



**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 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.

Thank God for Spiritual Evolution

Sunday, May 31, 2009

Christ Community Church

Prelude

My Lord, What a Morning

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

*African-American spiritual
settings: Michel & Koch*

Welcome and news of the community

Bob Kleinheksel

Musical inspiration

Me and Charles Darwin

Steve Weideman

Gathered in community

If, recognizing the interdependence and evolutionary nature of all life, we strive to build community, the strength we gather will be our salvation. The variety, the diversity, the billions-old emergence of our universe, all people and all things are to be celebrated and honored!

One: If you are black and I am white,

All: It will not matter.

One: If you are female and I am male,

All: It will not matter.

One: If you are older and I am younger,

All: It will not matter.

One: If you are progressive and I am conservative,

All: It will not matter.

One: If you are straight and I am gay,

All: It will not matter.

One: If you are Jewish and I am Christian,

All: It will not matter.

One: If we join spirits as brothers and sisters, the joys are amplified and the pains lessened. And that does matter.

All: In this spirit, we build community and move toward evolutionary maturity and freedom.

— Adapted from Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley

Participants:

Teacher

Ian Lawton

Liturgists

Bob Kleinheksel

Michael Dowd

Organist

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Musicians

Steve Weideman

Goldie Weideman

Sound booth

Brian Drabczyk

Video cameras

Brad Vander Ark

Ushers

Wayne Johnson, captain

Debbie Gianetti

Marji Juhl

Scott Keller

Alice Lyons

Joe Miller

Lindy Postma

Dave Register

Jean Register

The red team ushers next Sunday.

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C3 Kids news

This morning concludes our school-year program for C3 Kids. A special thank you to the many volunteers who dedicated countless hours, infinite patience, and tremendous care for our children, making this program such a success.

We are committed to offering summer children's programs each week so that parents and caregivers can enjoy the 10:00 am gatherings.

*Congregational hymn

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: Lauda Anima; words: George Stuart

Children's message

Michael Dowd

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

Children are invited outside to the courtyard for their last regular program of the year. Please pick children up by 11:30 this morning. Beginning next week a video will be offered during the Gathering for children. Mid-summer our Summer C3 Kids Program will begin.

Prayer

Bob Kleinheksel

Musical inspiration

Steve and Goldie Weideman

Falling Slowly

Glen Hansard & Marketa Irglova

*I don't know you, but I want you all the more for that
Words fall through me, and always fool me, and I can't react
And games that never amount to more than they're meant
Will play themselves out*

*Take this sinking boat and point it home, we've still got time
Raise your hopeful voice you have a choice you'll make it now*

*Falling slowly, eyes that know me, and I can't go back
Moods that take me and erase me, and I'm painted black
You have suffered enough and warred with yourself
It's time that you won*

Readings

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void of all things, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. God created light, then separated light from darkness. God created the firmament and the waters above and the waters below. God created dry land, vegetation and stars. God brought about fishes and birds, then animals and human beings. God considered everything that had come to be and saw it all was very good.

— *paraphrase, Genesis 1:1-30*

There is profound relief in knowing that the inclinations we most dislike in ourselves and others are often not of our or their own doing. In a way, our flaws are not, at base, our fault. We didn't choose them; nor did others. We all, to some extent, inherited them. Our inherited proclivities were shaped by the particulars of our human, mammalian, and vertebrate evolutionary journeys, nuanced by the developmental journey each of us navigates, from womb to tomb. This gift of understanding is the foundation for any lasting transformation. It encourages us to move beyond denial or condemnation and simply accept that there are powerful drives within all of us that we did not choose. Once relaxed and accepting, we can begin to forgive self and others for past transgressions. This forgiveness, in turn, clears the board and gives us the courage to look full-square at our current situation and from that vantage to embark on realistic paths for bettering our lives, enriching our relationships, and blessing the world.

— *Michael Dowd, "Thank God for Evolution"*

Sermon

Spiritual Evolution: Becoming What Tomorrow Demands

Ian Lawton

Offertory

Apologize

Steve and Goldie Weideman

Tim Mosley and Ryan Tedder

This is a community-led organization. Your generous donations make 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.

*Blessing

Beauty is before me, and beauty behind me
Above me and below me hovers the beautiful.
I am surrounded by it, I am immersed in it.
In my youth, I am aware of it, and
In old age, I shall walk quietly the beautiful trail.
In beauty, it is begun.
In beauty, it is ended.

— *Navajo Indian saying*

*Postlude

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

setting Dale Wood

Upcoming Gatherings

This morning...

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.

Remaining tickets available are \$18 for purchase this morning.

Monday, June 1

7:00 p.m. Presentation by Michael Dowd

The Gospel According to Science:

Evolutionary Good News

We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors for this transformative presentation by Michael Dowd. Michael speaks in such an inclusive manner that conservative Christians, progressive Christians, atheists, agnostics, and the spiritual but not religious will all be inspired by his teaching.

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

*Christ Community Church is an open
and evolving community...*

*Accepting you for who and
where you are...*

*Encouraging you to reflect on your
beliefs and values...*

*Inspiring you to be the change you
wish to see in the world.*

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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