

Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

Opportunity Knocks *by Fr. Randy+*

What a week this has been. The inauguration of a new president, a flurry of sweeping orders and changes of political direction by a new administration, and the controversies surrounding the words of the Rt. Reverend Mariann Budde, Bishop of Washington, in the Washington National Cathedral. She shared a 15-minute sermon at the January 21 Service of Prayer for the Nation, which was attended by the incoming president and various political leaders of our country. Alongside her were respected leaders of many, many religious traditions—each sharing words of hope and faith and compassion and mercy. Bishop Budde made a calm plea to the president: *“Have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared.”* The incoming president has issued a series of executive orders intended to address what he declared was a national emergency on the U.S.-Mexico border, immigration policy, and many other social issues especially impacting those living on the margins in our country.

Her sermon did not identify or criticize any specific policy promoted by the incoming president, Rather, Bishop Budde invoked familiar Christian themes of compassion, respect for human dignity, and welcoming the stranger. These are the pillars of faith built upon in all of the world's major religions.

“I ask you to have mercy, Mr. President, on those in our communities whose children fear that their parents will be taken away, and that you help those who are fleeing war zones and persecution in their own lands to find compassion and welcome here,” Budde said. *“Our God teaches us that we are to be merciful to the stranger, for we were all once strangers in this land.”*

Today, these basic pillars of faith—the honoring of all persons' dignity as an beloved individual created in the image of God—may not be upheld by those wielding immense power and authority in our land. This can cause people to be afraid and concerned about the present and future. This is a problem.

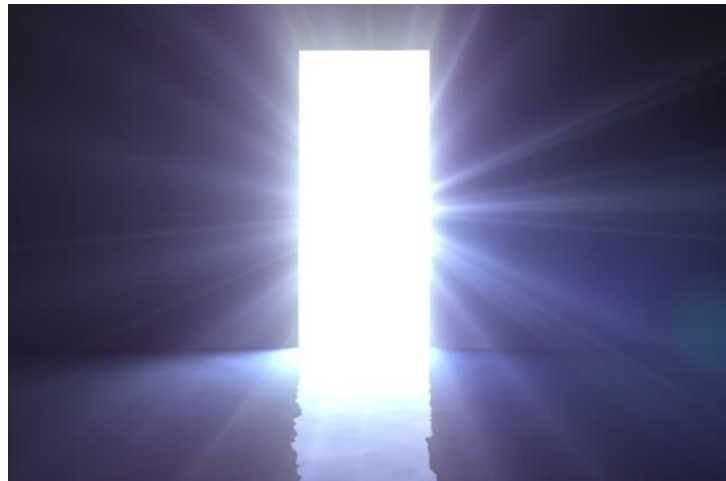
But, in terms of the ultimate purposes of God, we really don't have any problems; we have opportunities! As we've seen throughout Holy Scriptures, God allows problems to come in to our lives to help us learn to trust Him more. Every time we exercise faith in Him, we are actually growing spiritually. Thus, our problems are really opportunities for spiritual growth. Romans 8:28 promises us that *"all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* (NKJV) Spiritual maturity is learning to view every problem of life as a new opportunity to experience the good purpose of God in our daily lives.

The key to handling any problem is committing it totally to God. When problems come—and they will—we must learn that trusting God is our *first resource*, not our *last resort*. Our ability and willingness to trust God in every circumstance depends upon our confidence in His goodness and His motives.

From God's point of view, we don't have any problems—just opportunities! If we learn to see our problems as opportunities, we will have made the first real step towards learning to trust God to turn opportunities into full-fledged blessings in our life. If we can trust Him to save us, then we can trust Him to help us. His will is to give us all good things (Romans 8:32) and to fill our life with joy (John 15:11).

We are called, as followers of Jesus, to speak truth to power, to love God and our neighbor, to welcome the stranger, to care for the widow and the orphan, and to do so with compassion and mercy. This is what has always been asked of people of The Way. God will give us strength to do all of this. The prophet Isaiah said, *"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."* (40:31)

Opportunity knocks for each of us to fully exercise our faith in God, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, to live fully into sharing the love of Christ and the Good News of the Gospel—most especially in this time of uncertainty and fear. Randy+



Blues Buster Bingo Luncheon

Celebrate Valentine's Day with us at St C's! Join us for a homemade (gluten-free) pot roast dinner & Bingo. Conquer cabin fever and perhaps win a prize! Transportation provided upon request.

St. C's Blues Buster Bingo Luncheon
Friday, February 14, 2025
12:00 – 2:00 pm
Parish Hall
\$15/person

If you missed your chance to register during the event fair, **it's not too late to sign up** - you may register after each service Feb 2^d & 9th in the Parish Hall, or contact Ann (651-325-8801 or mntrappers@gmail.com).

Hosted by: Carol Duff, Marion Hunner, Kim Johnson, Peter & Cindy Lee,
Ann & John Trapnell, Cynthia Verhey

We hope to see you there!

Are You Watching “The Chosen”?

We planned on having a group discussion this month on “The Chosen” video series. The best laid plans, as they say! Keep watching, or start if you haven't, and we'll catch up on Seasons 1 and 2 in February. Also, let Marilyn+ know if you're interested in joining the conversation.

Recycling Facility Tour

The Green Team has organized a tour of the Ramsey/Washington County Recycling and Energy Center. Tours highlight how the facility works and how waste is managed in the East Metro as well as how to better reduce, reuse and recycle. The tour is

Thursday, February 6th at 10:00 AM
Meet at church (lower parking lot) at 9:15
RSVP to Larry Jones at ljones4325@gmail.com

If you plan to attend, click the link and type waiver in the search bar. You **MUST** fill out a waiver to go on a tour. <https://recyclingandenergy.org/>

Please join us!

St. Christopher's Crossings Book Group

Greetings and Blessings! There was consensus; we are the St. Christopher's Crossings Book Group.

*We will be meeting on **TODAY**, January 23, in the Gathering Room at 6:00 PM. It is a hybrid meeting.*

For the meeting link, please contact:

- Angela Robinson, angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com
- Rev. Marilyn

We are reading ***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

For those of you who might be struggling to finish the book, we are dividing the book into two parts.

Part 1: Discuss sections ***Planting Sweetgrass*** through ***Picking Sweetgrass***.

Part 2: Mar 27: Discuss sections ***Braiding Sweetgrass*** to the end.

February Book

In honor of **Black History Month**, we are reading ***James*** by **Percival Everett**. Please join us on **February 27, 2025** for a hybrid meeting to discuss this book.

Are you interested in joining us?

Contact **Angela Robinson**, angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com

or Rev. Marilyn, so we can send the details of the meeting information for those who wish to join online.

Also, we look forward to hearing from you about any suggestions you may have as to specific books or genres.



We Get By with A Little Help from Our Friends

I am here again to ask all of you to volunteer for a week of snow shoveling for the church!

Shoveling weeks are Monday-to-Sunday (because no one wants to wake up to snow on Sunday and not remember that it's the START of your week). **When you sign up, please mark your calendar so you remember which week you "took." Thanks!

Anything over **1.5** inches is covered by our plowing service *when they plow*, BUT, we do need help sometimes mid-day to keep things safe before they arrive. Sand and salt are in (or near) the entries. Call the office if you have questions!

THANK YOU to each and every person and family who has signed up to help, even though nature has not granted us much snow, yet!

Prayer List Requests

Have you noticed a "Prayer Requests" button on our website? This is a very short form to add a name to our prayer list! Requests will be monitored Monday through Friday and added to the list published on Fridays. You may, of course, still call the office to add or remove a name from the list. AND, you can use this QR Code to go right to the website!



Upcoming Lectionary Readings

January 26: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, Year C
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

February 2: 4th Sunday after Epiphany, Year C
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

Sunday Ministries January 26

8:00 AM

Lectors - Brice W, Ann T
Intercessor - Ann T
LEM - Mary P
Usher - Karen H, Chris H
Altar Guild - Karen H
Coffee Host: *open*

10:30 AM

Nursery: Jane S, Kathy A
Lectors - Sue T, Becky L
Intercessor - Ella S
LEM - Carol D, Lyn L
Crucifer - Alexander K
Ushers - Mark B, Wendy B
Altar Guild - Jean D
Coffee Hosts - *open*

Are you receiving this email forwarded by a friend?

You can now sign up to receive the weekly Parish Mail and monthly *e-Traveler* in your own inbox. A sign-up form is now on the main page at our website. Just go to www.stchristophers-mn.org.

www.stchristophers-mn.org



Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date.

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

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