



**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. 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.

A Theology of Choice

Sunday, June 28, 2009

Christ Community Church

Prelude

Partita on How Good, God Said, and Blessed the Two

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Schalk/Porter

Welcome and news of the community

Bob Kleinheksel

Musical inspiration

I Hope You Dance

Harmony in the Flood Plain

Lee Ann Womack

Gathered in community

Allison Rockey

One: Imagine a world where all women feel valued and respected,

All: A world overcome with love.

One: Imagine a religion that seeks the leadership of women;

All: A religion of connection, inclusion, and compassion.

One: Imagine a government that values women so highly that crimes against women are not tolerated, that the health care of women is a top priority, and where women are not the majority living in poverty;

All: A nation of equal opportunity.

One: Imagine a nation that sees the tremendous value of women in the workplace, offering all women the opportunity, the respect, and the support needed for success;

All: A nation of greater success and achievement for all.

One: Imagine a culture where the value of a woman is not reduced to her physical body and reproductive capabilities;

All: A culture honoring the whole person – body, mind, and spirit.

One: Imagine a man that takes the responsibility of a pregnancy as seriously as a woman does;

All: A man that is transforming male responsibility.

One: Imagine a woman... a woman in *this* reality and the choices she could make.

All: Women and men, we come together, co-creating this new reality.

Participants:

Teacher

Rev. Madison Shockley

Liturgists

Bob Kleinheksel

Ian Lawton

Allison Rockey

Organist

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Musicians

Robbyn Tygrett

Jaime Tygrett

Jill Jacobson

Sound booth

Dave Miller

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.

Baptism

Liam Burke Gravelyn

Parents: Dawn and Marty Gravelyn

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C3 Kids news

This morning kids are invited downstairs to watch a video. Please plan to pick up children by noon. Videos will be offered every week until our summer kids program begins Sunday, July 12.

*Congregational hymn

Child of Wonder

Tune: Stuttgart

*Child of wonder, child so precious,
parents bring you to this place
to receive love's richest blessing,
filling you with holy grace.*

*See our act of arms wide open,
reaching out, extending care;
may these children and these adults,
feel the love we freely share.*

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Celebration of baptism

I baptize you, Liam Burke Gravelyn, in water to signify your connection to all of life. Above you are the stars. Beneath you is the earth. Within you is the light of life. Like the stars may your love be constant. Like the earth may your life be grounded. Like the light may your spirit shine. You are embraced by God; within as self-worth, between as the strength in community, and beyond as the endless possibilities that line your future.

To Parents: Will you strive to nurture your child in his own spiritual development; to respect life, to love deeply and to be agents of peace and justice?

Will you, Dawn and Marty, by example, teach your child to respond with optimism rather than react out of fear, to embrace discovery rather than a belief system, and to believe that there is no such thing as failure, only opportunities in disguise?

To congregation: As opportunities arise, will you be a source of support for Marty and Dawn? Will you be the village that helps raise this precious one up into the world? Will you affirm Liam's important place in community and celebrate his life? If so, please respond together by saying, "We will."

Reading

The mythical expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden.

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins, and clothed them. Then God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever," – therefore God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the Garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of God."

– Genesis 3:20 – 4:1

Reading

Pro-choice advocates tend to cast an abortion as “an intensely personal decision.” To which we can say; No, one’s choice of carpeting is an intensely personal decision. One’s struggles with a life-and-death issue must be understood as a matter of personal conscience. There is a world of difference between the two, and it’s the difference a moral frame makes. Now, try to imagine real gender equality and an America that is female-dominated. Since a true working democracy in this country would reflect our 54-46 voting advantage.

Now imagine such a democracy, in which women would be valued so very highly as a world that is accepting and responsible about human sexuality; in which there is no coerced sex without serious jail time: in which there are affordable, safe contraceptives available for the taking in every public health building; in which there is economic parity for women — and basic economic subsistence for every baby born; and in which every young American woman knows about and understands her natural desire as a treasure to cherish, and responsibly, when the time is right, on her own terms, to share.

In such a world, in which the idea of gender as a barrier has become a dusty artifact, we would probably use a very different language about what would be, then, the rare and doubtless traumatic event of abortion. That language would probably call upon respect and responsibility, grief and mourning. In that world we might well describe the unborn and the never-to-be-born with the honest words of life. And in that world, passionate feminists might well hold candlelight vigils at abortion clinics, standing shoulder to shoulder with the doctors who work there, commemorating and saying goodbye to the dead.

— Naomi Wolf

Prayer

Ian Lawton

Musical inspiration

Harmony in the Flood Plain

Sermon

Theology of Choice

Rev. Madison Shockley

Offertory

Andante Tranquillo from Sonata III

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Felix Mendelssohn

*Blessing

We receive fragments of holiness, and yet we know everything is holy;
Glimpses of eternity, brief moments of insight.
Let us gather them up for the precious gifts they are
And, renewed by their grace, move boldly
Into the rest of our lives. Let us move forth with conviction,
freedom, justice and truth. Amen.

*Postlude

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

C3 Kids news

C3 Youth Service Trip: We will be going to Chicago from Thursday, July 23 - Sunday, July 26 to serve meals to the hungry and help in other ways. Of course we’ll take some time to enjoy the great City of Chicago. Contact Chad or the office for more information on attending or chaperoning.

Offering

This is a community-led organization that relies primarily on the support of individuals. 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. Your generosity makes the work of this community possible.

Upcoming events and gatherings

11:15 a.m. Workshop — **Madison Shockley**
Theology of Reproductive Choice

Even in progressive circles where women’s choice is fiercely protected, women are often left alone with this difficult decision with very little support or guidance. Taking on this extremely controversial issue, Madison Shockley examines the theological, legal, and moral context surrounding a woman’s right to choose. He approaches this topic with sensitivity and grace offering universal wisdom that can serve as guidance to be used in each unique, individual situation.

Church family news

Lowell Zimmer is home recovering following back surgery. Our best to Ruth and Lowell at this time of recovery.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Linda Langs on the passing of her husband, Steven Fortnam.

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.

 **christ
community
church** **Being human, Being love**



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