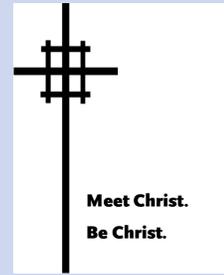


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



[Visit our Website](#)

From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**

Rector

Advent waiting *by Fr. Randy+*

Advent is, most of all, a time of waiting—waiting on the Lord, and waiting for the Lord. Waiting is hard. At times, it appears we have forgotten how to wait. I am likely the greatest living example of this fact. I will not wait for anything! At least, without a huge dose of self-control and focused will. An example... I would rather go without food or drink than stand in line at the State Fair for ANYTHING!!! I know it drives my loved ones nuts, but that is who I am.

For 21st century humanity, waiting takes up the space between a desire and a result. We do not want or expect that waiting space to be very big, even though waiting can occupy a significant portion of our lives. We have to wait for things—things we want, things we need, and even things we dread. The truth is, we are not in control of our lives to the degree we want to or that we suppose we should be able to do. We can do amazing things—consider the technologies we can hold in our hand—to communicate, share information, and do commerce across the globe—all deftly completed with only a few key strokes or verbal command. But, we cannot prevent our deaths, reverse time, or predict the future.

There is a French carol to the old tune PICARDY which reflects this sentiment quite well. The lyrics include a phrase, “Earth was waiting, spent and restless.”

I believe this phrase can apply to an individual, worn out with personal frustrations, or it could apply to the whole world, groaning with exhaustion after a deluge of natural disasters, shaking, flooding, or starving the people of various corners of the world. It also strikes us as we witness unthinkable terror and human suffering put upon innocents the world over due to war and political conflict and terroristic acts.

How are we to address our restlessness, our fear, our doubt, or despair? So often, our response to frustration or impatience is fatalism: if we cannot control our lives, then we merely accept what is thrown at us, for it is all “meant to be.” But, this course of action is not any better than the manic desire to control those things that are well beyond our control. This is a problem of our age. But Advent is not merely about waiting: it is about hopeful waiting. We wait for our Lord of all hopefulness, praying that the darkness of life today can be illuminated by God’s light, burned away in the glow of his love revealed in the redeeming love of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We understand that the waiting may not be easy, or even pleasant. Our purpose on earth in the intervening time is not simply to be entertained in some kind of waiting room to heavenly bliss.

The solution to gloom and doom is to be found in Jesus Christ, the immortal, invisible light, supremely human, supremely divine, through whom redemption of the whole of creation is not only possible...but truth!

All creation’s groaning will cease and Christ will return –something not terrifying, but something we should eagerly anticipate. The thought of the glory of God revealed in a second coming of Jesus Christ is truly an amazing one... one we cannot begin to comprehend. However, it may not be so hard to wait—knowing that it may not be so hard to welcome the idea that the pain of the world can be likened to labor pains, excruciating to bear but necessary for the wonderful, exciting, and glorious new creation.

Advent Waiting...yeah, we got this! Peace and grace to you this Holy Advent season.

Randy+



Advent and Christmas Services

Advent 2—December 4

Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10:30 AM
Family Worship—4 PM

Advent 3—December 11 Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10:30 AM
Lessons and Carols—4 PM

Advent 4—December 18 Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve, December 24 Festival Holy Eucharist at 4 PM

Christmas Day, December 25 Holy Eucharist at 10 AM (One service only)

New Year’s Day, January 1 Holy Eucharist at 10 AM (One service only)

Advent Calendar

Advent is here! Here is a link to an Advent calendar assembled by The Episcopal Church, with prayers and devotions for each day in Advent (it is a PDF you can print or save).

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/04/Advent-2022-Calendar-English.pdf>

Music Notes



Karla Cole

**Director of Music
Ministries**

So, the squeeze is on in our house. Despite always thinking that I have things well in hand in October, the crush of church and family responsibilities usually hits me with a full blast at Thanksgiving. My to-do list is long and color coded. It's a little crazy. But I have learned that it will all come right in the end. Christmas will arrive and it will be wonderful and beautiful, whether or not everything on the to-do list was accomplished in proper style. I guess it is simply a matter of keeping your priorities straight. My Texan dad, Hank Standridge, peppered his speech with descriptive colloquialisms that we now refer to as "Hankisms". The one that has been repeating itself over and over lately is the one he used when my mother or I got our undies in a bunch over some little problem. He would simply remind us that "in a hundred years, it won't make a difference." Yep, probably not. But, at the moment, it matters to me, so I press on!

I hope you will make space in your holiday preparations for our **Festival of Lessons and Carols on December 11th at 4:00pm**. The choir and handbell choir are practicing away on their carols old and new. And there will be carols for you to sing along as we hear the ancient story foretold in prophecy and recounted in the Gospels. Then, of course, there will be treats and libations appropriate to such a festive service. Invite your friends and neighbors to come Christmasing at St. Christopher's this year!

There are a few other dates of note. On **December 18th** the recorder trio from St. Mary's church will join us for the **10:30 service**. I was the music director there back in the day and started a recorder group – and they're still playing! Then, on **New Year's Day**, my friend Cindy will join me to play carols duets. We've been working on them since October, so hopefully there will be an intrepid congregation there on that day. And on **January 8th**, along with the

Epiphany pageant, our own St. Christopher's Recorder Consort will debut! Usually we think of "consort" as a verb – to consort with someone, usually someone not very nice! But this use of "consort" is a noun – a consort is a group of people playing, usually Renaissance music, together and quite often on period instruments. We're not going that far, but we *are* playing modern replicas of the 16th century forerunner of the flute. It really is a lot of fun once you know a handful of fingerings and can play together in a consort. And there's always room for more recorder players!

Here's to a lovely, musical Christmas and a new year filled with even more of the same!

Karla

Deacon's Thoughts



**The Rev.
Christopher A. Haack**

Deacon

For this month's *e-Traveler* I thought we might start thinking about what a vocation is. We are all familiar with the various jobs within the church, but at what point do these jobs become a vocation?

So what kinds of vocations are there? Let me give you a few examples: you know about Bishops, Priests and Deacons; those are our ordained vocations; but what about the vocation of hospitality, prayer, social awareness, and justice. The latter are calls to vocation that all the baptized might be called to.

Officially, this is what can be found on the Episcopal Church's website. "From the Latin *vocare*, "to call," "vocation" is the "calling" one infers from the external and internal signs which evolve over time. Vocation may involve a task or job, but it also concerns a way of life. All Christian vocations - lay or ordained, single or married, or religious - are specific expressions of Christian identity rooted in the baptismal covenant." There are three key points from this definition that we need to pay particular attention to when considering the meaning of vocation. First, Christian vocations can be lay or ordained, second, they are rooted in our baptismal covenant, and, finally, it "concerns a way of life."

We are all called by God into ministry in the world and each person's call is as unique as the individual, and equal in importance. That is right, I said equal; the call to lay ministry is equal and just as important as the call to ordained ministry. Paul puts it this way in his first letter to the church in Corinth: "*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the*

Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.” God gave each of us something special, a gift of the spirit. When we listen very, very carefully to God, the Holy Spirit helps us to discern just how to use those gifts.

Once we realize what our gifts are or could be, our baptismal covenant helps to guide us, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to ways God can use those gifts. We all are familiar, or should be familiar, with the baptismal covenant at least in part. “Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?” “Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?” And finally “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?” Being rooted in our baptismal covenant helps us to understand and shape what our vocation might be. It is our compass as it were, otherwise we could very easily lose our way, letting the work become just that work.

I have known many clergy (all orders) and lay leaders who struggle with doing the work, and vocation. The difference lies in how they are changed, and how they are changing others around them. Now that sounds pretty obscure, but is in reality very real and present. Let us look at the vocation of hospitality as an example. This vocation can manifest itself in many different types of jobs: Altar Guild, Coffee crew, Greeter, LEM, or LEV to name a few. They become part of a vocation when those persons prepare themselves to be the vessel of Christ in those roles. This most certainly would change how we each see those roles if Jesus is the role model, and it asks us to reflect in prayer and scripture on those times when the master took special interest in his children by becoming the servant. Further, it would ask of us to imagine and act on ways this same hospitality could occur in our communities and the world. How can we encourage others to participate? It is in those moments that work becomes a Vocation and a way of life.

Learned persons, church leaders, theologians, and professors have written volumes on the question of vocation. I only hope that in these few lines each of us finds something that will encourage us to quiet our hearts and minds, encourage personal reflection just enough that we can hear God calling to us.

The Suscipe (Latin for “Take”) Take Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all that I have and possess. Thou hast given all to me. To Thee, O Lord, I return it. All is Thine, dispose of it wholly according to Thy will. Give me Thy love and Thy grace, for this is sufficient for me. – Ignatius of Loyola

Your Deacon,
Christopher Allyn Haack



Marion Hunner

**Director of
Children's Ministries**

Sunday School: This fall we learned about several prophets. In December we will be preparing for our Epiphany Presentation. Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 8th at the 10:30 service.

Junior Acolytes: The kids are doing a fabulous job in worship on Sunday mornings!



Family Worship: Last Month we met at Roselawn Cemetery for All Saints', and we held our service in the chapel there. On December 4th, we will have a traveling Advent service with scripture, prayer, and songs for each of the candles in our Advent Wreath. All are welcome! Come at 4pm. We will be INSIDE this year.



Suggested Advent prayers and activities for home- during this very busy season, I hope that families will be able to find some quiet time to prepare their homes and hearts for the coming of Jesus. Traditions that you begin when they are young can last a lifetime. There are several Advent resources on St. Christopher's website under [Learn/Resources/Family](#) - please take a look. Here are some resources available at church:

-- If you would like a set of purple and pink Advent candles (tapers) for your Advent wreath at home, please let me know – I have a limited number of these available.

-- On the table outside my office, there are several copies of an Advent Guide provided by Cokesbury Kids (the same publisher that provides our VBS curriculum). Inside you will find family activities for each week in Advent. Please take one if you are interested.

-- Also on the table outside my office, you will find an Advent Calendar offered by the National Episcopal Church with activities for each day that coincide with the action pieces of The Way of Love.

Green Team

The Christmas season is upon us, and the Green Team has some tips to make the holidays greener!

There is a bin in the lower narthex to recycle broken Christmas lights. Any strands that don't work after sitting through the off season can be placed in the bin, and we will recycle them.

Not sure what to give for gifts this year? Why not think about consumables - experiences like gift cards to restaurants, or tickets to a play, concert, or sporting event. Most of us are trying to downsize, and giving experiences fits perfectly with that urge. Cooking classes are another good idea; everyone can use tips in the kitchen!

Watch this space in 2023! The Green Team's focus will be composting. Ramsey County will be rolling out at-home composting (they provide bags and you just put the composted food in your garbage can). The County is making it easy for us, and composting is a great way to keep vegetable peels, coffee grounds, egg shells, etc. out of the landfill—a wonderful and easy initiative!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Green Team!!

Pulse of the Parish

This brief report is to keep you, our faith family, informed about the work and actions taken by the Vestry on November 21st.

Finance: Overall our faith family finances are right on track for our budget this year with facilities expenses being our biggest expenses (dead tree removal). As you possibly have had happen with your 401K or IRA's, our Pooled Investment Fund at the Diocese has taken a hit for the year.

Altar Guild: At 2 p.m. on December 23, the Altar Guild along with any of you who would like to help, will ready the church for Christmas on December 24-25. We are grateful for their dedicated service.

Faith Family Well Being: Thanks to Becky Lucas and our volunteers for not only helping us host our Afghan family for brunch on Stewardship Sunday last month, but also hosting a Thanksgiving feast last Sunday here for them along with St. George's parishioners, who have helped provide the family with transportation.

Garden Team and Green Teams: Thanks to the Norton Family for inspiring their kids, graduates of our children's and youth programs, to produce some fun recycling and composting instructional videos. Check them out on YouTube under St. Christopher's Episcopal Roseville Recycling and St. Christopher's Episcopal Roseville Composting!

Hearts and Hands: Led by the creative genius of faith family member Jane Suilman, the team made birthday bags containing cards, candles, cake ingredients, frosting and colored writing utensils for Keystone and in addition packaged up faith family bread baked by Jerry (modern day version of the Muffin Man) Lynch and delivered them to our homebound faith family members.

Kitchen Helpers, Funerals, Caterers, Special Gatherings: We are still looking into this and have a few ideas as we want to make a simple, worry free meal available after funerals for grieving family members and their friends.

Stewardship: We're grateful to all of you who have made pledges to our God Still Has Work for Us to Do annual appeal.

Unfinished Business: Our Vestry team liaisons were reminded to share Tom Linder's instructions and Excel of our Identifying Gifts, Skills and Passions data with their respective faith family team leaders for their use.

Rector's Report: We are very grateful that Deacon Christopher Haack has joined our leadership team serving in a significant role in our development and support of outreach efforts, worship leadership, Christian education programming, and pastoral care.

Family Worship was held at Roselawn Cemetery Chapel on All Saints' Sunday. Attendees had a lovely time worshipping and learning about the resting place of

many of our beloved Saints.

The Rev. Canon Blair Pogue's presentation and sermon on Innovative Engagement was well-received. We plan to do follow-up on this initiative very soon.

Deacon Lyn Lawyer will be leading a Gospel of Matthew-focused Adult Forum series during the Advent season.

Please refer to the ChristoGram for dates and times for Advent/Christmas programs including Lessons and Carols on December 11 at 4 pm.

Shoutouts: On top of her work with the Afghan family, thanks to **Becky Lucas** for taking charge of the Coffee Sign Up; thanks **Jeff Jensen** for his work in finding us a company to service our boilers all year; thanks to **John Lawyer** for taking on the leadership of Parish Library.

Please feel free to contact any of our Vestry members if you have questions or comments. The meeting minutes will be available after they have been approved at the next Vestry meeting on December 19th. Thank you for all you do for our faith family!

CALENDAR for DECEMBER

3 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons-Music Room

9:30 AM Advent Retreat – Parish Hall – to Noon

4 Sunday – Advent 2

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

4 PM Family Worship

5 Monday

9 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

3 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

6 Tuesday

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM

1 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:30 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall

7 Wednesday

9 AM Organ Tuning – Church

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – CHAPEL

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

8 Thursday

3:15 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

9 Friday

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:30 PM

10 Saturday

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

9 Flute Lessons – Music Room

11 Sunday – Advent 3

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

4 PM Lessons and Carols – Church

Reception follows

12 Monday

3 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

5:30 PM Finance Team – Parish Hall

13 Tuesday

10 AM SG Peer Group – Gathering Room – to Noon

1 PM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

1 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:30 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall

14 Wednesday

9 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library to 10 AM

10:45 Private Spiritual Direction – Library to Noon

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

1 PM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

15 Thursday

10:30 AM Hearts and Hands – at 2nd Stork

3:15 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

16 Friday

1 PM Private Spiritual Direction – Library to 2:30 PM

4 PM Cello Lessons - Church – to 7:30 PM

17 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons – Music Room

9 AM Cello Rehearsal – Church

9:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

1 PM Cello Recital – Church

3 PM Cello Recital – Church

18 Sunday – Advent 4

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

19 Monday

3 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall

20 Tuesday

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM

10 AM O.A. – Room 218 (*In person!*)
1 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:30 PM
7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall

21 Wednesday – Winter Begins

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church
4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM
6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

22 Thursday

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

23 Friday – Office Closed

2 PM Decorate Church for Christmas

24 Saturday – Christmas Eve

4 PM Festival Worship

25 Sunday – Christmas Day

10 AM Holy Eucharist

26 Monday – Office Closed

e-Traveler Deadline

1 PM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

27 Tuesday

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall

28 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church
6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

Please note that MOST of our outside groups have returned to meeting in the building. Those groups are now on this calendar (*in italics*) to avoid over-scheduling. Always check with the church office before scheduling a meeting.

Last Words



I hope you have enjoyed the December **e-Traveler!** As usual, wintry weather in Minnesota can slow things down. This **e-Traveler** didn't make it out on the last day of November due to a snow day on Tuesday! Please know that we will always send an e-Blast if the office closes due to bad weather and driving conditions, but also know that we will close automatically if Roseville closes schools.

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Chris Mayr, Sr. Warden; Karen Hartman, Jr. Warden
Robert Williams, Clerk; Jean Crow, Treasurer

Ross Ackerman; Patrick Ahern; Cheryl Bailey;
Madisen Crow; Eric Hedican; Ann DePaolis-Jones;
Alexander Kun; Leslie Norton

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Rev. Christopher Haack, Deacon
Rev. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Schedule:

Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.

Sundays Through Memorial Day:

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship

9:15 AM Adult Ed – Parish Hall

9:30 AM Sunday School (except 1st Sundays)

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N.
Roseville, MN 55113

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