



Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

Please watch your mailbox for our Stewardship packet, that was mailed on Monday. This mailing was delayed a bit, and our Pledge Sunday is this week, November 10th. Please prayerfully respond to the outreach letter to financially support St. C's in our 2025 mission and ministries.



Just Be... *by Fr. Randy+*

Friends, this has been a very difficult time for all of us to navigate. It seems that we had just clawed our way out of the COVID nightmare when we stepped into a very strange place of distrust, angst, and extremely polarizing political rhetoric. This current divisiveness has alienated friends and families, to the point that it has been difficult to find common ground with our neighbor. None of us has been spared or been immune to the “*push—pull,*” the “*us vs. them*” mindset which we so easily get stuck in. A national poll recently reported that 69% of Americans state that the current election cycle has become a major source of stress in their lives.

I write this piece on November 4, the *daybefore* our national Election Day. I have no idea who the people will choose to lead our country, state, and

communities. Yet, what I do know is that there must be some very serious and intentional effort by every one of us to listen to each other with open ears, minds, and hearts. This is the only way in which we will heal relationships, honor and acknowledge each other as beloved children of God, and share love and compassionate care for our neighbor.

We will be able to accomplish this work by allowing ourselves and others to Just Be. To just be, to be fully present for each other, to just set aside fear and anxiety, to trust, and to show others what love looks like. In doing so, we will all be blessed by God. Jesus laid the groundwork of what it looks like to be a true follower of God—what each one of us must strive towards to fully live into our life in Christ, and as he taught in The Beatitudes:

Matthew 5:1-12, 14-16

The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Bishop Craig W. Loya recently wrote;

“What does love look like? That’s the core question every follower of Jesus is called to ask themselves. In every situation, every moment, every encounter. What does love look like? It’s the plumb line around which we orient our days and the standard by which we measure our lives.”

“Answering the question of what love looks like is often exceedingly complex. Love is not a matter of being nice, or of making ourselves and others feel good. Love is a matter of actively seeking someone else’s good, and looking out for their interests. Often, love looks like crying out for justice on behalf of those who are oppressed by the political and economic engines of the world. Love occasionally looks like saying a hard thing to someone whose patterns of behavior are harmful to them or others. For Jesus, love looked like a willingness to die. It looked like not insisting on being right, or forcing the world to conform to his preferences or desires, but giving up on what was rightfully his for the sake of others’ good. For Jesus, and for us disciples, love isn’t

winning a victory, it is liberation through giving ourselves away.”

“There are two things worth bearing in mind. First, our true citizenship is in God’s kingdom, and we are sojourners and guests in the kingdom of this country. And two, in the days, weeks, and months following the election, our work remains ever the same: asking, over and over, in every moment, with each breath—what does love look like?”

I think love looks a lot like the wisdom shared by the apostle Paul as he wrote to and instructed the church in Ephesus:

Ephesians 4:31-32

³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

You have to be intentional with this—it’s human nature to want to speak and be heard, so it’s easy to fall back to your natural habits. But this is also the very reason why it’s so critically important to have a “*listen first*” mentality—because the other person has a desire to be listened to and heard. In doing so, you share the vision of what love looks like.

Just Be...Honor all...Listen with compassion and courage...Be intentional...*“Talk less, smile more” (Aaron Burr’s famous line to Hamilton)*
...Love and serve the Lord. *Randy+*

A Message from Our Bishop

Beloved in Christ,

At five o’clock this morning (Nov. 6), my daughter and I went for a run together, as we often do. It was very dark, and the fog was so dense we couldn’t see more than a few feet in front of us, even with our headlamps. It was a longer run for Mari, and we stopped at the turnaround point for a minute or two to regroup for the trip back. As we passed another figure shrouded in the mist, we all went out of our way to warmly greet each other.

For many across our diocese and our nation, this morning feels covered by a dense fog. For many others, there is great rejoicing. That is probably the only thing that was certain regardless of the election’s outcome - one more chapter in a now long and bitter epoch in our nation’s history.

It is worth remembering today that Jesus is God’s small, good thing for the world. The path of life Jesus sets out for us isn’t forged by victory through force. It is forged by the small, good thing of standing in the broken, forgotten places, with the forgotten, vulnerable people. It is forged as God’s extravagant love reaches over every division that tears God’s children apart. While the world will always worship and covet what is big and powerful, small and humble is how God saves that world from itself.

In the season to come, there will inevitably be much we are called upon to say and do, which will require great courage and great faith. It is always so in a sinful and fallen world. For now, and for today, it is enough to sit for a time with the fact that it is not your job or mine to save the world from the fog that

enfolds it. It is your job and mine to join Jesus in being God's small, good things that point to God's better way of love. It is your job and mine to run together in the fog, clinging to each other, pausing together to rest and recover, reaching out to our neighbors in love, standing with and for those whose dignity and lives are threatened. It is your job and mine to follow the lead of our ancient mothers who also set out together in the early dark, and found, as God's people have across the centuries, that God's small and humble love topples every fearful power under heaven, and heals all creation in the warmth of its light.

Grace and Peace,



The Right Reverend Craig Loya
X Bishop
Episcopal Church in Minnesota

Pastoral Notice

We are sad to inform you of the passing of **Jill Miel**,
on Saturday, November 2nd.

There will be a Memorial Open House
at Chandler Place Dining Room
(3701 Chandler Dr. NE, St. Anthony, MN 55421)
on **Saturday, November 16th**, from **1:30-2:30 pm**.

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

Adult Formation, November 10

The election may be over, but some fallout remains with each of us, often in the form of fear. On Sunday, November 10, join us in the Gathering Room at 9:15 for a general discussion and prayers regarding our feelings about the future. We will try not to talk politics directly; we will make "I" statements; we will be respectful of each other's feelings, and remind ourselves that God is with us in all things.

Feel free to bring a helpful prayer or reading that gives you peace.

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

November 10: 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6; John 11:32-44.

November 17: 26th Sunday after Pentecost
Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14(15-18)19-25; Mark 13:1-8.

Sunday Ministries November 10

8:00 AM

Lectors - Mary P, Bruce W
Intercessor - Millie W
LEM - Mary P
Usher - Bruce W
Altar Guild - Julie S, Robert W
Coffee Host: Cheryl & Bruce W

10:30 AM

Nursery: Connie H, Janet C
Lectors - Chris B, Katherine J
Intercessor - Lyn L
LEM - Lyn L, Marion H
Crucifer - Marion H
Acolytes - Roland K, Ellery B
Jr Acolyte - Charlotte B
Ushers - Ella S, Ross A
Altar Guild - Jean H
Coffee Hosts - Kathy & Ross A

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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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