.

The P3 play group meets Fridays at 10am at the Activity Center (200 E. 14th St). Contact Amy Deur, amy.deur@gmail.com, for more information. All moms/dads with young kids are welcome!

Looking Ahead—Due to Spring Break and Easter, there will be no Sunday School or Children and Worship April 2, 9 & 16. Childcare will be provided for children ages 0-3 years.

General Announcements

Are you interested in officially joining Pillar church in the ministry of reconciling divisions, renewing the church, raising up leaders and redeeming the city, or do you have questions? Please sign up for the next information class on Sunday, Mar. 19 after the 10:30 service or email office@pillarchurch.com. Lunch will be provided. If you decide to join, you will be welcomed and received in both services on Sunday, Mar. 26.

Pillar is looking to hire a full-time Ministries Coordinator. If you are interested in learning more about this position, you can find a link on the home page of www.pillarchurch.com

Please join our last *Around the Table of the winter*. All women of Pillar and friends enjoy a delicious meal and Bible Study. No preparation necessary. Come meet new faces and bond over God's Word. We will be offering this Tuesday and Wednesday, March 21 and 22 (*please note the change of date*) from 6pm- 8 pm. Please let us know what will work for you. E-mail us at office@pillarchurch.com or sign up in the lobby (available next week). All women are invited!

“That The World May Know” Weekend Series, led by Rev. Ray Vander Laan will be held on Fri., Mar. 17 (7 – 9 pm), Sat., Mar. 18 (9 am – 4 pm), and Sun. morning service, Mar. 19 at 9:30 am at Hamilton CRC. The series will explore the week of Jesus’ life from Palm Sunday to Easter in the context of the city of Jerusalem. There is no cost to attend! (Tickets are available at <http://hamiltoncrc.com/ray-vanderlaan-seminar-2017/>)

Building Update

We are excited to proceed to the next phase of the proposed Pillar Church Expansion Project. Design development (DD) services take the initial design documents from the schematic phase and move them one step further along. This phase begins to lay out additional details with regard to architectural, structural, and systems details. This work is done in order to give us a better idea of how the project can be developed, provides an opportunity for more specific cost estimates, and ultimately results in another level of approval. The next phase to follow, then, would be the actual preparation of construction documents.

A new committee has been put together to continue our work with Cornerstone Architects and Tom Nemitz in this process: Al Bomers, Abby deRoo, Sue Bakker, Chad Nienhuis, Mark DeHaan, Jim Hoekstra, Jodi Syens and Pastor Jon Brown. We look forward to the new opportunities that will present themselves as we continue to work through the many details that will be addressed, and to keeping you informed of our progress.

Also, Pastor Jon has expressed the desire to meet with everyone connected to Pillar in the next six months in order for them “see” the project, as well as to have the opportunity to ask questions, share hopes, and gain clarity as the project proceeds.



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