



**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

Inspired By Nature
Sunday, September 24, 2006
8:30 & 9:30 a.m.
Christ Community Church

Prelude

St. Anthony's Chorale

...**Bell Quartet**

...J. Haydn

Gathered In Community

"Let us learn the revelation of all nature and thought; that the Highest dwells within us, that the sources of nature are in our own minds."

--Ralph Waldo Emerson, *The Oversoul*

One: We experience God in nature.

All: **We sense the oneness of all that is.**

One: We live in the midst of a deep power whose beatitude pervades the Kosmos.

All: **We experience nature as serenity, awe, and grandeur.**

One: Within us is the soul of the whole; the wise silence, the universal beauty, to which every part and particle is equally related; the eternal One.

When the eternal One breaks through our intellect, it is genius;
When it breathes through our will, it is virtue;
When it flows through our affections, it is love.

***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: Bob Kleinheksel

Organist: Betty VanTill

Bells Director: Sally Rowe

Vocalist: Lisa Chorny

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 week.

Greeters: Joyce & Andy Cawthon, and Allison Rockey

Sound Booth: Brian Drabczyk

Camera: Brad Vander Ark, Kate Ujlaky

Growing Place: Sarah Jane Essebaggers

Ministry Council Hosts: Karen Cotton, and Wayne Johnson

Worship Center News

Registration forms are available in the Narthex and in all of the Worship Center rooms.

If your child is three years old, or will be by October 1st, he or she will move from the nursery to the Three's and Four's Center, and is welcomed at 9:20 a.m. in Room H.

Children ages four and up are dismissed during the gathering to attend their program which concludes at 11:30 a.m.

- The three and four-year-olds are introduced to the circle of colors of the church year and learn that the church keeps time by beginning again and again - a circle of time.

- Kindergarten and first graders learn what a sacristy is and what liturgical vestments are.

- Second graders will learn about the many ways they can pray.

- Third graders will learn the parable of the Good Shephard and explore the meanings behind Eucharist.

- Fourth and fifth graders are encouraged to share with their parents today's "clue" which points them to the story they explored.

Music with Lisa Chorny begins on October 8!

Welcome and News of the Community

Readings

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.
--Matthew 6: 25-34

Like the Taoist sages of ancient China, Jesus likes to draw our attention to nature because he sees a power at work in it that humans have lost touch with. It is the creative power of the universe. Jesus goes on to say that if God clothes simple flowers in such beauty, how much more will God clothe you. That is to say, that while nature is a beautiful expression of the evolutionary impulse of the universe, when humans become aligned with the intelligence that underlies it, they will express that same impulse on a higher, more wondrous level.

--Eckhart Tolle, *A New Earth*, 268-269

Musical Reflection

Hands

...Lisa Chorny

...lyrics: Jewel

...music: Jewel & Patrick Leonard

*If I could tell the world just one thing, it would be that we're all OK
And not to worry 'cause worry is wasteful and useless in times like these
I won't be made useless I won't be idle with despair
I will gather myself around my faith for light's what darkness most fears*

*My hands are small, I know
But they're not yours, they are my own
And they're not yours, they are my own
And I am never broken*

*Poverty stole your golden shoes
But it didn't steal your laughter
And heartache came to visit me
But I knew it wasn't ever after*

*We'll fight, not out of spite
For someone must stand up for what's right
'Cause where there's a man who has no voice
There ours shall go singing*

*In the end only kindness matters
I will get down on my knees, and I will pray*

*We are never broken
We are God's eyes, God's hands, God's mind, God's heart*

Children's Time

Children and youth are invited forward and then will be dismissed for their morning activities.

Prayers

...Bob Kleinheksel

Reflective Song

"We Are the Mirror"

...Lisa Chorny

...John Astin

*We are the mirror as well as the face within it
We are tasting the taste of eternity this minute, oh
We are the mirror as well as the face within it
We are tasting the taste of eternity this minute, oh*

*We are pain and what cures pain
We're the sweet cold water and the jar that pours*

Sermon

Nature Mirrors Human Experience

...Ian Lawton

Offertory

Syahamba

...Bell Quartet

...African tune

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

We are part and parcel of a single and all-encompassing evolutionary current that is itself Spirit-in-action, the mode and manner of Spirit's creation, and thus is always going beyond what went before—that leaps, not crawls, to new plateaus of truth, only to leap again, dying and being reborn with each new quantum lurch, often stumbling and bruising its metaphysical knees, yet always getting right back up and jumping again.
--Ken Wilber, Up From Eden, 304

Let us leave this place, inspired by the universal beauty of nature,
inspired by the wise silence of life, leaping into a future that is ever new
and wondrous. May we look deeply in the eyes of Spirit in every moment.

*Postlude

Hymn To Joy

...Betty Van Till

...L. Beethoven



Upcoming Sundays at C3/CCC

October 1:

"Inspired by an Ever-Expanding Compassion"

As our religious context moves from tribal (exclusively centered on one group), to Kosmic (honoring our connection with all things) our perspective of care and justice also expands. Now the call of the Old Testament prophets for a religion based on care for the needy, along with Jesus' challenge that what we do to the least of these we do to him, become a call to place ourselves in an ever-widening circle of care and compassion. Ian Lawton will be preaching as we explore our role in the action for peace and justice in a connected world.

October 8:

"Coming Out in Our Humanity"

This Sunday we launch a new season in the life of the church, *Liberation Season*. We focus on personal, social and cosmic liberation. The theme we are following is *Coming Out*, as we boldly live our true essence. God is a light within each of us, and it is time to come out and shine. Come out in your humanity. Live it in community without shame or defensiveness. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking, you are a child of God. Live it freely and boldly. Ian Lawton will be speaking this morning.

Church Family

Don Van Hoeven is recovering at home.

If you are interested in the make-up date for the photo directory, please contact Sarah Jane at 842-1985 x118.

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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