



**Being human,
Being love**

225 East Exchange Street
Spring Lake, Michigan 49456

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www.christ-community.net

Christ Community Church is an open and affirming spiritual community. We are grateful to have you with us today. We invite you to introduce yourself to a staff member or Ministry Council host or fill out a pew card. Welcome!

Ian Lawton

Executive Minister, Preaching and Theological Inquiry

Bob Kleinheksel

Minister of Care and Social Justice

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 Bazzy

Children's Ministry

Chad Beyer

Youth Ministry

Barb Kelly

Nursery Care

Brian Drabczyk

Sound Technician

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.

Living in the Here and Now

Sunday, March 1, 2009

Christ Community Church

Gathering music

Prelude and Fugue in D minor

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

J.S. Bach

Welcome and news of the community

Musical inspiration

All That To Say

Jon Ornée

Jon Ornée

*All that to say, I can't sing anymore,
I used to do it every night and day, but I can't say what for*

*All that to say, I can't pray anymore,
I guess that I would rather fight for peace than pray against a war
and all you wait for, all you pray for, all you stayed for love*

*I'm not sure if Jesus is dead or if I am instead
if the words on the page are the words that he said
if time will bring change or if wars that we wage will bring peace to the earth or if
all will be saved, but I'll still wait for, I'll still pray for love*

Gathered in community

If we are peaceful, if we are happy, we can smile and blossom like a flower, and everyone in our family, our entire society, will benefit from our peace.

– Thich Nhat Hanh

One: If there is to be peace in the world,
All: **There must be peace in the nations.**

One: If there is to be peace in the nations,
All: **There must be peace in the cities.**

One: If there is to be peace in the cities,
All: **There must be peace between neighbors.**

One: If there is to be peace between neighbors,
All: **There must be peace in the home.**

One: If there is to be peace in the home
All: **There must be peace in the heart.**

– Lao Tzu (570-490 B.C.)

Participants:

Preacher

Ian Lawton

Liturgist

Cindy Anderson

Organist

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Musician

Jon Ornée

Sound booth

Brian Drabczyk

Video cameras

Brad Vander Ark

Ushers

Kevin Baldus (Captain)

Kath Alward

Steve Alward

Ryan Cotton

Paul Crowell

David Dean

Ted Poulton

Cathy Saurman

Vic Wilhelm

The blue team ushers next Sunday.

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C3 Kids today

Jesus transformed the culture of his day by showing respect towards women. Jesus was a wonderful model for equality. Today in C3 Kids we will look at ways boys and girls are treated differently and how this makes us feel. We will learn through stories and the sharing of our own experiences at school and at home.

Church family news:

At this time, Steve Fortnam and Marcia Pillings are undergoing chemotherapy. Our thoughts are with both of them.

We celebrate the births of dear grandchildren with Steve and Mary Cotton and Frank and Sherrie Tamburello.

***Congregational hymn**

Our Kindred Fellowships

*As tranquil streams that meet and merge and flow as one to seek the sea,
Our kindred fellowships unite to build a church that shall be free.*

*Free from the bonds that bind the mind to narrow thought and lifeless creed;
Free from a social code that fails to serve the cause of human need.*

*A freedom that reveres the past, but trusts the dawning future more;
And bids the soul, in search of truth, adventure boldly and explore.*

*Prophetic church, the future waits the liberating ministry;
Go forward in the power of love, proclaim the truth that makes us free.*

lyrics: Marion Hamm; tune: Winchester New

Children's message

Cindy Anderson

Prayer

Cindy Anderson

Musical inspiration

Now or Never

Jon Ornée

Jon Ornée

*O God, look what we've done we've made a mess of love
O God look what we've done we're lost and no one's won
O boy looks like it's now or never
O boy looks like it's now*

*I am lost but I have found beauty hidden underground
I've been searching for some sort of way to say
I can't sing I can't dance I won't fake this whole romance
I am nothing except for a part of the hole*

O God looks like it's now or never

Reading

Manoah and his wife were visited by an angel who foretold the birth of Samson. Manoah asked the angel, "Tell us your name, so we can honor you after our son is born." The angel of God said, "What's this? You ask for my name? You wouldn't understand--it's sheer wonder.

Reading

Because she wanted everyone to feel included in her prayer, she said right at the beginning several names for the Holy: Spirit, she said, Holy One, Mystery, God. But then thinking these weren't enough ways of addressing that which cannot be fully addressed, she added particularities, saying Spirit of Life, Spirit of Love, Ancient Holy One, Mystery We Will Not Ever Fully Know, Gracious God and also Spirit of This Earth, God of Sarah, Gaia, Thou.

Then, tongue loosened, she fell to naming superlatives as well: Most Creative One, Greatest Source, Closest Hope— even though superlatives for the Sacred seemed to her probably redundant, but then she couldn't stop: One Who Made the Stars, she said, although she knew technically a number of those present didn't believe the stars had been made by anyone or thing but just luckily happened. One Who Is an Entire Ocean of Compassion, she said, and no one laughed. That Which Has Been Present since before the Beginning, she said, and the room was silent.

Then, although she hadn't imagined it this way, others began to offer names: Peace, said one. One My Mother Knew said another. Ancestor said a third. Wind. Rain. Breath, said one near the back. Refuge. That Which Holds All. A child said, Water. Someone said, Kuan Yin. Then: Womb. Witness. Great Kindness. Great Eagle. Eternal Stillness. And then, there wasn't any need to say the things she'd thought would be important to say, and everyone sat hushed, until someone said..... Amen.

— Nancy Shaffer

Sermon

Spirituality: Experiencing Life More Fully

Ian Lawton

Offertory

Hymne

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Musical inspiration

Love Keeps No Score

Jon Ornée

Jon Ornée

You want to bend, you want to break, to feel release, to separate, you're haunted by this sense of obligation... But Love Keeps No Score

*Blessing

If we agree in love, there is no disagreement that can do us any injury, but if we do not, no other agreement can do us any good.

Let us endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.

— Hosea Ballou

*Postlude

Trumpet in Dialogue

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Louis Nicolas Clerambault

Upcoming events and community news

Community conversation

We are offering regular opportunities to dialogue about community matters. Join us to talk about this morning's sermon or any other themes or community issues. Your involvement, questions, and ideas are the strength of this extraordinary community. This session will be in the Sanctuary beginning at 11:15 a.m. today.

Sunday, March 8

9:00 a.m. — *Awakenings*

Begin your morning with an energizing and encouraging contemplative gathering. Join us for some meditation practice perfect for beginners. This week we will explore guided meditation and body awareness. You will leave this session feeling relaxed, peaceful and in control of your life. Come and sit as a facilitator guides you to relaxation.

10:00 a.m. — *Gathering*

The season of spring coincides with the Christian season of Lent. In a community such as ours there would be countless different opinions and interpretations of this tradition. What are some universal spiritual practices that are of a progressive nature? This week Bob Kleinheksel will explore the ways Christianity and Spirituality lead you to experience important universal truths. **Music provided by Carlos Seise.**

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Wed., March 11 — *Jewish festival of Purim*
Families and individuals are invited to join us for this wild and festive time of great celebration.

Sat., March 14 — *Informal lecture*
Time of discussion and teaching.

Sun., March 15 — *Brunch and Lecture*
Tickets are on sale this morning.



This bulletin was printed on recycled paper, let's keep it going, recycle please!

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.



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