



**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 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.

All Things New Again... An Easter Celebration

Sunday, April 12, 2009

Christ Community Church

Prelude

My Spirit Be Joyful

Junie Lucas, Steve Lucas, Betty VanTill

J. S. Bach, arr. Kenton Parton

Welcome and news of the community

Choral processional

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Sanctuary Choir

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa

Tune: Traditional Tanzanian

Gathered in community

We look with uncertainty beyond the old choices for clear-cut answers
To a softer, more permeable aliveness
Which is every moment at the brink of death;
For something new is being born in us if we but let it.
We stand at a new doorway, awaiting that which comes:
Daring to be human creatures.
Vulnerable to the beauty of existence.
Learning to love.

— Anne Hillman

One: Renewal and rebirth are at the heart of life and all reality

All: **Even now, we are different than who we were before**

One: We transcend old understandings and see more clearly

All: **Each moment is a new opportunity to learn and grow**

One: There is always the possibility of radical change and resurrection

All: **We celebrate the potential in each moment**

One: Let us marvel together in the miracle, the joy and the wonder of resurrection all around.

Participants:

Teacher

Ian Lawton

Liturgist

Bob Kleinheksel

Choir Director & Organist

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Musicians

Sanctuary Choir

Soloists:

Hugo Lawton

Ari Beighley

Julia Yob

Instrumentalists:

Karen Frederiksen

Betty VanTill

Bob Kleinheksel

Jeff Baldus

Don Druart

Junie Lucas

Steve Lucas

Wayne Johnson

Sound booth

Brian Drabczyk

Video cameras

Brad Vander Ark

Ushers

Tom Holstrom, captain

Barb Brower

Kim Crozier

Bryan Houck

Jean King

Phil Leech

Julia Miller

Pam Park

Sherm Robinson

John Stalzer

Leon Stille

The gold team ushers next Sunday.

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***Congregational hymn**

Resurrection All Around Us

**Resurrection all around us, hearts arise and leap for joy
Hope eternal grows within us, voices silenced now employ
Live in joy of new beginnings, live in harmony and love
Finding strength to meet each trial, conquering sorrow, being love.**

**Being human, honoring Jesus, in a covenant of grace
Living the divine commandment, one with all the human race
Leading strong for peace and justice, doing away with hate and fear
Finding ways to work together, keeping voice and vision clear.**

**Celebrate the light within us, love divine and human spark
Reaching out to be inclusive, everyone a work of art
Light the flame of love around us, echoing through the stars above
Holding hands, in peace surround us, being human, being love.**

Words: Gloria Klinger, tune: Ode to Joy

Celebrating a meal of inclusion

All are welcome to experience this symbolic feast, this meal of thanksgiving.

All are welcome whether they have done this often or not at all.

All are welcome to honor the age-old custom of hospitality and a table where all are welcome.

We give thanks for diversity. As multitudes of grain are gathered to make bread, and much fruit is mixed to ferment wine, so we remember the diversity of those who celebrate new life here and around the world, those who have gone before us, and those who will follow us.

We offer gratitude as people have always done. Devotees of the ancient goddess designed rituals of thanksgiving to honor the earth. Worshipers of Yahweh ate a memorial meal to recall their mighty stories of divine deliverance. In this lineage, disciples of Jesus created a thanksgiving meal symbolic of birth, death and resurrection.

Now we revere the universal themes in all traditions: Freedom from tyranny, the experience of love, compassion, inclusion, justice and meaning, our interdependence with the earth and all peoples, and the marvelous cycles of birth, death and life renewed.

May the dry bread of mundane subsistence be transformed into a splendid feast. May the crushed grapes of despair be transformed into the cup of reconciliation and peace.

We take bread to remind us that our love and service are the ways that hope rises in the world. We take cup to remind us that transformation often arises out of discouragement, suffering and death.

Sharing a meal of inclusion

Bread broken: A sign of humanity and service.
Cup poured: A sign of love shared.

Celebrating all paths and traditions, all are invited to come forward to participate in this thanksgiving meal. Please take a piece of bread when handed to you, then proceed to the cup, dipping your bread as the cup of grape juice is presented to you.

Musical inspiration

Selections from Jesus Christ Superstar

Heaven on Their Minds

I Only Want to Say

I Don't Know How to Love Him

Everything's Alright

Superstar

Sanctuary Choir

lyrics: Tim Rice

music: Andrew Lloyd Webber, arr. Neil Slater

Children's message

Connie Farell

Prayer

Bob Kleinheksel

Reading

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all the things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. The two urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening up the scriptures to us?' The two returned to Jerusalem where they shared with the others what had happened and that Jesus had been known to them in the breaking of bread

— Luke 24:13-17; 28-35

C3 Kids & C3 Youth news

Children and youth are invited to stay in our gathering this morning and children of all ages are invited to come forward with their families and participate in our Eucharist celebration.

Next week our regular C3 Kids and C3 Youth programs will resume. If you have any questions regarding the program, please see the person at the info both by the entryway, or speak to a staff member.

Upcoming events and community news

Sunday, April 19

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. You will leave with a sense of inner peace that you will find becomes easier to access in your daily life.

10:00 a.m. — Gathering

Ian Lawton will be speaking as we launch our annual Earth Season. One of the core values of this community is Pursuing Sustainability. We value the earth as "God's Body." We are part of the earth and therefore our fate and the earth's fate are entwined. We seek to live in tune with nature's patterns, educate ourselves about earth's resources, and seek a future where we live in harmony with the earth.

Our gathering will be enhanced by drumming music provided by Barb Pitcher and Amy Oak.

Church family news

Thank you for being a part of our family. Please contact Bob Kleinheksel with any news in your life so that we can share your joys and sorrows.

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.

Reading

Resurrection is all around; it happened and always happens. It occurs in the daily moments of our lives, in family, in community, with the planet. It is known in the changing of the mind, in new insight and inspiration; it comes with spring and all things reborn. Resurrection need not be supernatural or understood literally to be one of the most important realities and realizations in our deepening humanity. Would we have eyes to see it? Would we have keen minds to perceive and understand – to know it, to live in it, as if for the first time?

— Bob Kleinhessel

Sermon

Ian Lawton

Choosing To Live With Resurrection Hope

Offertory

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

*Mfurahini Haleluya, Traditional Tanzanian
Setting by Johannes Matthias Michel*

*Congregational hymn

We Would Be One

*I am not gone, I do not sleep, remain not by my grave and weep.
I live today in all you do, it is my breath that dwells in you.*

*I am the early green of spring that sends despair away on wings.
I am the hope that grows from pain when faith begins to live again.*

*I am your hand that stops the pain, I am your voice that holds no blame.
I am the right you make of wrong, I am the joy that lives in song.*

*I am not gone, I do not sleep, remain not by my grave and weep.
I live today in all you do. It is my Love that dwells in you.*

tune: Duke Street words: Barbara Post

*Blessing

*Emmaus and Easter are constantly happening around and within us...
Resurrection happens in the most surprising places. We are constantly awaking!*

*Rise to love, rise to heal, rise to forgive, rise to courage
Rise to kindness, rise to wisdom, rise, even to die.
But most of all rise to resurrection and to life
And live life to the fullest.*

*Postlude

Hallelujah Chorus

Jacqueline Rose Fisher, Betty Van Till

"The Messiah" G. F. Handel, arr. Clarence Kohlmann