



Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

Mending a Broken World, Mending Broken Hearts

by Fr. Randy+

"I hate Lent!" So said Jonathan Swift. *"I hate Lent, with its different diets and herb porridge, and sour devout faces of people who only put on religion for seven weeks."*

Wow! That is a statement! I actually like Lent. Many of my sisters and brothers in Christ would think likely think the same. It is a time to get serious. Not just giving up chocolate or late-night Hallmark movies. The Jesuit James Martin wrote, *"Don't give up chocolate; give up being a jerk! It's time to get serious about God and our lives. It's a time to go into the desert of one's heart to encounter God. A time for deeper prayer, repentance, silence and solitude. To look with unblinking eyes at the state of our lives, our relationships, our world."*

Friends, the world we live in is a beautiful gift. God's gift to us. And yet, we know that God's gift has been ravaged and broken. Our greed has plundered the land and damaged the environment. Millions live in abject poverty and hunger—without house or home. Our wars, as in the Ukraine and in the Middle East right now, have and continue to kill and maim and disfigure innocents by the millions. Our sin has broken and scarred our relationships with one another, broken up families, divided people of different cultures, races, and beliefs. Our beautiful world. God's precious and fragile gift to us is torn and divided violently at every level.

This terrible process is described in the Newer Testament as the work of *"diabolos,"* or the devil. That Greek word *"diabolos"* used in the Newer Testament, literally means, *"the one who throws apart."* The work of diabolos is essentially to divide, to break up that which was one.

God sent Jesus into the world to wage a great battle—in essence, he truly was a warrior king. And that battle begins as we celebrate Lent. St. Matthew reminds us that Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for forty days. Forty days of pushing back against every

ruse, every trick, every half-truth, to work his terrible work of division and destruction. Diabolos tries to even tear apart the relationship between Jesus and his Father.

Diabolos used the same distinctive diabolical tactic in the Garden of Eden. By sowing seeds of distrust, the devil tries to rupture the relationship of trust and obedience between Adam and Eve, and their relationship between the creator and the created. And he succeeded.

Yet Jesus, the second Adam, throughout all of the temptations those forty days of testing, remained utterly faithful to that relationship of trust. He would not allow the devil to tear and destroy his relationship with his heavenly Father. Over the next several years, Jesus would do battle daily with the divisive and destructive work of diabolos. Healing the sick, mending the broken hearted, reconciling and forgiving sinners, redeeming a torn and shattered world.

The final battle was yet to come—on a desolate hill called Golgotha. For if the work of diabolos is to divide and separate, the work of Jesus is to reconcile. When he died on the cross, Jesus won the decisive and final battle. Jesus was mending a broken world, bringing God and humankind together again, and bringing humankind and the whole world together again. The work of diabolos, the great divider, the great destroyer, has been defeated once and for all, by the great reconciler. Jesus Christ, through the cross.



Christianity is really all about mending. That's what redemption means; mending something that is torn or broken. And that is what each one of us is called to do—to share with God in mending that which is broken. Mending our relationship with God, mending our relationship with one another, mending our relationship with our broken planet.

So, how are you doing with the job of mending? Lent is here; a great time to take stock and ask, *“What are the gifts that God has given me for this work?”* We all have them; God gave them to us in Holy Baptism. *What are yours?* We are not always aware of them, and they often seem very ordinary, but can be wonderfully used by God. Maybe you are a good listener. Maybe you have a great sense of humor, to cheer up someone who is sad. You may just have a word of hope to share with someone in distress. You may be particularly faithful in holding others up in prayer. God may be calling you now, to name and use the gifts that you have been given, to use them to mediate God's reconciling love to a world longing to be made whole and well.

Take a deep breath. Grab your needle and thread. And, boldly use your God-given gifts to **Mend This Broken World, One Heart at a Time**

Randy+

Lent

We have many special opportunities at St. Christopher's during Lent. To see them all, [click here](#) or go to the front page of our website and click the button there.

Invitation to Serve

We have a lot of folks who help make our Sunday services run smoothly. We would love to have a few more ushers and LEMs. Ushers will greet people as they arrive, pass out bulletins, and perform other various tasks during the service. LEMs will help distribute the consecrated wine. The schedule is written for 3 months at a time, and the next schedule will cover April, May, and June. We will happily work around your conflicts. If you would like more information or to help at either service, please contact Marion Hunner. (marion@StChristophers-MN.org).

Lenten Reflections

During the season of Lent, we have a special blog on the St. Christopher's website - we have put a link right on the front page so it will be easy to find. Each day (except Sundays) a new post will arrive at 5am with a link to the lectionary readings for the day and a reflection from one of our St. Christopher's community members. Thank you to Karla Cole, Mike Sirany, John Lawyer, and Connie Hendrick for providing our Lenten Reflections for the Third Week in Lent.

Lenten Soup Suppers are returning to St Christopher's - Mark Your Calendars!

A simple soup supper will be provided from 5:30-7:00 each Wednesday: through March 20.

Interested in volunteering?
Contact Kim Johnson (651.210.7077) or Ann Trapnell (651.325.8801)



Our Facebook WORSHIP Fans

We've got our 10:30 service online, for those who cannot be with us. (If you're not following us on FaceBook yet, please do!) It's especially helpful with winter weather, and it's an opportunity to connect with our snowbirds, and people we haven't met yet.

Here's where **you** come in! We really need one person per Sunday to set up and monitor a tablet during the service, and take it down afterwards. We could use several more people so that the commitment is not a burden to a few. This is a great ministry opportunity for anyone to get started in a low-key way!

Volunteers of any age are encouraged; the only requirement is some familiarity with tablets, and we'll train and provide simple directions.

Please consider this important outreach opportunity! Contact Marilyn+ for more information and to sign up. [Marilyn's email](#)

MEANWHILE, if you are not "on" FaceBook, here is a link that will take you to the St. Christopher's page, so you can watch the service live streamed, or go back later to watch the recording.

<https://www.facebook.com/St.ChristophersRoseville>

Upcoming Lectionary Readings

March 10: **Lent 4**

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.

March 17: **Lent 5**

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.

Sunday Ministries March 3

8:00 AM

Lectors - Mike S, Bruce W

Intercessor - Bruce W

LEM - Mike S

Usher - Bruce W

Altar Guild - Karen H

Coffee Hosts: *open*

10:30 AM

Nursery - Becky L, Kathy A

Lectors - Katherine J, Josh K

Intercessor - Roland K

LEM - Marion H

Ushers - Bruce W, Sandy W

Altar Guild - Jean H

Crucifer - Angela R

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

[Unsubscribe office@stchristophers-mn.org](mailto:office@stchristophers-mn.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@stchristophers-mn.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!