



**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.

Living Your Connection With the Earth

Sunday, April 19, 2009

Christ Community Church

Gathering Music

Barb Pitcher & Amy Oak

Welcome and news of the community

Gathered in community

A mystical experience is often described as sensing the “one-ness” of everything, the connections between people and the earth, the relationships that hold all living things together in one web of life: or the sense everything is, in some way, alive — energetic, organized, and valuable.

— William Cleary, *Prayers to an Evolutionary God*, p.117

One: In the growing revelation of reality evolving around us, we look with gratitude at an ever larger and larger world.

All: **Our personal life has its meaning, for we are connected to all things.**

One: None of us can go it alone: each has innate energies needed by all.

All: **Our personal life has its meaning, for we are connected to all people.**

One: That whistling cardinal, that burgeoning spruce, that tearful neighbor, that refuge healed of horror — all are essential.

All: **Our personal life has its meaning, for we are in cooperation with earth and all forces of life.**

One: We give thanks to be conscious of the awesome narrative of which we are a part, paradoxical and baffling as it is and must be, and commit ourselves to all that honors this beautiful earth we share.

— Inspired by William Cleary, *Prayers to an Evolutionary God*

Participants:

Teacher

Ian Lawton

Liturgist

Bob Kleinheksel

Organist

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Musicians

Amy Oak

Barb Pitcher

Sound booth

Brian Drabczyk

Video cameras

Brad Vander Ark

Ushers

Randy Ray, captain

Steve Platt

Gay Maria Ray

Cheryl VanAbbema

Rod VanAbbema

Marti Youngdahl

Mike Youngdahl

Char Zoet

Ron Zoet

The green team ushers next Sunday.

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C3 Kids & C3 Youth news

C3 Kids will learn how we care for the earth as God's Body by learning about gardening and where their food comes from. Through a visit to our community garden outside of the People Center, children will learn about caring for their community through service.

C3 Youth will be engaged in discussion and activities on how to have a fun and safe summer. This week's lesson will focus on the ways teens can handle peer pressure.

***Congregational hymn**

Blue Boat Home

Though below me I feel no motion
Standing on these mountains and plains
Far away from the rolling ocean
Still my dry land heart can say
I've been sailing all my life now
Never harbor nor port have I known
Wide universe is the ocean I travel
And the Earth is my blue boat home

Sun, my sail and moon, my rudder
As I ply the starry sea
Leaning over the edge in wonder
Casting questions into the deep
Drifting here with my ship's companions
All we kindred pilgrim souls
Making our way by the lights of the heavens
In our beautiful blue boat home

I give thanks to the waves upholding me
Hail the great winds urging me on
Greet the infinite sea before me
Sing the sky my sailor's song
I was born upon the fathoms
Never harbor or port have I known
Wide universe is the ocean I travel
And the Earth is my blue boat home

*Words: Peter Mayer tune: Hyfrydol
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Children's message

Bob Kleinheksel

Prayer

Bob Kleinheksel

Musical inspiration

Barb Pitcher and Amy Oak

Reading

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart. The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God

— Psalm 104:14-21

Visual meditation

Ed Post

Sermon

Living a Deeper Shade of Green

Ian Lawton

Offertory

Barb Pitcher and Amy Oak

*Congregational hymn

We Sing of Golden Mornings

**We sing of golden mornings, we sing of sparkling seas,
Of prairies, valleys, mountains, and stately forest trees.
We sing of flashing sunshine and life-bestowing rain,
Of birds among the branches, and springtime come again.**

**We sing the heart courageous, the youthful, eager mind;
We sing of hopes undaunted, of friendly ways and kind.
We sing the roses waiting beneath the deep-piled snows;
We sing the earth's great splendor, whose beauty 'round us glows.**

Text: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Tune: Aurelia

*Blessing

*Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the infinite peace to you*

— Adapted from Gaelic Runes

*Postlude

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Earth Season & Upcoming Gatherings

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.

Sunday, April 26 — 10:00 a.m.

Creating a Green Community

Ian Lawton will be teaching on ways this community can take action to provide leadership in caring for the earth and the collective and individual benefits that will come from this activism. We will be so fortunate to have the music of Carol Johnson this morning.

Sunday, May 3 — 10:00 a.m.

Working Towards a Green Nation

Ian Lawton will be teaching on the spiritual law of interconnectivity and how the actions of one person, community or nation affect the whole world.

Awakenings — Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

You are invited to join us in 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.

Church family news

Our thoughts and concerns are with Steve Alward while he is recovering from surgery in Butterworth Hospital.

Our sympathies are extended to the Prescott family as they mourn the loss and celebrate the life of Roma Zimmerman, mother of David Prescott.

Please remember Gina Zornes who is now recovering at home.

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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