



**Being human,  
Being love**

225 East Exchange Street  
Spring Lake, Michigan 49456

616 842 1985 p  
616 842 3476 f

[www.christ-community.net](http://www.christ-community.net)

**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

**Celebrating Progressive Religion and Science**  
**Sunday, January 28, 2007**  
**Christ Community Church**

**Prelude**

...Checkers Morton

**Welcome and news of the community**

**Gathered in community**

"How important it is that we learn the Sacred Story of our Evolutionary Universe, just as we have learned our cultural/religious stories. Each day we will begin to do what humans do best: Be amazed! Be filled with reverence! Contemplate! Fall in Love! Be entranced by the wonder of the Universe, the uniqueness of each being, the beauty of creation, its new revelation each day, and the Divine Presence within all!"

...Sr. Mary Southard

One: We hear the sizzle of a newborn star  
All: **and know that something magic and wondrous is emerging**

One: We are witness to flexible eternity, the evolving past  
All: **and know that life is stronger than death**

One: We are dust and breath in the face of stars  
All: **we gaze in awe at the beauty of creation, each day's revelation and Divine Presence within**

**\*Opening hymn**

*Wonders Still the World Shall Witness*

...tune: *Hyfrydol*  
...words: *Jacob Trapp*

Wonders still the world shall witness never known in days of old,  
never dreamed by ancient sages, howsoever free and bold.  
Sons and daughters shall inherit wondrous arts to us unknown,  
when the dawn of peace its splendor over all the world has thrown.

They shall rule with wing-ed freedom worlds of health and human good,  
worlds of commerce, worlds of science, all made one and understood.  
They shall know a world transfigured, which our eyes by dimly see;  
they shall make its towns and woodlands beautiful from sea to sea.

For a spirit then shall move them we but vaguely apprehend--  
aims magnificent and holy, making joy and labor friend.  
Then shall bloom in song and fragrance harmony of thought and deed,  
fruits of peace and love and justice, where today we plant the seed.

**Children's message**

...Bob Kleinheksel

## Participants:

**Preacher:** Ian Lawton

**Liturgist:** Bob Kleinheksel

**Organist:** Betty Van Till

**Musicians:** Checkers Morton: Dave Collee, Jim Beegle, Bob Vanstee, Tim Fronsec

**Ushers:** Tom Holmstrom (Captain), Barb Brower, Tricia Harney, Jean King, Phil Leech, Terry Leskuk, Pedro Martinez, Pam Park, John Stalzer, Karen Wolffis. The red team ushers next Sunday.

**Greeters:** Stephen Schmidt, Joan & Bob Scheifele

**Sound Booth:** Brian Drabczyk

**Camera:** Brad Vander Ark, Kate Ujlaky

**Ministry Council Hosts:** Ellie Williams  
Karen Cotton

## Reading resource:

If you are looking for more information on evolution, check out the latest issue of 'What Is Enlightenment' magazine.

You've heard the debate: Creation vs. Evolution, Darwinism vs. Intelligent Design. But could it really be that simple? Exploring the nature of evolution through perspectives both scientific and spiritual, this issue attempts to do what the mainstream media won't, offering a complex and nuanced look at one of the greatest mysteries of the modern era. Featuring Robert W. Godwin, Ken Wilber, John F. Haught, Zoltan Torey, John Stewart, and more.

Magazines will be sold in the narthex (\$7.50) with all proceeds going to C³/CCC. Pick up your copy today!

## Worship center news

This morning, three and four-year-olds hear the story of "Jesus and the Children."

Kindergarten and first graders hear the story of, "The Boy in the Temple."

Second graders hear the story, "Calling the Disciples."

Third graders continue their series entitled "Remembering Jesus." Today they remember that Jesus spoke to people no one else would speak to.

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

The Worship Center offering will be used to stock the People Center's freezer.

## Prayer

...Bob Kleinheksel

## Musical reflection

...Checkers Morton

## Readings

<sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. <sup>15</sup>"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

...John 14:12-17

I realized later that every religion is coded with such an image of a radical new quality of life, but it had to be encoded in the metaphysical or mystical realm. With the advent of awareness of our new capacities and our potential for conscious evolution, I see now that what has been intuited, as life after death, may, indeed, be life after this stage of evolution. Not as some perfect Utopia, but as a state of being that normalizes direct apprehension of the divine, of the implicate order, and that sees ourselves as expressions of that unfolding pattern of creation, cocreative with it. When you put together our full potential -- spiritual, social, and scientific/technological -- you see a quantum jump, a new species, a universal humanity that, in fact, may embody many of the characteristics of spiritual visions of life beyond this world... a new heaven and a new Earth, a new Jerusalem, beyond sorrow, beyond death, the former things passed away...

Perhaps we are, indeed, coming to the end of this world, to the end of civilization, the end of separate self-consciousness as we have known it. And this is good. We are being instructed by Failure -- the failure of war to win, the failure of consumerism to satisfy, the inevitable rise of the seas in response to global warming brought on, in part at least, by human destruction of nature. All of these evolutionary drivers may indeed be the impulse needed to jump our species to a higher order, or to self destruction.

...Barbara Marx Hubbard

## Congregational hymn

*Spirit of the Living God*

...words adapted by Ian Lawton

Spirit of the living God, come, evolve in me.  
Spirit of the living God, come, evolve in me.  
Melt me, mold me, move me, awaken in me.  
Spirit of the living God, come, evolve in me.

## Sermon

*Why Science and Religion Enhance Each Other*

...Ian Lawton

## Offertory

...Checkers Morton

## Reception of gifts

### \*Closing hymn

*As We Evolved*

...tune: Londonderry Air  
...words: Chris Avis

As we evolved and thought unlocked our human mind,  
free to imagine, question and construe,  
conscious of self and finite humankind:  
ours a contingent life to dare and do.  
Mind that can soar beyond the present time and space:  
past days remembered, unseen days to be.  
Swirling in life, we yearn to find a place  
where living love and hope can set us free.

Witnessed through time, the growing God experience.  
Each generation edging to the light;  
finding within, the Spirit's loving presence:  
Ground of our Being, source of all delight.  
See now the God who gives to us empowerment,  
see now the Christ who comes to show us how.  
Act on the call of your divine endowment:  
this is salvation in the realm of now.

### \*Blessing

We call upon the power which sustains the planets in their orbits, that wheels our Milky Way in its 200 million year spiral, to imbue our personalities and our relationships with harmony, endurance, and joy. Fill us with a sense of immense time so that our brief, flickering lives may truly reflect the work of vast ages past and also the millions of years of evolution whose potential lies in our trembling hands.

...John Seed, *Thinking Like a Mountain*, 1988.

### \*Postlude



### What's happening at C3/CCC

#### *The Compatibility of Science and Religion*

"The misfortune that has overtaken the spiritual outlook of man is that as his universe expanded, his conception of the deity did not expand with it."

~ F. Wood Jones, *Design and Purpose*

As we look ahead to our Evolution Sunday on February 4, there will be many opportunities to explore the ways science and religion coincide to shape our ways of being in the world. Come explore what it means to evolve.

#### **Wednesday, January 31**

The Institute for Progressive Theology launches *Science and Religion 101* taught by Ian Lawton and Howard Van Till. Class meets in the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. For more details see the bulletin insert.

#### **Special upcoming gatherings**

*Feb. 4* Evolution Sunday

*Feb. 11* Honoring Women Sunday

*Feb. 18* Mardi Gras Celebration

#### **Center for Religion and Life Brunch Sunday, February 11**

Don't miss the Center for Religion and Life Brunch Lecture with Harry T. Cook beginning at 11:30 a.m. Buy your tickets in the Narthex today. For more information on Harry T. Cook, see the bulletin insert.

### Church family news

Robert France is at Butterworth Hospital.

Gerry Rodarmer is recovering at Shore Haven.

Congratulations to Scott & Becky Weliver on the birth of their daughter, McKenna Rebecca Weliver on January 20.

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



**Being human, Being love**