



**Being human,
Being love**

225 East Exchange Street
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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.

Celebration of Life Well Lived Sunday, May 24, 2009 Christ Community Church

Prelude

Two American Folk Hymns

Betty Van Till & Jacqueline Rose Fisher

arr. Henderson/Barnes

Welcome and news of the community

Bob Kleinheksel

Gathered in community

One: In the daily struggles and as we move in this world,

All: It is right to remember those who gave us strength in this choice of living.

One: We share a history with those lives. We belong in the same motion.

All: They were strengthened by the past; drawn on by the vision of what might come to be.

One: Those who lived and struggled for justice have not disappeared nor melted into the dust.

All: They are with us still. The lives they lived hold us steady.

One: Their words remind us and call us back to ourselves. Their courage and love evoke our own.

*Congregational hymn

Trust in the Light

*Trust in the light to guide you on your way
Let love abundant find your heart and stay
Rejoice and sing and live this precious day
Trust life unfolding, trust life unfolding.*

*Live in the now give up your lonely past
Choose to be present in the sacred dance
Lift up your light and shine for all to see
Choose life abundant, choose life abundant*

*Open your life accept what comes your way
Treat with compassion all who join your day
Learn from the earth the lowly and the wise
Let life surprise you, let life surprise you.*

tune: For All the Saints; words by Gloria Klinger

Participants:

Teacher

Ian Lawton

Liturgist

Bob Kleinheksel

Organist

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Musicians

Steve Lucas

Junie Lucas

Allen Beck

Dan Horton

Jim Ryke

Sandy Beck

Cathy Forrest

Betty Van Till

Sound booth

Allison Rockey

Video cameras

Brad Vander Ark

Ushers

Randy Ray, captain

Steve Platt

GayMaria 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 news

This morning we will not have our regular program though a video will be offered downstairs for children allowing parents to participate in the morning gathering. Next week will be the concluding C3 Kids program for the year. Please plan to attend.



Children's message

Bob Kleinheksel

*If **welcome books** have not already been signed, please do so at this time. After all have signed please pass along your pew to learn names of those sitting with you.*

***Children** can remain in the gathering this morning or they are invited downstairs to watch a video. Parents please pick up your children immediately following our gathering.*

Musical inspiration

Cathy Forrest

So Shine

Poem by Leonard (Red) Bird, tune by Betty Van Till

*Each budding self exists
As one translucent slice of time
That plays across the radiant sun
But once. Every breath
Depletes the finite gift.
So plunge into the dance of life.*

*Even at birth, as we swim
Towards first breath, we catapult
Into space as glorious rainbows,
And fade just short
Of bridging the abyss.
So plunge into the dance, and shine.*

Time of litany and remembering

Annually, we honor those from this community who have died over the course of the past year. We remember, honor and celebrate their lives; we continue to draw encouragement and inspiration from them. The lighting of a candle as each name is read symbolizes the light of their unique life.

Emilie Baker

John Grostic

June Huizenga

Caroline Carlson

Dick Hazen

Ilene Jones

Doris DeBoer

Mike Hood

Lester Patterson

One: In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.

All: **In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.**

One: In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

All: **In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.**

One: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

All: **In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.**

One: When we are joyful or sad, energetic or sick, we remember them.

All: **We, the living, carry them with us; we are their voices, their hands, their hearts. We take them with us, and with them choose the deeper path of living.**

— Adapted from Roland B. Gittelsohn

Prayer

Bob Kleinheksel

Musical inspiration

For Good

Music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

*I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason
Bringing something we must learn
And we are led to those who help us most to grow
If we let them and we help them in return
Well, I don't know if I believe that's true
But I know I'm who I am today
Because I knew you...*

*Like a comet pulled from orbit
As it passes a sun like a stream that meets a boulder
Halfway through the wood
Who can say if I've been changed for the better?
But because I knew you I have been changed for good*

*It well may be that we will never meet again
In this lifetime so let me say before we part
So much of me is made of what I learned from you
You'll be with me like a handprint on my heart
And now whatever way our stories end I know you have re-written mine
By being my friend...*

Cathy Forrest

Readings

Jesus said to the disciples, "Truly, truly I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

— John 10:7-10

The young dead soldiers do not speak. Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses: Who has not heard them? They have a silence that speaks for them at night and when the clock counts. They say: We have done what we could but until it is finished it is not done. They say: We have given our lives but until it is finished no one can know what our lives gave. They say: Our deaths are not ours; they are yours; they will mean what you make of them. They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say; it is you who must say this. They say: We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning. We were young, they say. We have died. Remember us.

— Archibald MacLeish

Upcoming Gatherings

This morning...

Following the gathering will be a brief Memorial Service held in the Garden of Grace Columbarium. This will be a time of remembrance and reflection for friends and family. All are welcome.

Sunday, May 31

9:00 a.m. Awakenings

This week we will draw on teachings from the yoga tradition. Stress, anxiety and worry have a dramatic impact on our bodies. In this morning's session we will focus our awareness on our physical bodies. Please wear comfortable clothing as we may explore some light physical movement.

10:00 a.m. Gathering — Ian Lawton

Spiritual Evolution

11:30 a.m. Brunch & lecture — Michael Dowd

Thank God for Evolution

Join us for a wonderful brunch and lecture with Rev. Michael Dowd and learn why Americans everywhere are engaging in a life-changing new conversation about Creation. Endorsed by Nobel Prize winning scientists and religious leaders across the spectrum, Michael builds bridges, provides guidance, and restores realistic hope for people of any religion or belief system.

Tickets are \$15 when purchased in advance and \$18 for remaining tickets available at the door.

Monday, June 1

7:00 p.m. Presentation — Michael Dowd

The Gospel According to Science:

Evolutionary Good News

Learn more about Michael Dowd on his website, www.ThankGodForEvolution.com.

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

The Secret to a Life Well Lived

Ian Lawton

Offertory

Celebration Hymn for Brass and Organ

Brass Ensemble

arr. Robert Wetzler

This is 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

America, the Beautiful

Katherine Lee Bates and Samuel E. Ward

*O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain.
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.*

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness.
America! America! God mend thy every flaw,
Confirm thy soul with self control, thy liberty in law.*

*O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears.
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.*

*Blessing

Go out with great conviction to live life with abundance,
For there is much living and loving to experience this day.
Take courage, for the way is exciting and hard,
Our paths not always clear.
Go out with confidence and freedom –
Resist dying before you die....
And remember, you are not alone.

*Postlude

Ceremonial Fanfare in D

Brass Ensemble

Gerald Bales

