



**Being human,  
Being love**

225 East Exchange Street  
Spring Lake, Michigan 49456

616 842 1985 p  
616 842 3476 f

[www.christ-community.net](http://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.

# A Greener Nation Sunday, May 3, 2009 Christ Community Church

*"And the rainbow stood on the earth that new clean naked bodies would issue to a new generation, to a new growth; rising to the light and the wind and the clean rain of heaven."*

*D. H. Lawrence: The Rainbow*

## Prelude

*The Swan*

**Kathie Bolthouse & Jacqueline Rose Fisher**

*Camille Saint-Saens*

## Welcome and news of the community

## Musical inspiration

*Mr. Curiosity*

**Garrett Borns**

*Jason Mraz*

## Gathered in community

I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse: Therefore choose life.

— Deuteronomy 30:19

One: We believe in the interdependence, self-worth and fulfillment of all life on earth.

**All: We choose life this day for ourselves and for all generations.**

One: We believe that the earth contains all the resources to sustain a true sharing community of human family through prudent global housekeeping, now and for all time.

**All: We choose life this day for ourselves, families and all nations.**

One: We believe every person is called, through participation and open partnership, to nurture and promote the vision of interconnection and fulfillment of all creation.

**All: We choose life this day for our children and communities.**

One: We believe in a dynamic, unfolding universe as the manifestation of cosmic Love.

**All: We choose life this day; we celebrate earth's diversity, tend to all connections, walk with gentleness and openness – so that our children shall indeed inherit the earth.**

## Participants:

### **Teacher**

Ian Lawton

### **Liturgist**

Bob Kleinheksel

### **Organist/Pianist**

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

### **Musician**

Garrett Borns

Kathie Bolthouse

### **Children's message**

Connie Farell

### **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

*The white team ushers next Sunday.*

### C3 Kids news

Jesus taught the important value of compassion and honoring our connection with each other. This week our children will explore what it means to follow the example of Jesus to act with compassion.

Children are also finishing up preparations for next week's dance and musical performance, please plan to attend.

*License #A-715564 from OneLicense.net*

## **\*Congregational song**

### *The Universe in God*

*All creation sings a story of great splendor to declare  
when we contemplate its beauty we are called forth into prayer  
we enchanted stand in silence, God discovered everywhere.*

*When we stumble on new knowledge, when new insights help us grow  
we are quick to rediscover, just how much we do not know  
but the universe smiles gently as our theories come and go*

*Outer space and inner being both have secrets they conceal  
galaxies so grimly awesome deep emotions that we feel  
all in God are judged so sacred it is God they all reveal.*

*Ageless mysteries still excite us time and space we must explore  
God the 'Presence' and 'Surrounding' God the ever-wondrous 'More'  
not just found in science labors but in praise when we adore.*

*Tune: Laude Anima; words: George Stuart*

## **Children's message**

**Connie Farell**

*The children are invited forward at this time for their children's message. At the conclusion of the message they are invited downstairs for their morning program. All children are invited and welcome to participate.*

## **Prayer**

**Bob Kleinheksel**

## **Musical inspiration**

*Gymnopedie No. 1*

**Kathie Bolthouse & Jacqueline Rose Fisher**

*Erik Satie*

## **Reading**

"And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants; it shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his family. A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be to you; in it you shall neither sow, nor reap what grows of itself, nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat what it yields out of the field."

— *Leviticus 25:10-12*

## Reading

“The ecological and social wisdom of the Sabbath year goes beyond the agricultural good sense of letting land lie fallow. Kentucky philosopher-farmer Wendell Berry articulates Sabbath economics in his notion of the “two economies.” He believes the all-encompassing and integrated system of nature should be understood as the “Great Economy,” upon which human systems (“little economies”) by necessity depend. The problem, Berry writes, is that our modern industrial economy, with its managerial penchant for control and its lack of limits, “does not see itself as a little economy; it sees itself as the only economy. It makes itself thus exclusive by the simple expedient of valuing only what it can use—that is, only what it can regard as ‘raw material’ to be transformed mechanically into something else.... The industrial economy is based on invasion and pillage of the Great Economy.”

— Ched Myers, *Sojourners*

## Sermon

*Ecology as a National Value*

Ian Lawton

## Offertory

*Tambourin*

Kathie Bolthouse & Jacqueline Rose Fisher

*Francois-Joseph Gossec*

## \*Congregational hymn

*All Who Inhabit Planet Earth*

*All who inhabit planet earth, join us in praising God with mirth: Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Shine, Brother Sun, with splendid ray, and, Sister Moon, turn night to day:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Come, Brother Wind, and bring your friends,  
Calm weather, breeze and wild west winds. Join our praises, Alleluia!  
Show'r down upon us, streams of rain, great ocean, and the bounding main:  
Sister Water, bring your laughter, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Lighten our darkness, Brother Fire, lift up our spirits, ever higher: Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Sustain and feed us, Mother Earth, make all our music sing with mirth,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

*tune: Laast Uns Erfreuen; words: Rose Mackenzie*

## \*Blessing

*If, here, you have found freedom, take it with you into the world  
If you have found comfort, go and share it with others.  
If you have dreamed dreams, help one another that they may come true!  
If you have known love, give some back to a bruised and hurting world.*

— Lauralyn Bellamy

## \*Postlude

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

## Reading note:

The observance of the Jubilee was held every fiftieth year. It was also called the year of liberty or year of redemption. It was a holy year when all labor was to cease and the people were to eat what they had stored from the previous year. Non-urban property that had been sold could be redeemed, inheritances restored, and slaves set free.

## Please participate this morning

We invite you to join us for our follow-up congregational meeting immediately following our gathering in the Sanctuary this morning. All who participate in the life of this community are encouraged to attend. Important presentations will be made on the direction and future of this community including financial realities and plans for SBNR.ORG.

## Upcoming Gatherings

### **Sunday, May 10 — 10:00 a.m.**

*Celebrating the Source of Life*

A wonderful service is planned this Mother's Day guaranteed to move and inspire you. Drawing on the creativity of so many from our community our gathering will feature, music from Lisa Chorny, dance and musical performance from some of our very talented children, and the celebration of baptism. Ian Lawton will be speaking this morning on the ways honoring the source of life can inspire the way you live.

### **Sunday, May 17 — 10:00 a.m.**

*Diversity: A beautiful path to peace*

Ian Lawton will be speaking this morning as we explore the many ways the celebration of diversity can lead to peace among nations, religions, and even families.

## Church family news

We send our well wishes to Alicia Grennan Stewart who is at home recovering from surgery.

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**



*This bulletin was printed on recycled paper, let's keep it going, recycle please!*