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Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

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### **A Light in the Darkness** *by Fr. Randy+*

*I have some very wonderful, and sometimes enlightening, conversations around the tables in the parish hall between and after services. I have been reminded that people recognize that I sometimes have experienced a very different and sometimes dark side of the world as a peace officer. I know quite a bit about darkness.*

*I worked overnights, or “dog watch,” for many, many years—ironically with my K-9 partner Duke! “Dog watch” was a special power shift to provide significant specialized resources to the patrol teams during the overnight hours when a lot of the nefarious activity tends to occur.*

Working “dog watch” requires one to have some very specialized equipment to do a very specific job. But, probably the most important piece of equipment on my duty belt was my flashlight. It provided the illumination I must have to do my work—it was critical to my safety and that of others. I had a tactical flashlight, rechargeable with a lifespan of 1.5 hours on high luminous level and a long-range distance span of over 300 meters. It was a terrific tool and is something I cannot even imagine working without.



And, when this light went out—the power was extinguished, I was left alone,

vulnerable, and frightened.

Darkness. To conceal, secrete, obscure, veil, shroud, remain unseen, disguise, keep secret, hush up, and hold back.

Sometimes, this darkness covers up high crimes and misdemeanors. Other times, it is much more of a personal nature, one which is more of a crime against oneself—shame, guilt, humiliation, discomfort, embarrassment and indignity.

In the extension of the Gospel reading from John in last Sunday's lectionary, I hear the words of wisdom and truth as we speak of light and darkness as we traverse this world;

*"This is the crisis we are in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won't come near it, fearing a painful exposure. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is."* (John 3:19-21; The Message.)

Jesus comes to us this Lenten season as the light in the darkness. He gifts us with forgiveness and compassion and unwavering and extravagant love. From the cross, he reaches out to us in all of our shortcomings and failings—sharing the light with us in the darkness.

We are ourselves invited to reflect this same love-light, as we are redeemed and restored and given life everlasting. Let your life shine in the darkness and illuminate the world with the love of Christ.

*Randy+*

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## 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.

## 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 Gayle Marsh, Leslie & Joel Norton, Robert Allen, Mary Rowe, and Ann Trapnell for providing our Lenten Reflections for the Fourth Week in Lent.

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## Lenten Soup Suppers at St Christopher's!

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)



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We are sad to inform you of the passing of former member  
**Jay Fillmore,**  
on February 22nd.

Services will be held on Saturday, April 20th at 1:00 PM,  
in the Memorial Chapel at Lakewood Cemetery.

Here is a link to the obituary:  
[LINK](#)

*Rest eternal grant to Jay, O Lord;  
And let light perpetual shine upon him.  
May his soul, and the souls of all the departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

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## 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>

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## Upcoming Lectionary Readings

**March 17: Lent 5**

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

**March 24: Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1—15:47  
(or Mark 15:1-39(40-47)).

**Sunday Ministries March 17**

**8:00 AM**

Lectors - John L, Joan M  
Intercessor - Mary P  
LEM - Mary P  
Usher - Bob H  
Altar Guild - Karen H  
Coffee Hosts: Bruce & Cheryl W

**10:30 AM**

Nursery - Ann D, Connie C  
Lectors - Jean C, Lyn L  
Intercessor - Angela R  
LEM - Jean C, Lyn L  
Ushers - Carol K, Ross A  
Altar Guild - Jill E  
Crucifer - Alexander K  
Coffee Hosts: Jean & Scott C

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**Are you receiving this email forwarded by a friend?**

You can now sign up to receive the weekly Parish Mail and monthly *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](http://www.stchristophers-mn.org).

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***Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date.***

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

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