



**Being human,
Being love**

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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.

Welcome to Christ Community Church

This community is open to all. Thank you for joining us today. We would like to be in touch with you. Please introduce yourself to a staff member or Ministry Council host, or fill out the welcome card found in the pew.

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

Native American Justice Sunday, November 25, 2007 Christ Community Church

Prelude

Variations on a Dakota Tune

Jacqueline Rose Fisher
Thomas Keesecker

Welcome and news of the community

Introit

Native American Chant

Sweet Harmony & Tom Fisher

Heleluyan Muscogee

Call to beauty and balance

One: "Hozho hogahn ladin nasha woyen... In the house of harmony there I wander"

All: Beautiful and balanced.

One: Everything indeed, may it indeed be beautiful and balanced.

All: Beautiful and balanced.

One: Now Mother Earth and Father Sky meet each other, companions forever.

All: Beautiful and balanced.

One: Now the Night and the Day meet each other, companions forever.

All: Beautiful and balanced.

One: Now the white corn and the yellow corn meet each other, companions forever.

All: Beautiful and balanced.

One: Now the life that never ceases and the happiness in all things meet each other, companions forever.

All: Beautiful and balanced.

One: "Hozho hogahn ladin nasha woyen... In the house of harmony there I wander"

– Navajo Prayer

*Hymn

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.

Participants:

Preacher: Ian Lawton

Liturgist: Bob Kleinheksel

Organist: Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Musicians: Tom Fisher,

Sweet Harmony: Cathy Forrest, Karen McDonnell, Jackie Fisher, Susan Loughrin, Eileen Grostic

Ushers: Tom Holstrom (Captain), Barb Brower, Jean King, Phil Leech, Terry Leskuk, Pam Park, John Stalzer. The red team ushers next week.

Greeters: Ellie Williams & Marji Juhl

Sound booth: Brian Drabczyk

Video cameras: Garrett Borns, Kate Ujlaky and Brad Vander Ark

Ministry Council hosts: Randy Borns
Bruce Martin

Music License CCLI #2879109

Church family news

Our sympathy to Barb Kelly and Cathy Martin on the death of their mother, Jane Stuthard.

Children and youth news

Nursery care is available during the 10:00 a.m. service. Children may be dropped off in the nursery before the service and may remain in the nursery until the morning programs conclude at noon.

Children aged **three and four** begin in their Children's Program classroom at 10:00 a.m. They can be picked up in their room following the service at 11:30 a.m. or can be picked up anytime between 11:30 a.m. and noon in the nursery.

Children kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to participate with you in the beginning of the service. Following the children's message they are welcome downstairs for our children's program which concludes at noon.

In our children's program November is social justice month. The children have been exploring this theme through stories, activities and music. This morning the children will have music with Lisa Chorny to prepare for the Children's Concert on Sunday, December 16.

Our **youth grades 6th through 8th** are invited to the youth center near the adult library at 10:00 a.m. Their program concludes at noon.

Children's message

Bob Kleinheksel

Prayer

Bob Kleinheksel

Musical reflection

Sweet Harmony

Would You Harbor Me?

lyrics and music by Ysaye M. Barnwell

Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?

Would you harbor a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew? A heretic, convict or spy?

Would you harbor a runaway woman or child, a poet, a prophet, a king?

Would you harbor an exile or a refugee, a person living with AIDS?

Would you harbor a Tubman, a Garrett, a Truth, a fugitive or a slave?

Would you harbor a Haitian, Korean or Czech, a lesbian or a gay?

Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?

Readings

³Thus says the Lord: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place. ⁴For if you will indeed obey this word, then through the gates of this house shall enter kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their servants, and their people. ⁵But if you will not heed these words, I swear by myself, says the Lord, that this house shall become a desolation.

– Jeremiah 22: 3-5

"The great revelation of anthropology is that there are other ways of being, other ways of thinking, other ways of organizing yourself on the planet. And that's an idea that not only fills you with hope, it shows you the absolute importance of cultural diversity. You know, all these myriad cultures put together - from the Aboriginal Peoples of Australia to the Inuit people of the high Arctic, from Kalahari Bushmen to Pana in the forests of Borneo, from the yak herders to the voodoo acolytes of Haiti - all of these myriad cultures form a kind of an intellectual and spiritual and cultural web of life that envelops the planet and is as important to the sustenance of the planet as is the biosphere, the biological web of life. You might think of that web of cultural life as the ethnosphere, and you might define the ethnosphere as the sum total of all thoughts, dreams, ideas, myths, beliefs, intuitions, inspirations brought into being by the human imagination since the dawn of consciousness."

– Wade Davis

If the erosion of indigenous ways of life represented only a cultural clash, it would qualify as a human rights issue, certainly, but one without much legal impetus, because nowhere is there a law that a culture has a right to survive. But it is now recognized as a salient issue for the whole of the globe, and it will only grow stronger as corporations face people who believe that the life of the earth, the mother of all nourishment in Mayan culture, is even more valuable than their individual lives.

–Paul Hawken, "Blessed Unrest", p.113

Sermon

Ian Lawton

Christianity and Cultural Diversity

Offertory

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Paul Manz

Reception of gifts

*Closing hymn

Great God of Earth and Heaven

tune: Aurelia

Great God of earth and heaven whose Spirit is our breath,
who lives incarnate in us from birth and beyond death.
All generous, all loving, in whom all beauty thrives—
indwelling sons and daughters, the beauty of our lives.

While refugees go homeless and die before they live,
whose children have no future—our apathy forgive!
Where hope fades to depression, despair erodes the soul,
restore in us a passion to make the broken whole.

Where hunger kills fine people, injustice cries aloud,
while weapons grow more lethal and only power stands proud.
God of our flesh and fiber, whose mercy does not cease,
implant your mind within us, create a world for peace.

*Blessing

A Hopi Elder Speaks, "You have been telling the people that this is the Eleventh Hour, now you must go back and tell the people that this is the Hour. And there are things to be considered..."

Know your garden. It is time to speak your Truth. Create your community. Be good to each other. And do not look outside yourself for the leader."

Then he clasped his hands together, smiled, and said, "This could be a good time!"

"There is a river flowing now very fast. It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid. They will try to hold on to the shore. They will feel they are torn apart and will suffer greatly.

"Know the river has its destination. The elders say we must let go of the shore, push off into the middle of the river, keep our eyes open, and our heads above water. And I say, see who is in there with you and celebrate. At this time in history, we are to take nothing personally, least of all ourselves. For the moment that we do, our spiritual growth and journey comes to a halt.

"The time for the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves! Banish the word struggle from your attitude and your vocabulary. All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.

"We are the ones we've been waiting for."

-- attributed to an unnamed Hopi elder, Hopi Nation, Oraibi, Arizona

*Postlude

Ein feste Burg

Jacqueline Rose Fisher
Johann Rinck

Upcoming gatherings, news and events

Sermon Talk-Back will begin in the Sanctuary at 11:15 a.m. this morning and will conclude at noon.

Sunday, December 2

Have you ever stared at one of those black and white drawings, with what appears to be two profiles facing each other, but could also be seen as a white chalice on black background? It's hard for us to see two realities at the same time. You see one or the other, foreground or background.

This morning we will explore extraordinary "knowing," when you see what lies before you, but then you "see" meaning or context, and in some extraordinary sense, "know" truths that are not immediately evident. As we begin Advent, you will be given empowering, and intelligent ways of interpreting the virgin birth story, as well as your own experiences of extraordinary knowing.

The Sanctuary Choir will be providing our music this morning.

Recommended readings

All books listed here are available for sale on our book cart, thanks to the Bookman in Grand Haven. C³/CCC receives a percentage of the sales.

Recommended social justice books:

- *Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army* by Jeremy Scahill
- *Blessed Unrest* by Paul Hawken
- *Loyal To The Sky: Notes from An Activist* by Marisa Handler (speaking at C³/CCC on March 2)
- *The Devil Came on Horseback: Bearing Witness to the Genocide in Sudan* by Brian Steidle
- *Heroic Conservatism: Why Republicans Need to Embrace America's Ideals And Why They Deserve to Fail If They Don't* by Michael J. Gerson

Recommended Advent book:

- *Extraordinary Knowing: Science, Skepticism, and the Inexplicable Powers of the Human Mind* by Elizabeth Lloyd Mayer



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.

