



**Being human,
Being love**

225 East Exchange Street
Spring Lake, Michigan 49456

616 842 1985 p
616 842 3476 f

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

Ted Poulton

Director of Administration

Allison Rockey

Communications and Outreach Ministry

Brad Vander Ark

Audio/Visual and Online Ministry

Andrea Dumbrell

Office Manager

Roger Schuring

Facility Maintenance

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Director of Fine Arts

Kim Bazy

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.

The Spirituality of Brokenness & Chaos

Sunday, March 15, 2009

Christ Community Church

"Come into the circle of love and justice. Come into the community of mercy, holiness and health. Come and you shall know peace and joy."

Adapted from Israel Zangwill

Prelude & dance expression

Spiritual Path

Laura Armenta & Cassie Vander Well

Welcome and news of the community

Musical inspiration

Home

Ruth & Max Bloomquist

Karla Bonhof

Gathered in community

We come together this morning to remind one another to rest for a moment on the forming edges of our lives; to resist the headlong tumble into the next moment, until we claim for ourselves awareness and gratitude, taking the time to look into one another's faces. This house of laughter and silence, of memory and hope, is hallowed by our presence together.

— Kathleen McTigue

One: From the fragmented and often chaotic world of our everyday lives, we gather together in search of wholeness. We bid you welcome, who come with weary spirit seeking rest

All: **Who come with troubles, who come hurt and afraid in chaotic times**

One: We bid you welcome, who come with hope in your hearts

All: **Who come proud and joyous, who come to learn and explore**

One: We bid you welcome, who are seekers of a new way to live and believe

All: **Who find in this people a community, a place to be safe, to remember**

One: We bid you welcome, who enter this hall as a homecoming. Whoever you are, whatever you are, wherever you are on your journey, we bid you welcome.

— Adapted from Richard S. Gilbert

Participants:

Preacher

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Liturgist

Mary Ackerson

Organist

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Musicians

Ruth and Max Bloomquist

Sound booth

Brian Drabczyk

Video cameras

Brad Vander Ark

Ushers

Randy Ray, captain

Steve Platt

GayMaria Ray

Cheryl VanAbbema

Rod VanAbbema

Marti Youngdahl

Mike Youngdahl

Char Zoet

Ron Zoet

The green team ushers next Sunday.

License #A-715564 from OneLicense.net

C3 Kids today

Jesus transformed the culture of his day by showing respect towards women. Jesus was a wonderful model for social justice activism. 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 how we can work towards equality for boys and girls.

C3 Youth news

Check out today's Christ Community Church Matters (bulletin insert) for highlights from our recent youth trip to Grand Rapids for our Urban Plunge. Contact C3 Youth Director, Chad Beyer, to get involved in our program at chadbeyer@christ-community.net.

Congregational song

Let it Shine on Me

*There's a star in heaven's sky
Always shining bright
It's just a tear in an angel's eye
A gentle guiding light*

Chorus:

***Let it shine on me
Let it show the way
Let it always be
Let it always stay
Let it flood my soul
Let it hold the key
Let it all unfold
Let it shine on me***

*When the way seems so dark
Let it shine on me
Bringing home within my heart
A reason to believe*

Chorus 2x

led by Ruth & Max Bloomquist

Paul Kennerly

Children's message

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Prayer

Mary Ackerson

Inspiration through movement

Offering

Laura Armenta & Cassie Vander Well

Reading

In the beginning, the heavens and the earth came into being. The earth was barren with no forms of life. It was under a roaring, chaotic ocean covered in darkness. But the spirit of God, the spirit of life itself was active, brooding and moving over the watery chaos. Then light emerged, the light was separated from darkness, day and night. Over eons the atmosphere came to be as well as earth and land and separate oceans. Plants, animals, stars, creatures of the sea and human beings – all arriving on the planetary scene. From chaos came creation; from chaos came order. And it was all very good.

— Paraphrase of Genesis 1

Reading

[From the motion picture Babe.]

The scene is Christmas Day on the farm. The pig, cow, hens, and Ferdinand the duck crowd by the kitchen window, craning their necks to see which unfortunate one of their kind has been chosen to be the main course at dinner. On the platter is Roseanna the duck, dressed with sauce a l'orange.

Looking mournfully through the window, Duck says: Why Roseanna? She had such a beautiful nature. I can't take it anymore! It's too much for a duck. It eats away at the soul...

Cow: The only way to find happiness is to accept that the way things are is the way they are.

Duck: The way things are stinks!

"Partly as a result of the spiritual teachings that have arisen outside the established religions, but also due to an influx of the ancient Eastern wisdom teachings, a growing number of followers of traditional religions are able to let go of identification with form, dogma, and rigid belief systems and discover the original depth that is hidden within their own spiritual tradition at the same time as they discover the depth within themselves. They realize that how "spiritual" you are has nothing to do with what you believe but everything to do with your state of consciousness."

— Eckhart Tolle, "A New Earth"

Sermon

The Spirituality of Brokenness

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Offertory

Fall Down as the Rain

*Blessing

It is written in the Torah: "I call heaven and earth to witness today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live."

— Deuteronomy 30

Go out into the world and give to people your optimism and vision, even in days of uncertainty. You may possess only one small light, but uncover it and let it shine as to be an encouragement to all around. Give of your love, compassion, your kindness and care all the days of your lives. Amen.

*Postlude

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Upcoming events and community news

11:30 a.m. — *Brunch and Lecture*

In his lecture, "Dealing with God's Shadows," Rabbi Rami will explore how we make sense of the stories in the Bible where God seems, well... pretty nasty. He will ask, what do these stories mean for Progressive Jews, Christians, and Muslims looking to create a peaceful world? Tickets for this event are \$15 and on sale today.

Sunday, March 22

9:00 a.m. — *Awakenings*

You are invited to join us for this contemplative group for 40-minutes of contemplation and meditation. This week you will be led through guided imagery inviting you to awaken the power you hold within yourself. This will be a powerful exercise for all. Those new to meditation are particularly welcome.

10:00 a.m. — *Gathering*

We are excited to be welcoming back Ian's father, Rev. Bill Lawton. Bill will be speaking to us about what spirituality and religious practice mean to him.

Our music will be provided by Kurt Ellenberger and the üTaké Ensemble which explores a wide variety of musical styles from contemporary and traditional classical, to jazz and pop, while including the shakuhachi flute, famous for its soulful sound and its iconic use by Buddhist monks in a traditional practice of blowing meditation.

Sunday, March 29

Ian Lawton will have returned from his travels in the UK and will be speaking this morning.

Church family news

Thank you for sharing your lives with us. We want to be able to support you in the joys and trials of life. Please contact Bob Kleinheksel with the latest happenings in your world.



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.



Being human, Being love