



**Being human,
Being love**

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Office and Building Hours

Office Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Building will be open:
Monday - Thursday,
7:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Other building hours by
scheduled appointment only.

Welcome to Christ Community Church

This community is open to all who would join and continue the human journey, seeking to learn, to grow, to love deeply, and live more meaningfully! We are glad you are here. Let us know how we can connect with you.

Ian Lawton, Executive Minister,
Preaching and Theological Inquiry
Bob Kleinheksel, Minister of Care
and Social Justice
Brigit Lewis, Administration and Fund
Development
Allison Rockey, Outreach and
Communications Ministry
Brad Vander Ark, Audio/Visual and
Online Ministry
Betty Van Till, Organist and Music
Coordinator
Toni Van Dyken, Spiritual Director
Richard A. Rhem, Minister Emeritus
Peter J. Theune, Minister Emeritus

A New Heaven and a New Earth

Sunday, January 7, 2007

Christ Community Church

Prelude

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

...Betty Van Till

...Sue Mitchell-Wallace

Welcome and news of the community

Introit

Lead Us from Death to Life

...Diane VanWesep & David Epplert

...Marty Haugen

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe. Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth, let us begin to grow into your people. We can be love, we can bring peace, we can still be your way of compassion.

Gathered in community

One: The Spirit says: "Behold, I am making all things new. It is not true that we must accept inhumanity, poverty, hunger, death and destruction."

All: This is true: "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

One: It is not true that violence and hatred shall have the last word and that war and destruction have come to stay forever.

All: This is true: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, whose name shall be Prince of Peace.

One: It is not true that we must wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can do anything.

All: This is true: I will pour out my spirit upon all people, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people will see visions, and your old people will dream dreams.

One: It is not true that our dreams for the liberation of humankind, our dreams of justice, of human dignity, of peace, are not meant for this earth or this history.

All: This is true: The hour comes, and it is now that true worshippers will worship God in spirit and truth.

Participants:

Preacher: Ned Edwards

Liturgist: Bob Kleinheksel

Soloists: Diane Van Wesep, David Epplert

Organist: Betty Van Till

Ushers: Kevin Baldus (Captain), Kath Alward, Steve Alward, Ryan Cotton, Paul Crowell, Dave Lindberg, Paul Reitemeier, Cathy Saurman, Vic Wilhelm. The gold team ushers next Sunday.

Greeters: Gloria Klinger, Clara Lang

Sound Booth: Brian Drabczyk

Camera: Brad Vander Ark, Kate Ujlaky

Ministry Council Hosts: Bruce Martin and Keith Arteaga (tour leader)

Growing Place: Sarah Jane Essebaggars

Worship center news

This morning all children celebrate Epiphany. Our emphasis in the Worship Center is now on *Epiphany Eyes*: eyes that help us see the deeper meaning beyond that which is apparent on the surface, or at first glance.

Three-year olds through second grade will hear the story of "The Gifts of the Magi."

Third graders see an "Epiphany Eyes" slide presentation.

Fourth and fifth graders are encouraged to share with their parents today's "clue."

Thank you to our "Magi" this Epiphany Sunday - Cindy and John Leitner and Greg Oleszczuk.

C3/CCC recommended readings:

Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and, Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary by Marcus Borg

Marcus Borg takes us on an incredible journey to discover who Jesus was, what he taught, and why he still matters today. In the definitive book of his career, Borg argues that how we see Jesus affects how we see Christianity and reveals a new way of seeing—a new perspective that can overcome the differences between the literalists and progressives, a path that emphasizes following "the way" of Jesus, the original name of the Jesus movement.

A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose by Eckhart Tolle

Tolle takes us beyond our own lives to show that we now have an opportunity to birth a new, more loving world. We will come to experience who we truly are, which is infinitely greater than anything we currently think we are.

*Opening hymn

O God of Earth and Space (No. 274)

...tune: Leoni

...words: Jane Parker Huber

O God of earth and space, of sea and fire and air,
Your providence surrounds us here and everywhere.
In fruit and grain and tree, in shelter from the cold,
In cooling breezes, flowing wells, now as of old.

Where faithfulness is shown, where love and truth abound,
Where beauty graces human life, there you are found.
Inspirer of all thought! Creative force of art!
The melody on every tongue, in every heart!

Wherever freedom reigns, where sin is overthrown,
Where justice fused with mercy rules, there you are known.
Give us the courage clear, to make the earth a home,
For all to live in harmony, in Christ's shalom.

Prayer

...Bob Kleinheksel

Musical reflection

Laudamus Te

...Diane VanWesep & David Epplert

...A. Vivaldi

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, glorificamus te. Adoramus te.

Children's sermon

Reading

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And in the spirit he carried me away to a great high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel... I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God, the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ...The Revelation of John 22 (excerpts)

Churches are to be communities of transformation. This means being communities of resocialization. Most of us have been socialized into modern American culture. To be Christian is to be resocialized into a different understanding and way of life—to live in relationship to another Lord and vision. Being Christian does not mean being Anti-American, but it does mean that Christian identity and loyalty matter more than national identity and loyalty.

Another central function of the church is that it exists for the sake of the world. It does not exist for its own sake. It is grounded in God, who "so loved the world," not God who so loved the church, and Christians in particular. The church is to be a mediator, and instrument of God's passion for the world's well being. So it is important to be a part of the Christian community—not because it is a requirement for salvation, but because of the church's role as a community of transformation. God does not need the church. But Christians do. God can get along without the church. We cannot.

...Marcus Borg, *Jesus*, 308

Sermon

"New Heaven and a New Earth for a New Year"

...Ned Edwards

Offertory

How Brightly Beams the Morning Star

...Betty Van Till
...M. Drischner

*Closing hymn

God of the Sparrow (No. 272)

Soloists:

*God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars,
How does the creature say Awe, how does the creature say Praise?*

All:

God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast,
How does the creature cry Woe, how does the creature cry Save?

God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave,
How does the creature say Grace, how does the creature say Thanks?

God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal,
How does the creature say Care, how does the creature say Life?

God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook,
How does the creature say Love, how does the creature say Peace?

God of the ages, God of the hand, God of the loving heart,
How do your children say Joy, how do your children say Home?

*Blessing

May you be blessed
By a new heaven and a new earth
In the year to come.
As the Spirit guides you
To be an isle in the sea,
To be a hill on the shore,
To be a star in the night,
To be a staff for the weak.

*Postlude

March of the Three Kings

...Betty Van Till
...Traditional



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What's happening at C3/CCC

Today, Sunday, January 7

Our annual Epiphany sticky buns and hot chocolate are available in the Parlour following today's gathering. A special thanks to the Steigenga family for providing this special treat!

Sermon talk-back will take place in the sanctuary beginning at 10:45 a.m.

Free blood pressure clinic before and after this morning's gathering in the Parlour.

Sunday, January 14

Two gatherings at 8:30 AM and 9:30 AM

Does religion give you a higher perspective on your life? Do you feel that you were always destined to do or be certain things? How does the traditional religious teaching on predestination intersect with Carolyn Myss's notion that our souls made a sacred contract with life before birth? This morning Ian Lawton will explore ways we can live with greater intention and a higher perspective. Music will be provided by the C³ Band featuring Steve Weideman, Lauren Mattone, Lisa Chorny, Kurt and Cathy Forrest and Brad Vander Ark.

Saturday, January 20

Be the change...fundraising celebration

Don't miss this fabulous dinner featuring international cuisine, entertainment, and a silent auction. This is sure to be a night you will not want to miss. More details are in the bulletin insert. Space is limited, so buy your tickets today.

Church family news

Leonard (Red) Bird is in Butterworth.

Sympathy to Vivian Lundgren on the passing of her husband Carl on Jan. 1st.

Christ Community is an alternative to church as usual.
We live together in the awe of worship
in the Presence of the Mystery of God
Whose inclusive grace moves us to embrace all
with unconditional love and gracious acceptance,
irrespective of race, gender, economic status, age or sexual orientation.

Loving the world as God loves it,
following the way of Jesus,
sensitive to the winds of the Spirit,
seeking to discern the Word of God in the biblical tradition,
the Movement of God in the context of our culture.

Christ Community is an ecumenical community -
in background,
in faith perspective,
in worship expression;
a blending of all the great Christian traditions.

Christ Community finds its window to God in the face of Jesus
while affirming the quest and insight of other faiths;
opening ourselves to dialogue and mutual enrichment in our pluralistic world.

Christ Community is intentionally a community of open mind and warm heart...
where the broken find healing,
the doubting learn to trust,
the anxious find peace,
and the strong are confirmed,
trusting God...

The God of The Beginning,
The God of The End,
The God with us in The Meantime...
this in-between time.

We invite all to join us in this exciting venture of faith.

Mission statement of Christ Community Church since 1993



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