



**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 Magic of Myth at Christmas

Sunday, December 10, 2006

Christ Community Church

Prelude

Puer Nobis

...Betty Van Till
...Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and news of the community

Introit

Quiet Me

...Sarah Jenan & Kurt Ellenberger
...Sarah Jenan & Kurt Ellenberger

Gathered in community

One: We look with uncertainty beyond the old choices for clear-cut answers to a softer, more permeable aliveness which is at every moment at the brink of death;

All: for something new is being born in us if we but let it.

One: We stand at a new doorway, awaiting that which comes,

All: daring to be human creatures,

One: vulnerable to the beauty of existence,

All: learning to love.

...Ann Hillman

Musical celebration

Come to the Music

...Sanctuary Choir
...Joseph Martin

Celebrate, come to the music. Sing alleluia, clap your hands. Come to the music and let alleluias surround you, let each hosanna astound you. Come hear the jubilant song of creation. Come hear the music which rings as a hope to the nations. Come to the dance. Music is the sound of creation, crashing sea and mourning dove. Music is the voice of worship, music lifts our hearts above. Music is our common language, the song of love. Gloria, sing alleluia.

Lighting of the Advent candle

...Christine Spong

One: Today we light the second Advent candle, the justice candle. This candle represents the virtues of freedom and equality, the ability to determine right action, and the will to devote ourselves wholeheartedly to a cause. We honor the sharp-edged mind that discerns right from wrong, and the stout heart that allows us to stand firm on our most cherished principles. Today, we remind ourselves that strength must be used in the service of peace.

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

Lighting of the Candles of Vision and Justice

Participants:

Preacher: Bishop John Shelby Spong
Liturgist: Ian Lawton
Choir Director: John Slagter
Organist: Betty Van Till
Musicians: Sarah Jenan, Imad Mahawili, Kurt Ellenberger, Anita Lauterberg
Ordinand: David Beighley
Ushers: Randy Ray (Captain), Dan Artibee, Marji Juhl, Rita Kohrman, Lindy Postma, Gay Maria Ray, Dave Regester, Jean Regester, Dave Siemen, Bob Wassink. The red team ushers next Sunday.
Greeters: Laurie & Eric Egeland and Elsie & Hung Liang
Sound Booth: Brian Drabczyk
Camera: Brad Vander Ark, Kate Ujlaky
Ministry Council Host: Wayne Johnson, Randy Borns (tour leader)
Growing Place: Chris Platt

Ordination

The Christ Community Church Board of Trustees is pleased to recognize David Beighley's ordination, which was formerly held by the Wesleyan Church.

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. Beginning at 11:30 a.m. the video, "A Grinch Who Stole Christmas" will be shown to children and youth in the Great Room until 12:30 p.m. so that parents can participate in all the activities this morning.

This morning all worship centers continue 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!

We once again have a Worship Center Advent tree in the Great Room. We are collecting mittens, scarfs and winter caps under the tree and also children's winter clothing. If you and your child would like to help a child have a warmer winter, you can send items (do not need to be new, but they must be clean and in good condition) with them any Sunday in Advent. And remember, canned goods are always needed and welcomed.

A special thank you to Michael Peoples for all his work to make the book fair a successful fundraiser for the libraries.

***Hymn**

The Universe in God

...tune: Lauda Anima
...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.

Ageless mysteries still excite us, time and space we must explore.
God the 'Presence' and 'Surrounding' God the ever-wondrous 'More'
not just found in science labors, but in praise when we adore.

Ordination of David Beighley

David, we welcome you as an ordained minister in our community. We recognize your spiritual formation and ministerial experience in several traditions. We honor your journey as being marked by integrity, authenticity and creative service. We appreciate your teaching, enabling and envisioning ministries in our community. Now we formally acknowledge your ordination and invite you to exercise your leadership; being all that you can be.

Do you, David, accept this invitation to minister in the tradition of the Jesus of history, enabling an experience of God; within as self-awareness, between as intimate connectedness and beyond as the honoring the wondrous web of life?

Progressive Vow of Service

Whomever I encounter, I vow to serve.

Whatever suffering I encounter, I vow to ease.

Whichever universal truths I study, I vow to master.

However elusive enlightenment is, I vow to attain it.

Children are dismissed

Readings

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

...John 1:1-4,14

What is the Christ event for our day? It is the point in the human enterprise where, for me, the divine and the human flow together perfectly, revealing God as the Source of love, the Source of life, and the Ground of Being. Jesus is human being where the essence of the divine life breaks forth with a peculiar intensity. Jesus reveals God in loving totally, living fully, and being all that he can be. I worship the God I meet in Jesus by risking love, by daring to live, and by having the courage to be myself-my best, deepest, and holiest self. As I walk to the edges of life and bump into the meaning of transcendence, I find God over, under, around, and through all that I know and all that I am.

...John Shelby Spong

What the Gospel writers were trying to say through the nativity myth was that God could be experienced fully in human history... It means that people the world over are always drawn to that place where heaven and earth seem to meet and to that life where the divine and the human flow together as one. It means that, by faith, we perceive in the life, love, and being of Jesus; the life, love, and being of God. ...John Shelby Spong

Musical Reflection

God I Wish

...Sarah Jenan

...Sarah Jenan

*God I wish I was Catholic
You know like if I could just swallow it whole
I wish I could have the sanctuary of absolution
Just for one mindless minute*

*You see I cling to the black and the white of reason
But I lust for the color of the spirit
When I say that I cling it's not like I never lose my head
And God, how I love to lose my head*

*God I wish I was you
You and all of your convictions
You're so sure, you've got it all figured out, You're so right
But what about your demons when you turn out the light?*

Prayer

...Ian Lawton

Sermon

"The Magic in Christmas Mythology"

...Bishop John Shelby Spong

Offertory

Tears for Baghdad

...Imad Mahawili

*Closing hymn

God Lives Within Humanity

...tune: In Dulci Jubilo

...words: George Stuart

God lives within humanity, what joy at Bethlehem we see;
Quietly born amongst the hay; we recall good news today.
Jesus, Mary's little child, so precious and so undefiled;
Jesus' special day; God amongst the hay.

God lives within humanity; what joy at Bethlehem we see;
Kings and shepherds come sincere; some in wisdom, some in fear;
Grace and peace and love and joy are welcomed in a baby boy;
Jesus greeted here; God, incarnate, here.

God lives within humanity; divine and human unity;
In our care and gentleness God conveys a blessedness.
As with Jesus, God imparts divine intention to our hearts.
Jesus lived to bless; God in us will bless

*Blessing

Now is the moment of magic, when the whole, round earth turns again
toward the sun: the dark universe is suddenly illuminated by the lights of
the menorah and the whole world is glad and loud with winter singing.

Now is the moment of magic, when an eastern star beckons the ignorant
toward an unknown goal: they find nothing in the end but an ordinary baby,
born at midnight, born in poverty, and the baby's cry, like bells ringing,
makes people wonder as they wander through their lives, what human
love might really look like, sound like, feel like.

Now is the moment of magic: we already possess all the gifts we need;
we've already received our presents: ears to hear music, eyes to behold
lights, hands to build true peace on earth and to hold each other tight in
love.

...Victoria Safford

*Postlude

Von Himmel Hoch

...Betty Van Till

...Alec Wyton



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What's happening at C3/CCC

Following this morning's gathering:

Bishop Spong will, be available for book signing in the Bride's Room.

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

Sarah Jenan will be selling her albums in the narthex today, and she will be donating 50% of the proceeds to C³/CCC.

Ian Lawton and **Bishop Spong** will participate in a dialogue on "The Future of Progressive Christianity" in the Sanctuary at 11:15. There will be opportunity for audience questions at this time.

Parents please note:

A showing of the video "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" will be available for children and youth following their morning programs down in the Great Room. Parents are invited to stay involved in the morning activities until 12:30 p.m.

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.

Church family news

Congratulations to Gina Kelly on the birth of her son, **Kody Kelly**, and to the proud grandparents, Barb and Rich Kelly.

Gretchen Meulenbelt is recovering at home.

We extend our sympathy to **Paul and Ruth Crowell** on the death of Paul's mother, **Kathryn Crowell**.

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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