



**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!

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 Hassig Lewis, Administration
and Fundraising
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

Living Our Own Power and Wisdom
Sunday, August 27, 2006
8:30 & 9:30 a.m.
Christ Community Church

Prelude

Allegro from Sonata in C Minor

...**Betty Van Till**
...G.B. Pescetti

Opening Music

At The Bottom of Everything

...**Steve and Goldie Weideman**

Gathered In Community

One: We look within and awaken to divine Spirit that is our personal responsibility.

All: We are ready to co-create with the Spirit of life.

One: In this moment, we pause to open ourselves to the still small voice, Spirit's guidance.

All: We are ready to co-create with the Spirit of life.

One: We let go and know that God within will lead us to our highest purpose.

All: We are ready to co-create with the Spirit of life.

One: We accept every creature as it is. We release all judgments, and know we are all walking a divine path.

All: We are ready to co-create with the Spirit of life.

***Opening Hymn**

United in God

...tune: Hanover
...words: George Stuart

In nature's parade when stars brightly glow
when mountains stand firm as tides ebb and flow
the pageant revealed gives an awesome display
the honor is ours to be part of today.

The cosmos immense, the microbe so small
the rocks that endure and blossoms that fall
all shrouded in mystery and process profound
we all are the 'favored'. To all we are bound.

The seasons revolve, our nights turn to day
life bursts from the seed, then starts to decay
the patterns established expose a design
of interdependence of your life with mine.

So when we give thanks and when we adore
the source of all life, beyond and before
we claim as our birthright, for this is our song
"United together; in God we belong."

Participants:

Preacher: Ian Lawton

Liturgist: Allison Rockey

Organist: Betty VanTill

Musicians: Steve & Goldie Weideman

Ushers: Bob DeWall (Captain), Judy DeWall, Lloyd Plakke, Steve Platt, Ric Van Weelden, Marti Youngdahl, Michael Youngdahl, Char Zoet, Ron Zoet
The green team ushers next week.

Greeters: Gerry Rodarmer and Dorothy & Gordon VanHoeven

Sound Booth: Brian Drabczyk

Camera: Brad Vander Ark, Kate Ujlaky

Growing Place: Sarah Jane

Essebaggers

Ministry Council Hosts: Wayne Johnson, Bruce Martin (tour leader)

Reading Note

Pi is an Indian boy growing up in his family's zoo. Due to the unrest of 1970's India, his family decides to sell the zoo animals and move to Canada to start a new life. The ship transporting the Patels and the animals to North America sinks off the coast of the Philippines, however, with only Pi, an Orangutan, a hyena, and a Bengali tiger escaping on a twenty-six foot lifeboat. Nature takes its course and soon it is just Pi and the tiger alone at sea. This is part of a conversation he has with those investigating the ship sinking.

C3/CCC Kids Summer Program

Thank you to Renee Koeller for her work as our Summer Kids Program volunteers this morning.

A special thank you to all of our summer volunteers without whom our summer kids program would not be possible.

If you are interested in having a positive impact on the future world leaders, a.k.a. the children of C3/CCC, please contact Jan Hood to become a Worship Center volunteer. Only a small commitment is needed to make a world of difference in the lives of our kids.

Church Family

We extend our sympathy to Carole and Jim Alberda on the passing of Carole's father this week.

Please contact Sarah Jane with any church family notices.

Welcome and News of the Community

Readings

²¹Jesus said to his disciples, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lamp stand? ²²For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. ²³Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" ²⁴And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. ²⁵For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."

--Mark 4:21-25

If you stumble at mere believability, what are you living for? Isn't love hard to believe? . . . Don't you bully me with your politeness. Love is hard to believe, ask any lover. Life is hard to believe, ask any scientist. God is hard to believe, ask any believer. What is your problem with hard to believe?"

Isn't telling something - using words, English or Japanese - already something of an invention? Isn't looking upon this world already something of an invention? . . . The world isn't just the way it is. It is how we understand it, no? And in understanding something we bring something to it, no? Doesn't that make life a story?"

I know what you want. You want a story that won't surprise you. That will confirm what you already know. That won't make you see higher or further or differently. You want a flat story. An immobile story. You want dry, yeastless factuality.

--Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*, pp.297, 302

Musical Reflection

When You Come Back Down

...Steve & Goldie Weideman

Children's Message

"All I See Is Part of Me"

...Chara Curtis & Cynthia Aldrich

*Sister Star, how can it be
That I am you and you are me?*

*She glowed, "You're larger than you know,
You are everywhere there is to go.
You have a body, this is true...
But look at what's inside of you!"*

Prayers

Desiderata

...Allison Rockey

...Max Ehrmann

*You are a child of the universe,
no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here.
And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.*

Visual Meditation

...Ed Post

Sermon

"The Power of Imagination for Wisdom"

...Ian Lawton

Offertory

Enough

...Steve & Goldie Weideman

Reception of our Gifts

***Closing Hymn**

The Universe in God

...tune: Praise My Soul
...words: George Stuart

All creation sings a story of great splendor to declare,
when we contemplate its beauty we are called forth into prayer,
we enchanted stand in silence, God discovered everywhere.

When we stumble on new knowledge, when new insights help us grow,
we are quick to rediscover, just how much we do not know,
but the universe smiles gently as our theories come and go.

Outer space and inner being both have secrets they conceal,
galaxies so grimly awesome, deep emotions that we feel,
all in God are judged so sacred, it is God they all reveal.

***Blessing**

May the sun
Bring you new energy by day,
May the moon
Softly restore you by night,
May the rain
Wash away your worries,
May the breeze
Blow new strength into your being.
May you walk
Gently through the world and know
Its beauty all the days of your life.

--Apache blessing

***Postlude**

Presto from Sonata in C Minor

...Betty Van Till
...G.B. Pescetti



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Upcoming Sundays at C3/CCC

September 3: *"The Power of Myth:
How Inclusive Will We Be?"*

The first draft of Thomas Keneally's novel *Schindler's List* was called "*Schindler's Ark*". The famous Old Testament story of Noah's Ark is a myth that speaks to the unmentionable realities of our divided modern world. The myth of the Flood shatters our notions of good and bad, God as rescuer and punisher, and humanity as righteous and corrupt. Beyond these divisions lies the power of myth to broaden our sense of inclusiveness and to believe in a world without hate. Ian Lawton will be speaking.

September 10: Homecoming Celebration!
"Inspired by Self-Awareness"

Join us this Sunday as we celebrate homecoming, and the launch of a four-week series that will ignite the church year. The theme for the year is C³/CCC Inspired. You will be inspired by this community, and you will be an inspiration to the world. Each of these four weeks will explore an emphasis of our unique, progressive Christian vision. Each of the weeks will be inspired and inspiring. Ian Lawton will be speaking this Sunday as we go within to awaken to the inner inspiration that is self-awareness.

Music Note:

Thank you to George Stuart for giving us permission for the use of the progressive hymns sung this morning. These hymns can be found in the hymn book "Singing A New Song."
You may purchase this book for \$12 at www.toronto.nsw.uca.org.au

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.



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