



**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)

Christ Community Church is an open and affirming spiritual community. We are grateful to have you with us today. We invite you to introduce yourself to a staff member or Ministry Council host or fill out a pew card. Welcome!

**Ian Lawton**

*Executive Minister, Preaching and Theological Inquiry*

**Bob Kleinheksel**

*Minister of Care and Social Justice*

**Brigit Lewis**

*Administration and Fund Development*

**Allison Rockey**

*Communications and Outreach Ministry*

**Brad Vander Ark**

*Audio/Visual and Online Ministry*

**Roger Schuring**

*Facility Maintenance*

**Jacqueline Rose Fisher**

*Director of Fine Arts*

**Toni Van Dyken**

*Interfaith Minister and Spiritual Director*

**Kim Bazy**

*Children's Ministry*

**Chad Beyer**

*Youth Ministry*

**Barb Kelly**

*Nursery Care*

**Alicia Grennan Stewart**

*Administrative Assistant*

**Brian Drabczyk**

*Sound Technician*

Office Reception Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Building Hours

Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

# The Divine Feminine – Fluid Like Water

Sunday, March 9, 2008

Christ Community Church

## Prelude

*Lac qui Parle Dakota*

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

*Emma Lou Diemer*

## Welcome

## Procession: Voice of the Feminine Spirit

**Women of All Ages Singing,  
Dancing, Drumming**

*Lyrics by Stuart Wilde,  
adapted and choreographed  
by Shannon Connell*

Run daughter run, show the others how it's done  
Run daughter run, run to the land of the moon and sun

Daughter of the moon and sun, spread your wings, run and run  
Breathe the freedom, air so pure, body strong and heart delight

Be brave as you ride across the landscape, open your heart to nature's wonder  
Touch the silence as you roam, princess of the celestial home

## Celebrating the Power of Water

The Egyptian Goddess Maat is often depicted as a giant bird who holds the entire world in perfect balance, while at the same time holding a feather which could tip the scales to one side or the other. Unfortunately, over the last four millennia on our planet, the scales have been tipped in favor of the masculine, causing an imbalance at many levels.

In this new time, perhaps the water-carrying principle, the feminine, will have enough influence to put out the fires kindled by two thousand years of masculine domination and to begin to heal the desert.

"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water."

Loren Eiseley, *The Immense Journey*, 1957

One: Water teaches us so much about life  
All: **may we live like water; with grace, ease, and determination.**

One: When a river breaks at a waterfall, it gains energy and moves on.  
All: **As we encounter life's waterfalls, may we move on with courage and intention.**

One: Water inspires us to not become rigid with fear or cling to what's familiar.  
All: **May we not waste time clinging to the past, but flow onward like a river.**

One: Rivers merge with the ocean, without fear of loss of identity or control.  
All: **May we move beyond ego to become part of something extraordinary and world changing.**

## Art: The Divine Feminine Expressed

We value the arts as creative expression of the deepest human yearnings. This month, as we honor the Divine Feminine, we are fortunate to have the work of two local female artists, Lydia Meyer and Gretchen Cline, displayed in the Parlour.

### Lydia Meyer

Lydia's journey—being raised a Quaker, receiving a Master's degree in Social Work, a Master's of Divinity, and serving as the Minister of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Grand Haven—has provided the foundation for her artwork.

Lydia now provides counseling and spiritual direction to individuals and small or large groups. Her work focuses mostly on women, offering opportunities to reclaim their inner voice, strength, and vitality.

The artwork displayed here includes colored pencil drawings, acrylic paintings, and fiber work knitted and crocheted into Spirit Bowls, alter cloths, and soul mats.

### Gretchen Cline

The series, Kundalini\* Rising, depicts the image of the lotus flower to evoke the possibility of personal and spiritual transformation. The lotus has long been regarded as a symbol of the movement of energy, both in the universe and in the human form, as envisioned by sages in the yogic tradition.

\*Kundalini refers to the creative life force in human, finite form that is said to be coiled at the base of the spine. Chakra (literally wheel or disk) is the Sanskrit word for the movement of energy and refers to seven main energy centers that correspond to nerves, organs and glands (and their functions) on a human, physical plane.

When the energy flows freely throughout the seven main chakras, then health is optimal, and according to the Kundalini yoga tradition, the "kundalini" can rise; when the kundalini rises, we are animated, radiant, and shine with a vital joy or passion for life. We then truly live in the present moment.

## \*Congregational Song

*In Water We Grow*

tune: Hanover  
words: Brian Wren

In water we grow, secure in the womb,  
and speechlessly know love's safety and room.  
Baptizing and blessing we publish for good  
the freeing, caressing, safekeeping of God.

In water we wash: the dirt of each day,  
its trouble and rush are carried away.  
In Christ re-created by love's cleansing art,  
self-will and self-hatred dissolve and depart.

In water we dwell, for by its deep flow  
through bloodstream and cell, we live, think and grow.  
Praise God, love outflowing, whose well of new birth  
baptizes our knowing and waters the earth.

## Baptism

Parents: Cathy and Kurt Forrest, their son is Luke David Forrest

Let us baptize this water with our love and immerse the space with our gratitude.

Parents are asked: *Will you strive to nurture Luke in his own spiritual development; to respect life, to love deeply and to fill the world with his love and grace? Will you, by example, teach Luke to respond with optimism rather than fear, to embrace discovery rather than a closed belief system, and to believe that there is no such thing as failure, only opportunities in disguise?*

*I baptize you in water, Luke, to signify your connection to all of life. Above you are the stars. Beneath you is the earth. Within you is the light of life. Like the stars may your love be constant. Like the earth may your life be grounded. Like the light may your spirit shine. You are embraced by God; within as self-worth, between as the strength in community, and beyond as the endless possibilities that line your future.*

## Musical Reflection: Baptism Blessing

*Sweet Harmony—We Are*

Words and Music by  
Ysaye M. Barnwell

For each child that's born, a morning star rises and sings to the  
universe who we are.  
For we are our grandmothers' prayers, and we are our grandfathers' dreamings,  
We are the breath of our ancestors, we are the spirit of God.  
We are mothers of courage and fathers of time,  
we are daughters of dust and sons of great vision,  
we're sisters of mercy and brothers of love,  
we are lovers of life and the builders of nations,  
we're seekers of truth and keepers of faith,  
we are makers of peace and the wisdom of ages.  
We are our grandmothers' prayers, and we are our grandfathers' dreamings,  
We are the breath of our ancestors, we are the spirit of God.  
For each child that's born, a morning star rises and sings to the  
universe who we are.  
We are one.

## Children Leave for Programs

# Drumming Meditation

Barb Pitcher and Amy Oaks

C3/CCC Capital Campaign

## Readings

Toni Van Dyken

The first human did not know Wisdom fully,  
nor will the last ever fathom Her.  
For Her mind is more spacious than the sea,  
Her counsel more deep than the great abyss. – *Wisdom of Jesus Ben Sirach 28:29*

“Each woman has potential access to *Rio Abajo Rio*, this river beneath the river. She arrives there through deep meditation, dance, writing, painting, prayermaking, singing, drumming, active imagination, or any activity which requires an intense altered consciousness. A woman arrives in this world-between-worlds through yearning and by seeking something she can see just out of the corner of her eye. She arrives there by deeply creative acts, through intentional solitude, and by practice of any of the arts. And even with these well-crafted practices, much of what occurs in this ineffable world remains forever mysterious to us, for it breaks physical laws and rational laws as we know them.” (p.30)

“I’m always taken by how deeply women like to dig in the earth. They plant bulbs for the spring. They poke blackened fingers into mucky soil, transplanting sharp-smelling tomato plants. I think they are digging down to the two-million-year-old woman. They are looking for her toes and her paws. They want her for a present to themselves, for with her they feel of a piece and at peace.” (p.33)

– Clarissa Pinkola Estes, *Women Who Run With The Wolves*

## Sermon

Toni Van Dyken and Ian Lawton

*Divine Feminine Grounded in Earth*

## Offertory

*Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

tune: Carolyn Jennings  
setting: Wayne Wold

## \*Congregational Song

*We Are the Earth Upright and Proud*

tune: Ein’ Feste Burg  
words: Kenneth Patton

We are the earth upright and proud; in us the earth is knowing.  
Its winds are music in our mouths, in us its rivers flowing.  
The sun is our hearthfire; warm with the earth’s desire;  
And with its purpose strong, we sing earth’s pilgrim song;  
In us the earth is growing.

We lift our voices, fill the skies with our exultant singing.  
We dedicate our minds and hearts, to order, beauty bringing.  
Our labor is our strength, our love will win at length;  
Our minds will find the ways to live in peace and praise.  
Our day is just beginning.

## \*Blessing

May the nourishment of the earth be yours, may the clarity of light be yours,  
may the fluency of the ocean be yours, may the protection of the ancestors  
be yours. And so may a slow wind work these words of love around you,  
an invisible cloak to mind your life.

– John O’Donohue *Echoes of Memory*

## \*Postlude

tune: Ein’ Feste Burg  
arr. by Anne Krentz Organ

Thank you to the many talented volunteers in this community who have already committed to playing a vital role as team leaders in our upcoming capital campaign.

- Cindy Anderson
- Keith Arteaga
- Patti Baldus
- David Beighley
- Cheri Borns
- Garrett Borns
- Randy Borns
- Julie Bowen
- Shalamee Campbell
- Barb Casemier
- Steve Chappell
- Tom Edwards
- Rose Jolman
- Mariji Juhl
- Jean King
- Gloria Klinger
- Cindy Lear
- Jeff Leech
- Kristen Lucksted
- Bruce Martin
- Jean McCabe
- Karri Milas
- Julia Miller
- Greg Oleszczuk
- Ted Poulton
- Gay Maria Ray
- Penny Robertson
- Stephen Schmidt
- Shelly Stephens
- Zinnie Stille
- Judy Swanson
- Jeanine Taghon-Oleszczuk
- Cheryl VanAbbema
- Suzanne Velarde
- Annie Wassmann
- Tom Weber
- Ellie Williams
- Marti Youngdahl
- Mike Youngdahl
- Ron Zoet

“Being extraordinary is what this campaign is all about. With your participation, we will move beyond survival to fully living out the privilege and responsibility that comes with being the most creative, world-changing, Progressive Christian community on the planet.”

— Ian Lawton, Executive Minister



Being human, Being love

Christ Community is an alternative to church as usual.

We live together in awe of Life,  
connected by a sense of mystery that many call God.

Inclusive grace moves us to embrace all  
with unconditional love and gracious acceptance,  
celebrating ethnicity, gender, age, and sexual orientation.

Christ Community is a diverse, creative community  
in background,  
in faith perspective,  
in public expression;  
a blending of all the great spiritual traditions.

Christ Community finds a window to God in the face of Jesus  
and also in the quest and insight of other faiths;  
seeking dialogue and mutual enrichment in our pluralistic world.

We strive for greater justice and peace in the world  
inspired by Jesus and social activists through the centuries  
who challenged the status quo,

We seek to be the change we wish to see in the world,  
respecting earth's patterns, and honoring wellness in its many forms.

Christ Community is a community of open mind and warm heart,  
valuing the progressive unfolding of theology,  
where all are encouraged  
to honor their minds,  
live their questions,  
and embrace inner peace.

We invite all to join us in this exciting adventure of humanity.

