



**Being human,
Being love**

225 East Exchange Street
Spring Lake, Michigan 49456

616 842 1985 p
616 842 3476 f

www.christ-community.net

Office and Building Hours

Office Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Building will be open:
Monday - Thursday,
7:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Other building hours by
scheduled appointment only.

Welcome to Christ Community Church

This community is open to all who would join and continue the human journey, seeking to learn, to grow, to love deeply, and live more meaningfully! We are glad you are here. Let us know how we can connect with you.

Ian Lawton, Executive Minister,
Preaching and Theological Inquiry
Bob Kleinheksel, Minister of Care
and Social Justice
Brigit Lewis, Administration and Fund
Development
Allison Rockey, Outreach and
Communications Ministry
Brad Vander Ark, Audio/Visual and
Online Ministry
Betty Van Till, Organist and Music
Coordinator
Toni Van Dyken, Spiritual Director
Richard A. Rhem, Minister Emeritus
Peter J. Theune, Minister Emeritus

A Progressive View of Heaven

Sunday, December 31, 2006

Christ Community Church

Prelude

Christmas Carols

...Betty Van Till

Welcome and news of the community

Introit

Grown Up Christmas List

...Julia Yob

Gathered in community

One: In the breath of each being, in all that is said;

All: We welcome all to the Kingdom of God

One: In the sun that shines, or the snow that flies, in the wind that howls around us, in the warmth of sanctuary we now enjoy;

All: We welcome all to the Kingdom of God

One: In the pain and suffering of all beings, known and not known to us;

All: We welcome all to the Kingdom of God

One: In our preparation to enter into a new year, a new life, a new heaven, and a new earth;

All: We welcome all to the Kingdom of God, now and forever, in each moment, within, between, and beyond all we say, and do, and are.

*Hymn

O Day of Peace

...tune: Jerusalem

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams, Guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes. May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release, Till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Readings

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had vanished, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. ³I heard a loud voice proclaiming from the throne: 'Now at last God has his dwelling among men! He will dwell among them and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them. ⁵Then he who sat on the throne said, 'Behold! I am making all things new!' ...Revelation 21:1-3,5

Christian contemplation includes the practice of resting in God... Although God cannot be described by using concepts and notions, that does not mean you cannot experience God the Father. If the wave does not have to die to become water, then we do not have to die to enter the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is available here and now. The energy of the Holy Spirit is the energy that helps us touch the Kingdom of God. Tillich has said that speaking of God as a person is just a figure of speech. He said that God is the ground of being. This makes me think of the water that is the ground of being for the wave. He also said that God is the Ultimate Reality.
...Thich Nhat Hanh, *Living Buddha Living Christ*

Participants:

Preacher: David Beighley

Liturgist: Bob Kleinheksel

Organist: Betty Van Till

Musicians: Nick Beighley, Julia Yob

Ushers: Jani Ingersoll (Captain), Don Anderson, Dan Bouma, Aaron Dean, Kristin Jolink, Todd Kuypers, Jean McCabe, Marianne Okesik, Bob Scheifele, Tom Webber, Gina Zornes. The white team ushers next Sunday.

Sound Booth: Brian Drabczyk

Camera: Brad Vander Ark, Kate Ujlaky

Ministry Council Host: Bruce Martin

Reading notes:

Thich Nhat Hanh is a Vietnamese monk who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who in his nomination speech stated, "Thich Nhat Hahn is a holy man, for he is humble and devout. He is a scholar of immense intellectual capacity. His ideas for peace, if applied, would build a monument to ecumenism, in world brotherhood, to humanity."

Count Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy, commonly referred to in English as Leo Tolstoy, was a Russian novelist, writer, essayist, philosopher, Christian anarchist, pacifist, educational reformer, vegetarian, moral thinker and an influential member of the Tolstoy family. Tolstoy is widely regarded as one of the greatest of all novelists, particularly noted for his masterpieces, *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*. In their scope, breadth and realistic depiction of Russian life, the two books stand at the peak of realistic fiction. As a moral philosopher he was notable for his ideas on nonviolent resistance through his work, *The Kingdom of God is Within You*, which in turn influenced such twentieth century figures as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Worship center news

Worship Centers are on Holiday break. We will resume January 7th when we celebrate Epiphany in each Worship Center with a visit from the Wise Ones!

You can still donate mittens, hats, scarfs and children's winter clothing for the People center today and next Sunday. Just leave them under the tree in the Great Room. Thank you!

What's happening at C3/CCC

January 7: Ned Edwards, "A New Heaven and A New Earth for a New Year."

January 14: Ian Lawton, "Sacred Contracts"

No external conditions can guarantee our life, which is attended with inevitable sufferings and infallibly terminated by death, and which consequently can have no significance except in the constant accomplishment of what is demanded by the Power which has placed us in life with a sole certain guide—the rational conscience. That is why the Power cannot require of us what is irrational and impossible: the organization of our temporary external life, the life of society or of the state. That Power demands of us only what is reasonable, certain, and possible: to serve the Kingdom of God, that is, to contribute to the establishment of the greatest possible union between all living beings—a union possible only in the truth; and to recognize and to profess the revealed truth, which is always in our power. The sole meaning of life is to serve humanity by contributing to the establishment of the Kingdom of God, which can only be done by the recognition and profession of the truth by every man. ...Leo Tolstoy

Musical Reflection

Thekla

...Nick Beighley

...Schubert

(The german word Thekla translates to mean a phantom voice; this piece is about contrasting earthly pleasures and heavenly joys.)

Prayer

...Bob Kleinheksel

Sermon

"Welcome to the Apocalypse: A Progressive View of Heaven"

...David Beighley

Offertory

Bring Forth the Kingdom

...Nick Beighley & Julia Yob

...Marty Haugen

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the kingdom of God! Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the kingdom of God! Bring forth the kingdom of mercy, bring forth the kingdom of peace, bring forth the kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God. You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the city of God. Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the kingdom of God. Bring forth the kingdom of mercy, bring forth the kingdom of peace; Bring forth the kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God!

*Closing hymn

No Need for World Catastrophe

...tune: Duke Street

...words: George Stuart

No need for world catastrophe, apocalypse, calamity.

If God is love, and love is near, then God in Christ will reappear.

For in our day we see our Lord in justice done, in love outpoured;
God's presence is, for those who see, as real as when in Galilee.

We know our God is present here when trust and hope replace our fear.
Christ's second coming--it occurs whenever love within us stirs.

*Blessing

Welcome to the Kingdom of God wherein you have lived before the time your parents were born and beyond the time when your grandchildren leave this earth. Welcome to your eternity. Welcome to the beginning-less beginning and endless ending of God's Divine Presence, to be recognized, realized, embraced, and lived in this very moment—in this very place—with these very people. Go into the New Year with peace, with promise, and with the vision of all you can be in this living, breathing, vibrant, evolving and unfolding Kingdom of God.

*Postlude

...Betty Van Till