

St. Christopher's

e-Traveller



Meet Christ.
Be Christ.

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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**
Rector

This Lenten Season of Disfiguration—yet, a Time of Hope *by Fr. Randy*

I recently read a short article written by Brother James Koester, Superior of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. His writing struck me deeply as we step forward into Lententide once more. It is given me pause to think that we have been living in somewhat of an extended Lent, which began nearly one year ago, as we began hearing reports of an aggressive virus that was impacting a good portion of the world. The reports of disabling illness and exponentially growing infections and death were beyond all imagination. The pandemic had struck, and we were horrified to discover the rapid growth in this country. Over 500,000 persons have died in our country and well over two million have succumbed worldwide.

Br. Koester has observed that the past year has been a time of disfiguration, as many have been disfigured by the rampant disease and death. Many more have recovered from the COVID-19 disease, but are still living with fears and lingering after effects of this pandemic.

This disfiguration has not been limited to our bodies alone. It has also been a time of disfiguration of the body politic and systemic structures of racism, access to justice, equality in quality education, and food/housing insecurity. Businesses, churches, and schools may not have been “closed,” but have been significantly disrupted. Economic and social problems have had a bright light shone upon them which can no longer be ignored. Upheavals which have

occurred will require years to repair and reconcile.

This is a season of disfiguration. Yet it is also a time of hope.

At Christmas time we celebrated and remembered God's act of divine self-emptying when God broke all the limits of generosity in the incarnation of the Son for our sake, "*who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but empties himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death- even human death on a cross.*"

St. John's gospel shines a bright light on the truth that "*the Word became flesh and lived among us.*" In coming to earth to walk and live among us, God took on our limitations and even our disfigurations, by submitting to death, disease, and loss. God took on our pain, sorrow, grief, loneliness, worry, and anxiety. All of this, God took on in the person of his Son, Jesus.

This is a thing of wonderment. We find ourselves today in a time of disfiguration. The wonder of it all is that God has been there before us and has transfigured what in us is disfigured—transfigured into something that is new once more. Even as our world is gripped with pain and loss, the light of God's glory is shining through.

In this imperfect world of grief and loss, and difficult times, we are being transformed into God's image. Though we are not perfect, we are seeing a reflection of the Glory of the Lord. Author Leonard Cohen writes, "*Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.*"

We may be tempted to see only disfiguration as we look at the world, or our own lives, but that is not the whole truth. The whole truth is *that which God has assumed, God has healed.* Br. Koester goes on to say, "*Take heart. God in the person of Jesus has been here before us, and even now is transforming and transfiguring our disfigured world. In so doing, God in Christ is making all things new once more, and that includes even you.*"

With hope and faith in the One who is making our world new.

Randy+

Music Notes



Karla Cole

Director of Music Ministries

Please visit our Way of the Cross video meditation at

[THIS LINK](#).

Grace and peace,
Karla

Footprints MARCH 2021 **News from Children's Ministries**



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**

Sunday School: We meet on Zoom at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. During Lent we are exploring stories about the life of Jesus.

Lent: Families were offered Lent in a Bag, which has items and activities for each Sunday in Lent. In our weekly newsletter, Marion's Message, there is a link to a Lenten Family Toolkit that the MN conference of United Church of Christ has put together. This toolkit includes scripture, videos, wondering questions, and resources to explore the weekly theme in your household setting.

Family Worship: We meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month in person (outside, masked, and socially distanced), where Fr. Randy leads us in interactive storytelling and engages the children in celebrating the Eucharist with him. Each child then gets to distribute the Eucharist to their family. February was too cold, so we had to cancel. We look forward to seeing everyone in March!

Youth



**Chad O'Leary
Director of Youth Ministries**

Remember to look at our Lent Devotions every day on the website - look for this logo:

Lent at St. Christopher's

PRAY. FAST & GIVE ALMS



VIRTUAL Blues Buster Bingo!

Blues Buster Bingo has been a Silent Auction event for the last several years. This year we have decided to make it a Zoom event. We have just begun planning, so watch your parish communications for details to come.

Junk Mail?

Staff emails from St. Christopher's - those @stchristophers-mn.org email addresses - seem to be ending up in "Spam" or "Junk" folders more often lately, and in some cases, in "Trash" folders. If you don't seem to be getting all of the emails from St. Christopher's that you are expecting - or if someone tells you they are not getting them, PLEASE check those Spam/Junk folders.

Food Shelf News

61 pounds of food were delivered to Keystone in February! Imagine wht that tally will be at Easter, when we add together all of the Lenten donations!

Snow Shoveling Helpers Needed

Please let us know if you can help.



GOOD NEWS! We have hired our snow plowing service to do the sidewalks and entryways when they are here to plow (2 inches or more). Volunteers are needed only for the lighter snowfalls, and mid-day snow clean up.

SO... Please call or email the office and let us know if you can take a week of Shoveling the sidewalks. We'll do a week of Monday-Sunday. I think mid-April is a safe place to stop the planning. :) Please email or call Ruth in the office and let her know what week(s) you are available. office@stchristophers-mn.org or 651-633-4589 (M-Th). Remaining dates are:

March 1-7, 8-14, 15-21, 22-28, 29-4, April 5-11.



MARCH Calendar Highlights!

7 Sunday - Lent 3

10:30 AM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

8 Monday

6:45 PM Finance Committee Meeting - via Zoom

10 Wednesday

12:15 PM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

12 Friday

11 AM to 1 PM Keystone Mobile Food Shelf - West Lot

14 Sunday - Lent 5

10:30 AM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

15 Monday

6:45 PM Vestry Meeting - via Zoom

17 Wednesday - St. Patrick's Day

12:15 PM Outdoor Worship -Parking Lot

21 Sunday - LENT 6

10:30 AM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

24 Wednesday

12:15 PM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

28 Sunday -- PALM SUNDAY

10:30 AM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

29 Monday

e-Traveller Deadline for April

Please note: Outdoor worship services are now being held in the North parking lot; please **tune your car radio to 96.1 FM** to hear the service. Due to the COVID-19 protocols in place as we prepare this edition of the e-Traveller,

most other activities of our community and outside groups have been cancelled or postponed. If we are able to resume activities, we'll send out plenty of notices.

Last Words



I hope you have enjoyed the **March e-Traveller!** The end of February caught up with me fast! I was surprised when I had overlooked the deadline for this month's issue, and had to scramble!

As of this writing, I am getting ready to leave the office and get my new hip on the 8th of March. There may be shorter office hours for a while. Marion Hunner has kindly volunteered to be in the main office rather than her office, to answer the phone and receive visitors, etc. I look forward to returning to the office a more nimble me!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Michael Sirany, Sr. Warden; Christopher Mayr, Jr. Warden
Allison Jensen, Clerk; Jean Crow, Treasurer

Ross Ackerman, Patrick Ahern, Erin Bowman;
Ann DePaolis-Jones; Josh Kattelman; Alexander Kun;
Jeanna McLoughlin; Leslie Norton; Al Reedstrom

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Chad O'Leary, Youth Ministries Director
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Colleen Carpenter, Seminarian
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Regular Schedule

Recorded Services for each Sunday are on our website and on Facebook

Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist (On Hiatus)

8:00 AM Adult Formation/Zoom Coffee Hour

9:00 AM Fellowship

9:30-10:20 AM Children's Education-Room 107

(NO First Sunday)
9:30-10:15 AM Youth Education-Youth Room
9:30-10:15 AM Adult Education-Parish Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
---Currently meeting in the North Parking Lot---
10:30 AM Children's Chapel (*First Sunday ONLY*)
11:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the North Parking Lot

Current Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 4 PM

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N.
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STAY CONNECTED

