



**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, Teaching 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 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.

Sacred Journey: What We Choose Is What We Are

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009

Christ Community Church

Prelude

Trio and Fughetta on Dundee

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Austin Lovelace

Welcome and news of the community

Musical inspiration

Why Walk When You Can Fly

Lisa Chorny

Mary Chapin-Carpenter

In this world there's a whole lot of trouble, baby

In this world there's a whole lot of pain

In this world there's a whole lot of trouble

But a whole lot of ground to gain

Why take when you could be giving, why watch as the world goes by

It's a hard enough life to be living, why walk when you can fly

In this world there's a whole lot of sorrow

In this world there's a whole lot of shame

In this world there's a whole lot of sorrow

And a whole lot of ground to gain

When you spend your whole life wishing, wanting and wondering why

It's a long enough life to be living, why walk when you can fly

In this world there's a whole lot of cold

In this world there's a whole lot of blame

In this world you've a soul for a compass

And a heart for a pair of wings

There's a star on the far horizon, rising bright in an azure sky

For the rest of the time that you're given, why walk when you can fly

Gathered in community

Jesus asks the challenging question, "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

Our journey of faith is not a matter of intellectual understanding, but of living. We journey from fasting to feasting, from sobering realities to renewal, from control to surrender. Only when we surrender to who we really are can we hope to live the life Jesus lived and to which he invites us.

Participants:

Teacher

Ian Lawton

Liturgist

Allison Rockey

Organist

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Musician

Lisa Chorny

Sound booth

Brian Drabczyk

Video cameras

Brad Vander Ark

Ushers

Kevin Baldus, captain

Steve Alward

Ryan Cotton

Paul Crowell

David Dean

Harvey Hammond

Ted Poulton

Cathy Saurman

Vic Wilhelm

The blue team ushers next Sunday.

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C3 Kids and C3 Youth news

There will be no C3 Kids or C3 Youth regular programming today and Sunday, April 12, due to Spring Break. This morning children are invited downstairs to watch a video, which will conclude at 11:15 a.m. or are welcome to remain with you in the Gathering. Activity sheets and crayons are available for children to use.

Church family news

Ginnie Hubert is recovering at home following hip surgery.

We extend our care, hopes and prayers for Gina Zornes as she is living with her diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.



Gathered in community

One: Let us journey in unity and gather in kinship.

All: **Let us love the world through heart, mind and body.**

One: Let us walk as one and celebrate that all Life flows unto itself,

All: **With eyes open to our companions.**

One: Let us gather with the opening of all windows of our beings,

All: **With outstretched spirits and hands.**

One: On individual and collective pathways, we welcome singing and laughing, tenderness and tears –

All: **And new openness to fall in love with Life again.**

— Adapted from Kenneth L. Patton

*Congregational hymn

O Life That Maketh All Things New

**O Life that maketh all things new
The brooking earth, our thoughts within
Our pilgrim feet, wet with thy dew
In gladness hither turn again.**

**From hand to hand the greeting flows
From eye to eye the signals run
From heart to heart the bright hope glows
The seekers of the light are one.**

**One in the freedom of the truth
One in the joy of paths untrod
One in the soul's perennial youth
One in the larger thought of God.**

**The freer step, the fuller breath,
The wide horizon's grander view
The sense of life that knows no death
The Life that maketh all things new.**

tune: Truro, text: Samuel Longfellow

Children's message

Allison Rockey

Prayer

Allison Rockey

Musical inspiration

Candle on the Water

*I'll be your candle on the water
My love for you will always burn
I know you're lost and drifting
But the clouds are lifting
Don't give up you'll have somewhere to turn*

*I'll be your candle on the water
'Till ev'ry wave is warm and bright
My soul is there beside you
Let this candle guide you
Soon you'll see a golden stream of light*

*A cold and friendless tide has found you
Don't let the stormy darkness pull you down
I'll paint a ray of hope around you
Circling in the air
Lighted by a prayer*

*I'll be your candle on the water
This flame inside of me will grow
Keep holding on you'll make it
Here's my hand so take it
Look for me reaching out to show
As sure as rivers flow
I'll never let you go...*

Lisa Chorny

Al Kasha and Joel Hirschhorn

Appreciation of service

We are so grateful for the many years of service Marianne VanEenenaam has graciously given this community as Visual Arts Coordinator. Marianne has facilitated the incredible Art Shows in the Parlor over the last 15 years, introducing us to incredible local artists and wonderful, diverse expressions of art. Please take a moment to express your gratitude to Marianne this morning.

Upcoming events and community news

Sermon talk-back — 11:15 a.m. Sanctuary

We invite you to join us in the Sanctuary for our sermon talk-back session. Please come with your comment, 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 12

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 week we will take a look at how journaling, writing and reflecting can awaken our inner wisdom.

10:00 a.m. — Easter Gathering

In these difficult times we offer you the gift of learning to live with optimism this Easter Sunday. Ian Lawton will be speaking at our Easter gathering at 10:00 a.m. Music will be an incredible performance by our Sanctuary Choir alongside countless gifted musicians performing pieces from *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Sundays, April 19, April 26, & May 3

Being human, being love, being GREEN!

We value the earth as God's Body. Join us for Earth Season as we explore the ways living in harmony with nature can lead to greater fulfillment.

Readings

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany from the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back shortly.' They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest."

— *Mark 11:1-10*

The entrance into Jerusalem [on Palm Sunday] has all the elements of the theatre of the absurd: the poor king; truth comes riding on a donkey; symbolic actions — even parading without a permit! Also, when Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem," what was involved was direct action, an open confrontation and public demonstration of the incompatibility of evil with the Kingdom of God.

— *David Kirk*

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.

Sermon

What We Choose is What We Are

Ian Lawton

Offertory

Rhosymedre

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Ralph Vaughan Williams

We are proud to be a community-led organization supported by people like you. Thank you for making the work of Christ Community Church possible.

For your convenience, we invite you to join the vast majority of our members who give regularly via automatic checking withdrawal, credit card, and online donations. Indicate your interest on a white pew card and place it in the offering plate and our office will contact you.

*Congregational hymn

We Would Be One

We would be one as now we join in singing our hymn of love, to pledge ourselves anew to that high cause of greater understanding of who we are, and what in us is true.

We would be one in living for each other to show to all a new community.

We would be one in building for tomorrow a nobler world than we have known today.

We would be one in searching for that meaning which binds our hearts and points us on our way.

As one, we pledge ourselves to greater service, with love and justice, strive to make us free.

tune: Finlandia words: Samuel Anthony Wright

*Blessing

*Since what we choose is what we are,
and what we love we yet shall be,
the goal may ever shine afar,
the will to reach it makes us free."*

– UU Hymnal

*Postlude

Ellacombe

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Michael Burkhardt

