



**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

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.

Filling the Hole in the World with Whole Lives

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Christ Community Church

Prelude

Antiphon V

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Marcel Dupre

Welcome and news of the community

Musical inspiration

Hole in the World

Sweet Harmony

Don Henley and Glenn Frey

*There's a hole in the world tonight.
There's a cloud of fear and sorrow.
There's a hole in the world tonight.
Don't let there be a hole in the world tomorrow.*

*They say that anger is just love disappointed.
They say that love is just a state of mind,
but all this fighting over who will be anointed.
Oh how can people be so blind*

*Oh they tell me there's a place over yonder,
cool water running through the burning sand,
until we learn to love one another
we never reach the promise land*

Gathered in community

One: Imagine a religion that brings together, rather than tearing apart

All: **Imagine the peace**

One: Imagine spirituality that celebrates diversity, rather than fearing difference

All: **Imagine the justice**

One: Imagine a religion that deeply respects this life, rather than waiting for the next life

All: **Imagine the integrity**

One: Imagine spirituality that lives the questions, rather than enforcing the answers

All: **Imagine the openness**

One: Imagine a religion that engages the intellect, rather than trusting in superstition

All: **Imagine the empowerment**

One: Imagine a religion that seeks to be the change it wishes to see in the world

All: **Imagine the spiritual awakening**

Participants:

Preacher

Ian Lawton

Liturgist

Toni VanDyken

Musicians

Vickie Bectel-Clock

Jackie Fisher

Cathy Forrest

Karen Frederiksen

Eileen Grostic

Susan Loughrin

Sound booth

Brian Drabczyk

Video cameras

Brad Vander Ark

Ushers

Cathy Martin (captain)

Don Anderson

Aaron Dean

Renaë Hesselink

Kristin Jolink

Todd Kuypers

Jean McCabe

Tom Webber

Gina Zornes

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C3 Kids today

This week children in the C3 Kids program will learn that we value the earth as "God's Body." Through our projects we will learn how to precycle, recycle, reduce and reuse as a way to honor God and each other. Children will inquire as to why it is important to take of the Earth.

REMINDER: There will be no C3 Kids or C3 Youth Sundays, April 5 & 12, due to Spring Break. We welcome your participation in our Sunday Gatherings during this time and will have activity sheets and crayons available for children to use.

***Congregational hymn**

The Power of One

tune: Lancashire, text: Barbara Post

**The power of one in this world can lead to greater grace;
One hope of peace unites us past tribes, and creeds, and race.
Why wait for fate to choose the course this world will take?
Why let the past take over? The choice is yours to make.**

**We are God's hands in this world, we need to be aware,
Because our words and actions reflect the power that's there,
The choices of today, weave into time and space
Restructuring the future, the whole of human race.**

**One step begins the journey, so build your life with care.
Believe in strength not weakness, move on in mindful prayer.
Give freely of yourself, expect naught in return.
Make someone else's wholeness the heart of your concern.**

Children's message

Toni VanDyken

Prayer

Toni VanDyken

Musical inspiration

Sweet Harmony

Prayer to the One

words and music by Carol Maillard

*Sunshine or rain they are the same, God's love loves light in day or night
Why should I care if here or there you are with me in all I see
My ev'ry breath my very breath, you*

*Glory, be thine all space divine, Spirit moves free from you heals me
Why should I care if here or there, inside holy light no day or night*

*Mother, Father God your home my heart, my heart where you are so near never far
Why should I care if here or there, you are with me in all I see*

Reading: Making the most of this present life

Moreover I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for God has appointed a time for every matter, and for every work. I said in my heart with regard to the sons of men that God is testing them to show them that they are but beasts. For the fate of people and the fate of beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts; for all is vanity. All go to one place; all are from dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes to the earth? So I saw that there is nothing better than that one should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot; who can bring him to see what will be after him?

— Ecclesiastes 3:16-22

Readings: Common destiny deep within us

The years of all of us are short, our lives precarious. Our days and nights go hurrying on and there is scarcely time to do the little that we might. Yet we find time for bitterness, for petty treason and evasion. What can we do to stretch our hearts enough to lose their littleness? Here we are – all of us – all upon this planet, bound together in a common destiny, living our lives between the briefness of the daylight and the dark. Kindred in this, each lighted by the same precarious, flickering flame of life, how does it happen that we are not kindred in all things else? How strange and foolish are these walls of separation that divide us.

– A. Powell Davies

And a man said, Speak to us of Self-knowledge. And he answered, saying: Your hearts know in silence the secrets of the days and the nights. But your ears thirst for the sound of your heart's knowledge. The hidden well-spring of your soul must needs rise and run murmuring to the sea. And the treasure of your infinite depths would be revealed to your eyes. But let there be no scales to weigh your unknown treasure; And seek not the depths of your knowledge with staff or sounding line. For self is a sea boundless and measureless. Say not, "I have found the truth," but rather, "I have found a truth." Say not, "I have found the path of the soul." Say rather, "I have met the soul walking upon my path." For the soul walks upon all paths. The soul walks not upon a line, neither does it grow like a reed. The soul unfolds itself, like a lotus of countless petals.

– Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

Sermon

Filling the Hole in the World with Whole Lives

Ian Lawton

Offertory

Tune from Geistliche Lieder

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Anne Krentz Organ

*Blessing

*Lead us from death to life,
From falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope,
From fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love,
From war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts,
Our world, our universe.*

— Project Ploughshares

*Postlude

Ein Feste Burg

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Helmut Walcha

Upcoming events and community news

Immediately following our gathering

We invite you to join us in celebrating the ministry of Toni VanDyken with a reception in the Parlor. You will have an opportunity to speak with Toni at this time.

A special thank you to Cold Stone Creamery of Grand Haven for generously providing the treats for our reception.

11:30 a.m. — Sermon talk-back

We invite you to join us in the Sanctuary for our sermon talk-back session. Please come with your comments, questions, and reactions to today's gathering. All are welcome to come and participate in this open dialogue session. This is a wonderful way to learn from the wisdom of this diverse community.

Sunday, April 5

9:00 a.m. — Awakenings

You are invited to join us for this contemplative group for 40-minutes of meditation. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone looking to explore new forms of prayer and meditation. This group is great for beginners and experienced meditators alike.

10:00 a.m. — Gathering

This week, along with Christians around the world, we will tell the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This story is ripe with symbolism offering us guides on how to journey through our lives with openness and authenticity. We invite you to join us as we find inspiration on how to live with grace in difficult times.

Our music this morning will be provided by Lisa Chorny.

Easter — Sunday, April 12

Ian Lawton will be speaking at our one Easter gathering at 10:00 a.m. Music will be provided by our Sanctuary Choir doing pieces from *Jesus Christ Superstar*.



*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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