



Hello, St. Christopher's Community!



First Listen...Then Speak *by Fr. Randy+*

Have you been paying attention to the changing of the season we have been experiencing lately? The autumn colors finally “*popped*,” and even though it has been unseasonably warm, we know what happens next! Leaves are falling, school buses are circulating, and pumpkins and apples are seemingly everywhere.

Sadly, there have been more and more indications that climate change is impacting our planet at an increasing pace—as well as increased frequencies of changing weather patterns and devastating storms. It is widely recognized that climate change is an “*all-encompassing social crisis and moral emergency impacts and interconnects every aspect of our shared pastoral concern, including; health, poverty, employment, racism, social justice, and family life. This reality can only be addressed by a Great Work involving all sectors of society, including the Church.*” (80th Convention of the Episcopal Church)

The earth is groaning, heating, burning, flooding, and dying. You have read and seen the stories. Communities under water from flooding and burned to the ground in wildfires. The cost is great to the earth. To be a disciple costs everything. Following Jesus reorients all our relationships and all that we have. It is not easy or ordinary. It is to carry a cross, to suffer with the One who suffered for us.

Everything is a gift—EVERYTHING! But, we tend to possess, to cling, to hold, hoard or grasp, claiming as our own. As humans we lean into entitlement, and God invites us into blessing. Despite all the good we receive and give in family, we tend to distance, exclude or oppress others. To follow Jesus means relating differently. Respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God. Keep changing and learning to live in ways that all may live, all may eat, all may have shelter, all may have clean water. We are mutually related and connected. We have a kinship with all the peoples of the world and a kinship with all of creation: oceans, sky, soil, rock, tree, plant, animal. Sadly, by our actions, we have failed to “*rightly claim our kinship with all (God’s) creatures.*” (Confession of Sin; Season of Creation; Diocese of Mass.)

Listen. Listen to the voice of creation, the psalmist says: “*The heavens declare the Glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork. One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another. Although they have no words or language and their voices are not heard, their sound has gone out into all the lands, and their message to the ends of the world.*” (Psalm 19:1-4)

What is the message from creation that surrounds us? What is God saying through the soil, sprouts, springs, and sparrows? What is God saying through poor and neglected places and peoples? What are we invited to listen to—with our ears and with our hearts?

I suggest spending more time outside this season; touching, lingering, listening. Notice what is parched or swamped. Watch the wind blow the clouds and trees. Touch a plant. Put your hands in the soil. Get into the water. Pay attention. What do all these created things have to say? Listen and linger with an open heart.

As we listen to the voice of creation, we are invited to do so through the lens of forms of prayer: thanksgiving, confession, praise, petition, oblation (how may I help?), intercession (I’m concerned about), and adoration (I love you!) They are often interwoven, not necessarily separate.

In this Season of Creation, we are invited to pray. First listen, and also **Speak**. Pray as you normally do and remember the whole spectrum of life. We’re concerned about those devastated by floods and storms, and fires. We thank God for food and those who grew it. We’re sorry for “*walking heavily on your earth.*” How may I help? What do I need to die and let go of? As I watch the sun rise and set, I love you and I sense your love for me.

I find it easier to at least look, and far more to be outside, both to listen and speak. Try going outside. Lie on the ground. Hug a tree for a moment. Watch the wind. Listen. Give thanks. Confess. **Listen. Speak.**

As we listen to the voice of creation, be bold about our concerns and fears, our pain and suffering, that which you hear or see in others and experience personally. We hurt and suffer in hearing species going extinct, as storm tides

rise, and forests burn. Help us, O God! We trust you to hear us, for you are good.

May we let go of possessive privilege, presumption, entitlement, and even worldly goods. Remember our kinship with all creation, a mutuality of relationship. Like our *“loving God who hears every living thing,”* Listen to land, animals, plants, sky, and all the peoples of the world, especially the suffering, and give voice to them. Let us pray for all of them. Lord help us. We are hurting, and we trust that you are good. Amen. R+

October Adult Forum

Concluding THIS Sunday, **October 27**, we will hear about "riots, plots, politics and shipwrecks!" We will meet at 9:15 AM in the Gathering Room. Everyone is welcome.

Investiture of Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe on November 2

As Episcopal congregations and dioceses across the church plan local watch parties to celebrate the **Nov. 2** investiture service of Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe, all are invited to tune in to the [the event webpage](#) for the live-stream link.

The **11 a.m. ET** service will also be live-streamed to [The Episcopal Church's Facebook page](#).

The worship booklet will be posted the morning of Nov. 2.

Announced in June, the simpler, scaled-down service to welcome the 28th presiding bishop is ordered around a smaller carbon footprint and increased churchwide virtual participation. Nearly all dioceses sent in video greetings for a special “roll call” that will precede the service at 9:30 a.m. **ET** and be livestreamed on the [event website](#) and [The Episcopal Church's Facebook page](#).

A recording of the service inside the Chapel of Christ the Lord in The Episcopal Church Center in New York City—which will include limited in-person attendees--will be posted after the event and shared churchwide.

“This will be the first time in our history that we have installed a presiding bishop in this way,” Presiding Bishop Michael Curry notes in a video invitation to the church (see event website). “We learned through the pandemic how to be the church embodied physically and how to be the church embodied in cyberspace.”

“Episcopalians and friends can join together wherever they are via the internet,” Bishop Curry said. “We are the church because the Spirit of God can move wherever the people of God are.”

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

October 27: 23rd Pentecost, Proper 25

Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52.

November 3: All Saints' (Observed)

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44.

Sunday Ministries October 27

8:00 AM

Lectors - Mike S, Tom M
Intercessor - Tom M
LEM - Mike S
Usher - Don S
Altar Guild - Jennifer W
Coffee Host: Bruce & Cheryl W

10:30 AM

Nursery: Ann D, Jean C
Lectors - Becky L, Charlotte B
Intercessor - Jean C
LEM - Jean C, Marion H
Crucifer - Marion H
Acolytes - Ellery B, Willy W
Jr. Acolyte - Ellie W
Ushers - Bill H, Carol K
Altar Guild - Jean D
Coffee Hosts - Ann & Larry J

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

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