



**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 Church

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
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

The Advent of Marvelous Revelation

Sunday, December 3, 2006

Christ Community Church

Prelude

Christmas Jazz Suite

...Woodwind Quintet

Welcome and news of the community

Introit

Arise, Shine Out, Your Light Has Come

...Sanctuary Choir

...Brian Wren

Arise, shine out, your light has come, unfolding city of our dreams. On distant hills a glory gleams: the new creation has begun. Above earth's valleys, thick with night, high on your walls the dawn appears, and history shall dry its tears, as nations march toward the light. The dancing air shall glow with light, and sun and moon give up their place, when love shines out of every face, our good, our glory, and delight.

Gathered in community

Advent means acceptance of this totally new beginning. It means a readiness to have eternity and time meet not only in Christ but in us, in our life, in our world, in our time. The beginning, therefore, is the end. We must accept the end before we can begin. Or rather, to be more faithful to the complexity of life, we must accept the end in the beginning, both together.

...Thomas Merton

One: I dream of a world where all that has divided us will merge

All: compassion will be wedded to power

One: softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind

All: both men and women will be gentle

One: both women and men will be strong

All: no person will be subject to another's will

One: all will live in abundance and freedom and diversity

All: the greed of some will give way to the needs of many

One: all will live in harmony with each other and the earth

All: everywhere will be called Eden once again.

...adapted from Judy Chicago

Advent musical reflection

Hanerot Halalu

...Sanctuary Choir

...Neil Ginsberg

Hannerot, halalu. Anu madli kin. On these nights we kindle the lights and remember the miracle. On these nights rejoice, in the candle's glow. Hanerot, halalu. Anu madlikin.

Lighting of the Advent candle

...Shannon Connell &
Seraphino Licastro

One: Today we begin the season of Advent by lighting the first of five candles in our advent wreath. We shall call this candle the Visionary's candle. It represents the fire of vision, the spirit of the East that draws from the expectation of the Sun's rise. Its light is nothing less than hope, the ability to perceive possibilities when others have been blinded by despair.

All: We light this candle to honor the visionary spirit in us all.

Participants:

Preacher: Ian Lawton

Liturgist: Allison Rockey

Choir Director: John Slagter

Organist: Betty Van Till

Woodwind Quintet: Kathie Bolthouse, Allen Beck, Anita Lauterberg, Dick Tindall, and Charles Misner

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 Sunday.

Greeters: Kathy and Bill Klouw, Deb Lass

Sound Booth: Brian Drabczyk

Camera: Brad Vander Ark, Kate Ujlaky

Ministry Council Host: Cindy Terlouw

Growing Place: Sarah Jane Essebaggers

Eucharist note

In honor and celebration of all faith traditions, spiritual journeys, and life paths, all are welcome to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Worship center news

Children aged three and four are welcome in Room H before the gathering begins. Children ages five and up are dismissed during the gathering. All children and youth programs conclude at 11:30 a.m.

This morning all worship centers begin their Advent series.

Worship Center offering will be used to buy gifts (toys and clothing) for a boy or girl approximately the same age as the children in each Center. The project will culminate on December 17. Gifts will be collected by the Salvation Army!

Church family news

Bob DeWall is recovering at home.

Carl Lundgrens is recovering at home.

Carolyn Derives is recovering at home.

We extend our sympathy to the friends and family of **Dan Peel**, who died in an auto accident this week.

We extend our sympathy to **Pam Park and Jean King** on the death of Pam's mother on Wednesday.

*Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

tune: Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your hopeful children dwell,
Give comfort to all exiles here; and to the aching heart bid cheer.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Love to dwell.

O come, you Splendor very bright, as joy that never yields to might.
O come, and turn all hearts to peace, that greed and war at last shall cease.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.

O come, thou day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by your presence here.
And dawn in every broken soul as vision that can see the while.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Light to dwell.

Celebration of Eucharist

"The Eucharist is about the universe loving us unconditionally still one more time and giving itself to us in the most intimate way (as food and drink). Inter connectivity is the heart of the Eucharistic experience: God and humanity coming together, God and flesh, the flesh of wheat, wine, sunshine, soil, water, human ingenuity, stars, supernovas, galaxies, storms, fireballs. Every Eucharist has a 15 billion-year sacred story that renders it holy. The Eucharist is also our hearts expanding and responding generously." ...Matthew Fox

Disciples of Christ created a Eucharist symbolic of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. The bread is emblematic of his broken body, and the cup represents his shed blood. The Lord's Supper is eaten in remembrance of, and in thanksgiving for, Christ's life and death.

Today, we revere the universal themes in the Eucharist; survival, freedom from tyranny, sacrifice, appreciation, helplessness, the search for meaning, love, our dependence on the earth, the need for nurture, and the marvelous cycle of birth, death, and life renewed.

May the dry bread of mundane subsistence be transformed into a splendid banquet. May the crushed grapes of despair transform into the cup of feasting. May order emerge out of chaos; rays of light out of dark seasons, and wholeness out of broken places.

For those whose senses are quickened by the One Taste, these are the gifts of time and eternity. May the character of their deep presence touch, cleanse, refine, and enliven you.

Children are dismissed

Readings

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be God's peoples, and God will be with them; God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."
...Revelation 21: 1-5

"Song on the End of the World" by Czeslaw Milosz

On the day the world ends a bee circles a clover,
A fisherman mends a glimmering net.
Happy porpoises jump in the sea,
By the rainspout young sparrows are playing
And the snake is gold-skinned as it should always be.

On the day the world ends women walk through fields under their umbrellas
A drunkard grows sleepy at the edge of a lawn,
Vegetable peddlers shout in the street
And a yellow-sailed boat comes nearer the island,
The voice of a violin lasts in the air and leads into a starry night.
And those who expected lightning and thunder are disappointed.
And those who expected signs and archangels' trumps
Do not believe it is happening now.
As long as the sun and the moon are above,
As long as the bumblebee visits a rose
As long as rosy infants are born
No one believes it is happening now.
Only a white-haired old man, who would be a prophet,
Yet is not a prophet, for he's much too busy,
Repeats while he binds his tomatoes:

No other end of the world there will be,
No other end of the world there will be.

Warsaw, 1944.

Prayer

...Allison Rockey

Musical Reflection

Christmas Spiritual Medley

...Woodwind Quintet

Sermon

"The Advent of Inner Revelations"

...Ian Lawton

Offertory

Medley of French Carols

...Woodwind Quintet

Reception of our gifts

*Closing hymn

The Ordinary is Marvelous

...tune: Irby

When we ponder on the Advent story, when we contemplate the wondrous birth,
Let us sing of miracle and glory, bursting through our hist'ry here on earth.
Let us also prize the common, that which happens ev'rywhere and often.

Joy, despair, adversity and pleasure; nothing strange about this Jewish life.
Yet in him is something that we treasure; he has shared our happiness and strife.
God in Christ has friend and foe. God involved in everything we know.

From the stable to the Cross of sorrow, he uncovers God in everything.
There he is – an ordinary hero. Yet, the One proclaimed as Lord and King.
Speck upon our hist'ry's page; yet revered in every single age.

So we treasure all the common graces, live each day as precious and unique.
God is present at all times and places, on the plains, as on the mountain peak.
Plain yet wondrous, every hour, God, within, enriches us with power.

*Blessing

In the midst of winter I discovered that there was within me an invincible spring.
--Albert Camus

Go in peace, embraced by the warmth of community. Go in strength, ready to
confront despair. Go in love, building and rebuilding our broken dreams.

*Postlude

Wachet Auf

...Betty Van Till
...Johann Walther



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What's happening at C3/CCC

The Book Fair in the Parlour and Sermon
Talk-Back in the Sanctuary will both begin
following this morning's gathering.

Saturday, December 9

Bishop Spong will give two lectures
Saturday morning, "Separating Myth from
Reality" and "A Progressive Perspective
on Christmas." Each lecture will be
followed by a Q & A session and an
opportunity for book-signing. Tickets may
be purchased today in the narthex.

Ian will lead Saturday's afternoon session
of spiritual practice using "Big Mind" an
active, participatory, meditation technique
which was developed by Dennis Genpo
Merzel Roshi, one of the preeminent
Zen Masters in the Western world. This
session has sold out, but will be offered
again soon.

Sunday, December 10

Note: One gathering at 9:30 only.

Don't miss our very special second
Advent service as **Bishop Spong** leads
our gathering, and we continue to explore
the theme of Revelation. Our gathering
will be enhanced by special music from
the Sanctuary Choir, and original pieces
by Sarah Jenan from her new album.

The **Alternative Christmas Market** will
take place in the Parlour on December 10.

At 11:15 a.m. following the Alternative
Christmas Market, a dialogue on *The
Future of Progressive Christianity* will
take place between Bishop Spong,
Rollie Stanich of Integral Institute, and
Ian Lawton. You will not want to miss this
incredible morning!

Wednesday, December 13

A mid-week Advent Gathering and potluck
will take place in the parlour. The potluck
begins at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up for the
potluck in the narthex or by calling the
church office. The Advent service begins at
7:00 p.m.

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.

Mission statement of Christ Community Church since 1993



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