



**Being human,  
Being love**

225 East Exchange Street  
Spring Lake, Michigan 49456

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[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!**

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  
**Bright Hassig 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 Sexuality**  
**Sunday, October 15, 2006**  
**8:30 & 9:30 a.m.**  
**Christ Community Church**

**Prelude**

*Hot Tamale Baby*  
*Tous Le Temps En Temps*

...C<sup>3</sup> Harvest Band

**Gathered in community**

As the embodiment of full divinity and full humanity, Jesus embraced all people and all expressions of humanity. His death and rising were a symbol of coming out to a full realization of the unity of life. Christ consciousness embraces all masculinity, all femininity, and everywhere in between. Christ consciousness embraces all sexuality; gay, straight, and everywhere in between. This realization calls us out of our tombs to fully embrace both our divine humanity and our human divinity. It opens up the possibility of intimacy with Christ consciousness; *within* as self-acceptance, *between* as affirmative action, and *beyond* as the inclusive nature of life.

**One:** We are called out of tombs of fear  
**All:** **to live with spirit and truth**

**One:** We stand alongside those who risk speaking truth, despite the risk  
**All:** **to build a world of love and acceptance**

**One:** We embrace those who choose not to "come out" lest they lose friends, family, shelter or security  
**All:** **and trust that their time will come.**

**\*Coming out balloon celebration**

**Welcome and news of the community**

**Stewardship announcement 2007**

*"Be the change you wish to see in the world."*

--Gandhi

**Musical reflection**

*O Mary Don't You Weep*

...C<sup>3</sup> Harvest Band

(The congregation is invited to join in singing the chorus.)

*O Mary don't you weep, don't you mourn*  
*O Mary don't you weep, don't you mourn*  
*Pharaoh's army got drowned*  
*O Mary don't you weep*

## Participants:

**Preacher:** Ian Lawton

**Liturgist:** Chad Beyer

**Music Coordinator:** Betty VanTill

**C<sup>3</sup> Harvest Band:** Steve Weideman, Tom Weideman, Bill Weideman, Kurt Forrest, Cathy Forrest, Lisa Chorney and Lauren Mattone

**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 week.

**Greeters:** Jane Leonard & Leonard Bird, and Allison Rockey

**Sound Booth:** Brian Drabczyk

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

**Growing Place:** Chris Platt

**Ministry Council Hosts:** Zinnie Stille,

Diane Hansen

## Worship center news

Children four years old to fifth grade will be dismissed during the gathering to watch a video in the Great Room until **10:30 a.m.** Children should be picked up at that time to join their families for the Harvest Festival activities.

## Youth news

There will be no youth group this morning. Youth are invited to stay for the whole gathering today, but due to the subject matter, youth are also welcome to join the Worship Center children in watching the video.

## Youth suicide statistics

In 1989, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued its "Report on the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide," which found that "A majority of suicide attempts by homosexuals occur during their youth, and gay youth are 2 to 3 times more likely to attempt suicide than other young people. They may comprise up to 30 percent of (the estimated 5,000) completed youth suicides annually."

[http://www.outproud.org/article\\_suicide.html](http://www.outproud.org/article_suicide.html)

## Coming out support

Contact C<sup>3</sup>/CCC at 616.842.1985 for assistance and we can refer you to the Network of Grand Rapids, or you may wish to contact them directly at 616.458.3511 or [www.the-lgbt-network.com](http://www.the-lgbt-network.com).

## Prayers

...Chad Beyer

## Musical reflection

...C<sup>3</sup> Harvest Band

*We Shall Overcome*

*We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
We shall overcome someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We shall overcome someday.*

*We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,  
We'll walk hand in hand someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We'll walk hand in hand someday.*

*We are not afraid, we are not afraid,  
We are not afraid today;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We are not afraid today.*

*The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,  
The truth shall make us free someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
The truth shall make us free someday.*

*We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,  
We shall live in peace someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We shall live in peace someday.*

*We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
We shall overcome someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We shall overcome someday.*

## Readings

<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, Lazarus, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."  
--John 11: 39-44

A spirituality that helps one accept and understand one's finite being is of enormous value. However, if reveling in the glory of one's personal story is the sum total of one's spiritual ambitions, narcissism and egoic self-importance might never be far behind. Of course, one must proudly declare the right to one's existence as a fully empowered member of society, but if we wish to follow our identity to its inevitable union with God, all lesser forms of self must be surrendered. So in the world of time and becoming, celebrate, engage, and defend the life you've been given. And in relationship with ever-present Spirit, which transcends and embraces all things, release your identity in that infinite space. Give your self away and recognize the Self you've always been.

--Audio dialogue between Patrick McNamara of *Gay Spirit Culture Project* and Ken Wilber as heard on *Integral Naked*

## Children are dismissed

*Children and youth are now dismissed for their morning activities.*

## Sunday~Monday connection

...Chad Beyer

*What we do when we gather inspires our daily lives, and our daily lives guide what we do when we gather. We aim to live in an inspired way as we explore the oneness of life both here on a Sunday morning and in our daily lives all week long.*

## Sermon

...Ian Lawton

*Come Out Come Out Whoever You Are*

## Offertory

...C<sup>3</sup> Harvest Band

*Into the Mystic*

## Reception of our gifts

## \*Closing hymn

*Praise with Joy Life's Inspiration*

...tune: Lauda Anima

...words: Ian Lawton

Praise with joy Life's inspiration, Source of justice, love and peace, well-spring for all human knowledge, forging fullness without cease, Celebrating nature's patterns, tides which move with constant ease.

Praise the One who fed the hungry, freed the captive, held the lost, healed the sick, upset religion, fearless both of fate and cost. Celebrate Christ's inspiration; Friend and stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit all around us, liberating truth from pride, forging bonds where race and gender, age or nation dare divide. Celebrate our spirit's yearning, justice that all powers defied.

Praise the source of Sun and Spirit, One God in community, Calling people to embody oneness in diversity. Thus the world shall yet discover, all of life in sanctity.

## \*Blessing

Come out. Tell the world who you are. Tell the world about the love that fills you. Tell the world that we- GLBT folk, GLBT allies and friends, are here and we will not be silent. As you speak the truth and work for justice, be assured that the *God within* fills you with clarity and courage; the *God between* walks with you, to sustain you when the road is tough; and the *God beyond* is the pattern of life, where love breeds love, and there are no limits to acceptance.

## \*Postlude

...C<sup>3</sup> Harvest Band

*O Mary Don't You Weep*



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## What's happening at C3/CCC

Following this morning's Gathering head outside for our Annual Harvest Festival. Enjoy music, face-painting, pumpkin decorating, goodies to buy, and great food to eat.

Conversation Circles will begin at 11:00 a.m

### **Sunday, October 22**

*"Coming Out in Our Personality"*

Join us for the third part in our Coming Out Series. Ian Lawton will be speaking as we explore our unique, individual personalities. We must include and embrace our individual personality types in order to transcend our differences in our search of oneness. Music will be provided by the Sanctuary Choir.

### **Wednesday, October 25**

*"God 101"*

Don't miss the first session of our educational series on the history of theology and how it relates to your life. Ian Lawton will teach this three-week class, which runs from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

### **Sunday, October 29**

*"All Saints Day"*

Join us as we explore a progressive take on eternal life, and as we celebrate and honor the deceased from our community. This gathering will be marked with a beautiful meditation by Ed Post, the celebration of the Eucharist, music from the Sanctuary Choir, and teaching by Bob Kleinheksel.

## Church Family

Congratulations to Bob and Joan Scheifele on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

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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