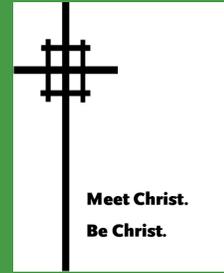


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**

Rector

“Don’t Be ‘A-Scared’” by Fr. Randy+

I had just finished my practice of silent prayer while driving my car into downtown St. Paul at the beginning of my workday. Traffic was flowing smoothly as I signaled my turn to the exit ramp, and I turned on the radio for the weather report. MPR was on the dial and immediately I heard a voice of a very young person explaining his decision to be part of a test study of COVID-19 vaccine in children. His voice was clearly confident as he answered the question posed by the reporter, *“Why are you volunteering to be part of this study, at such a young age?”*

The young man quickly responded, *“Because I don’t want my brother and sister to be ‘a-scared’ of COVID, and hopefully other kids won’t get sick by my helping with the study.”*

It was a clarifying moment for me to hear this young person’s words and strong conviction that he was doing something good and right and honorable for others. It made me take a moment and consider what deep meaning he fearlessly imparted to all those listening to his voice this day.

My mind shifted to one of the most basic instincts that is *“hard-wired”* into people- the gift of fear. It is a gift in the sense that it has helped humankind survive all types of dangers that may harm us. However, fear can also become a driving force—an all-consuming and debilitating focus in our lives. We have

many fears that impact us both directly and indirectly: the fear of failure, disease, illness, death, non-acceptance, insecurity, fear of the future or the past, the fear of “*the other*” or persons not like us. Fear can be debilitating, whether it is truly warranted or not.

In a recent post, Bishop Craig Loya made a statement that has resonated within me about the concept of fear. Many times, “...*feelings of anger or hatred towards something or someone else usually mask something I am afraid of losing or trying desperately to hold onto.*” He stated that we are incorrect if we believe the opposite of Love is Hate. Actually, the opposite of Love is Fear. Think about that for a moment. It is true.

The Holy Scriptures are chock full of messages from God, angels, and even Jesus, making the immediate and bold statement to “*Be not afraid.*” Jesus uses these words to emphasize, support, and encourage us to live in the now and to live in love, not fear. Nothing can separate us from the love of God—we have nothing to fear through Christ Jesus.

In Romans chapter 8, Paul states: “*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor demons, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

I believe this with all my heart, and with all my soul, and all my being. Love never ends.

Dear friends in Christ, there are many things that may steal our attention and make us fearful in our lives today. As we move forward into Eastertide, celebrating the victory over death of our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, I pray that we each find some way, each and every day, to choose love over fear. May Jesus shine the light of hope and joy and love into our world.

And, “***Don’t be A-Scared.***” Peace and all things good.
Randy+

Music Notes



Karla Cole

Director of Music Ministries

Another Holy Week. My, how things have evolved in a year. When we locked down on the 22nd of March last year, I figured we might have a Pentecost service. Easter was right out. But, by the time Pentecost rolled around, I was pinning my hopes on a somewhat normal fall and another

choir season, but no, that wasn't happening, either. Christmas? Nope. Epiphany? No way. We began to get glimmerings of hope as Lent approached and now, we're into Holy Week and finally, we have in-person worship restored. It won't be anything like what it was BC, before COVID. But it beats sitting in the car.

Way back last year, when church musicians were still hopeful that in-person worship might start up any day now, the discussion ran to how we might celebrate The Return. Having been robbed of Easter 2020, many glommed on to the idea of an Easter service, whenever that might be. So, the fact that we're resuming in-person worship on Easter (Good Friday notwithstanding) is, I think, not just symbolic, but life-affirming. Here we go – who knows what the future brings for our little parish or indeed, the world at large. But spring has come again and it's almost Easter!

If you want to mark the rest of Holy Week for yourself, I'd like to draw attention to our Way of the Cross on the homepage of our website. It's a mere 17 minutes and 33 seconds of your time, but I think, will be worth your effort. And it isn't the traditional 14 Stations of the Cross, but it will give you time to slow down and contemplate Christ's suffering and death in this most sacred week.

As I write, I am still wrestling with a virtual *Lessons and Carols for Holy Week*. You might want to save this for Saturday in place of the Easter Vigil that we won't be having. Once again, the section leaders and Fr. Randy and some readers joined me in putting scripture and song together to mark the journey of this week. These virtual projects are rather time-consuming, and while I have learned an awful lot and gotten much faster over the year, I really set myself up for trouble this time. The choir and I have tackled a virtual choir project (like the videos you've seen on YouTube that look like a big Brady Bunch intro), which I hoped to have as the finale of this Holy Week service. It has been one technical problem after another, due to my poor skills and my laptop's insufficient processing power. Even Matt's big iMac has struggled with all the data from 18 tracks of video and audio. Last night about 11:00, I was finally able to hear it for the very first time. For the last two weeks, things would disappear, and nothing would line up, and all I could hear was everyone singing at a different time. It was pretty depressing. So, hearing it the way it is supposed to be has been a real revelation. Now, if I can get it out of the editing software and into Vimeo, where all our videos reside, waiting for you to watch them, and then into the *Lessons and Carols for Holy Week*, I shall be truly happy. If not, that virtual choir piece may just exist as a video all by itself in the world. Confused? Me, too.

Holy Week blessings to all! Take good care, wear your masks and I'll look forward to seeing parts of your faces on Easter! Alleluia!
Karla

Footprints APRIL 2021
News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



We completed our program year on Palm Sunday with the story of the Faces of Easter. This story follows the life of Jesus from birth to resurrection. We tell this story initially in a linear, time-line manner. But then we rearrange the tiles to envision it as a circle, with no beginning and no end.



I am ever grateful to our fantastic Sunday School teachers, Jean Darnell and Carol Duff. They worked with me to provide Zoom Sunday school each week from September – March. They are thoughtful, creative women who are truly dedicated to the youngest members of St. Christopher's!



On Sunday, April 24th the families will gather outdoors for an Earth Day Celebration. Fr. Randy and I are preparing a special liturgy and project for this event.



We are looking ahead to Vacation Bible School! As many of you know, this is my favorite event of the year, and I am very excited to bring it back this summer. Our theme is God's Backyard Bible Camp. Most of it will take place outside, and we will follow ECMN's COVID precautions. I am looking for someone who would like to lead us in singing camp songs. If that is you, or someone you know, please reach out to me!

Youth



Chad O'Leary
Director of Youth Ministries

Happy Holy Week! I know that I have been gargling with Listerine twice/day this week so that I can scream "He is Risen!" at the top of my lungs on Easter Sunday. I am ready for Easter. I know my readiness for the holiday is in a large part due to YOU; I truly enjoyed pausing and reflecting on the contributions of so many members of our faith community through our collection of prayers/devotionals. I hope that you found them as meaningful as I did over the course of the past five weeks. Thank you so much to all who made a submission!

A second component of our Lenten initiative was to collect food and toiletry supplies for Keystone Services. If you have a collection of goods assembled at home, please feel free to drop them off at our Keystone chest (in the nave) at Easter services or at another time convenient for you after Easter services. If you didn't collect items during Lent but would still like to make a donation, please feel free to look at the list that we assembled (front page of the website) and drop something off. Monetary donations can also be made by dropping it off at the parish office.



In-Person Worship Returns!

Good News! Beginning with the Easter season, we will begin in-person worship services inside our sanctuary! (For Maundy Thursday, please see our website for an at-home service.)

Good Friday, April 2nd at 12:15 and 6:00 PM.

Easter Sunday, April 4th at 8:00, 9:15 and 10:30 AM.

Going forward, Sunday services will be at 8 AM and 10:30 AM.

Wednesday 12:15 pm services will be in the church (no sign-up needed at this time).

In order to follow all of our necessary safety protocols, we need people to sign up for services. We are using Sign Up Genius because this program simplifies the process on our end so as not to create a lot of extra work for the office. It helps us ensure that we don't get too many people (limit 70), and it creates a list to identify who is present. Please go to this link to register using Sign Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADA92EA2F9C25-church>
If signing up online is difficult, you may call the office to be registered on Sign Up Genius.



Keystone Drop Off!!

If your household participated in collecting food/toiletries items as part of our Lenten Program, you are invited to bring your donations during Easter services. If you still want to pick up a few key items on the [calendar posted on our website](#) or make a monetary donation, we'd love your contribution! If you will not be attending Easter services in person, you can drop them at the Keystone collection chest during building hours anytime during the first week of Easter. Monetary donations can be brought to the Parish Office.

Alleluia! Let's Play Bingo!

Conquer cabin fever by gathering on Zoom to play some bingo and socialize. And maybe even win a prize! All are welcome!

Registration: Complete the registration form



HERE to get the Zoom link and your Bingo Card(s).

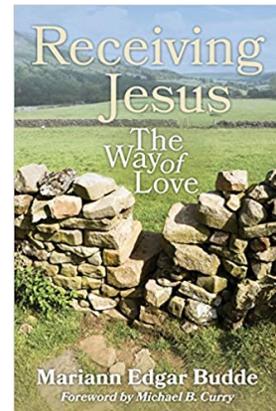
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 **Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 pm **Cost:** Free! **Location:** This is a Virtual Event to be held on Zoom

Junk Mail?

Staff emails from St. Christopher's - those @stchristophers-mn.org email addresses - seem to be ending up in "Spam" or "Junk" folders more often lately, and in some cases, in "Trash" folders. If you don't seem to be getting all of the emails from St. Christopher's that you are expecting - or if someone tells you they are not getting them, PLEASE check those Spam/Junk folders.

New Online Book Chat - Tuesdays with Marilyn+

After Easter we will offer an online weekly book group. We will be using The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde's book, "Receiving Jesus: The Way of Love." It's not required that you read the book, but our conversation will be focused on its contents and exploring our own responses to it.



The plan is to meet on **Tuesdays at 7 pm, beginning on April 6**, and running through May. Please email me if you're interested, and if you'd like a book. I'll send out a link to the meeting when we get closer. mebaldwin76@gmail.com

Rev. Marilyn+

CALENDAR for APRIL

1 Maundy Thursday

(at-home worship, see website)

2 Good Friday

12:15 PM Worship for Good Friday - Church (Please sign up online)

6:00 PM Worship for Good Friday - Church (Please sign up online)

3 Holy Saturday

4 EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

7 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

9 Friday

11 AM Keystone Mobile Food Shelf - West Lot

11 Sunday - Easter 2

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

12 Monday

6:45 PM Finance Committee - via Zoom

13 Tuesday

11:30 AM Meals on Wheels - OFFSITE

14 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

18 Sunday - Easter 3

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

19 Monday

6:45 PM Vestry - via Zoom

21 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

25 Sunday - Easter 4

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Please sign up online)

26 Monday - *e-Traveler* Deadline for May

28 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the April *e-Traveler*!

The end of Lent and the Easter Season are shaping up to be especially enjoyable, as we are having lovely weather, and we are beginning to be together again for worship!

As I prepare this edition of the e-Traveler, I am just



back to the office with my new hip. I thank everyone for your good thoughts, cards, and many prayers, which God surely heard, for I am recovering with ease!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Michael Sirany, Sr. Warden; Chris Mayr, Jr. Warden
Allison Jensen, Clerk; Jean Crow, Treasurer

Ross Ackerman, Patrick Ahern, Erin Bowman;
Ann DePaolis-Jones; Josh Kattelman; Alexander Kun;
Jeanna McLoughlin; Leslie Norton; Al Reedstrom

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Chad O'Leary, Youth Ministries Director
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Colleen Carpenter, Seminarian
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Current Schedule

Recorded Services for each Sunday are on our website and on Facebook

Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - by Sign Up!

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - by Sign Up!

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Current Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 4 PM

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N.
Roseville, MN 55113
651-633-4589 | Fax 651-633-7361 | www.stchristophers-mn.org

STAY CONNECTED



