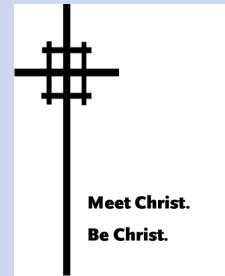


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

From the Rector



The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson
Rector

Conflict *by Fr. Randy+*

Conflict. We live in a world today that is filled to the brim—overflowing with conflict. Not just the naturally occurring conflict that occurs between teens and their parents. We are speaking today of *real* conflict—conflict that has the potential to tear apart peoples and countries, families and friends. One does not have to look very far or listen to more than a few minutes of today's news to become buried under its weight. Overwhelming, indeed, but it is not without any precedent.

Jesus had twelve disciples to manage. That means every day he had twelve strong personalities to deal with, twelve opinions to listen to, twelve sets of emotional baggage to unpack, and twelve different backgrounds to understand. And like us today, this was not a Monday through Friday, 9-5 gig. They were together all the time, and as the gospel lesson in Mark 10:35-45 shows us, they did not always get along. (*Look this gospel lesson up on your own—it is fun!*)

One might think that having the Son of God as the leader of the disciples would prevent any conflict from arising. The Gospels show us that this simply was not the case. Despite witnessing Jesus' miracles firsthand and having front-row seats to his preaching, the disciples still occasionally argued like spoiled children fighting over who gets to ride shotgun in the car!

The drama in this Gospel lesson is centered on the disciples James and John

Zebedee—biological brothers who were fishermen by trade—and famously walked away from their job in the middle of the workday when they were first called by Jesus. They were passionate men—infamously calling for a command of fire being rained down from heaven on Samaria because the people did not give Jesus a warm welcome. “*Sons of Thunder*” was their nickname.

In today’s Mark 10 reading, they make a simple, bold request of Jesus to be seated at his right and left hand in the Kingdom of God. Positions of great nobility and power and authority. They wanted for themselves these positions of honor. It was a bold, yet simple request of Jesus. They wanted the best seat at the table—to make sure they were the favored ones, always “*in the room where it happens.*”

I guess there are many ways to think about John and James’ request. On the one hand, their intentions may have been noble. They may have thought and convinced themselves they were the best persons for the job. But on the other hand, James and John had no idea what they were getting into or how much conflict their request would initiate. Jesus bluntly tells them, “*You do not know what you are asking.*” This must have been a humbling moment for this duo. Jesus’ pastoral care here is extraordinary. He does not humiliate or berate James and John, but calmly explains why they are misguided in their request. Jesus sticks to the facts of what he can and cannot do and teaches them that the positions at his right and left hand in the Kingdom of God are simply not his to grant. Jesus does not make this a personal issue, and as a good teacher, he guides James and John to a better understanding of God.

Not only did James and John not know what they were asking for, they also did not think about how the other ten disciples would be about their request of Jesus. Imagine how you would feel if you were one of the remaining ten! You might think this was a power move to seize authority—it would be startling and scary! It’s no wonder the other disciples reacted with such anger.

This is a really special moment in the Gospel. It shows us that Jesus and his disciples were not spared from the same stresses we go through in our daily lives—workplace, politics, favoritism, gossip, and clashes of personality. Certainly the stakes were higher at their work, but the nature of the conflicts were the same. They were just like us, and we are just like them.

Jesus’ response to this conflict within his camp is immediate. He did not let the tension fester or let his team fragment. We are told that Jesus called his disciples and addressed them all together right away—*face to face*. This must have been quite a scene—all twelve of them standing before Jesus with anger permeating the air. I’m sure we have all been in a similar situation—hearts pounding, legs shaking, and minds racing.

Jesus’ calming yet authoritative tone cuts through the tension as he tells his, “*whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.*” This is servant leadership at its finest. Jesus yet again does not make this a personal issue with his disciples. He sticks to the truth that he knows so well and explains that even he the “*Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve....*”

So, what can we glean from all this disciple drama? First, conflict is inevitable.

Conflict is going to happen, even when we pursue things with the best of intentions.

Second, conflict can be used to grow relationships. Jesus did not let his disciples' anger go to waste. Jesus was frugal. He used their anger to teach them a lesson and bring them closer together. The conversion of anger to something useful is powerful and transformative, and we absolutely need God's help to do it.

Third and finally, God is always present in the midst of conflict. That is really good news. God does not go away when people are angry at one another. There is always room for prayer no matter how much anger is in your heart or in the air.

But don't just take my word for it—*try it yourself*. Try praying for someone who really bothers you—someone who gets under your skin. This may sound like a terrible idea. I know it did to me the first time I heard this suggestion. Why would I pray for someone I do not want to succeed? Someone who I consider an enemy?

But ask yourself, what do you have to lose? Do you really want to spend any more time fretting and rehearsing arguments in your heart and head? Try prayer instead. Make it so. Amen.



Lenten Schedule

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5:

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes - Church

5:30 PM Soup Supper - Parish Hall

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes - Church

WEDNESDAYS MARCH 12-APRIL 9:

5:30 PM Soup Supper - Parish Hall

7:00 PM Way of the Cross - Church

HOLY WEEK:

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13: Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 AM

(NO Soup this week)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17: Holy Eucharist at 7 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18: Worship for Good Friday at 12 PM
Way of the Cross at 7 PM

Adult Formation Opportunities for Lent

**Sundays: Join us for “Ashes to Ashes”
9:15-10:15 in the Parish Hall - 3/9 - 4/6**

In our Christian faith, the time of Lent is one in which we ponder both our own mortality and the eternal life we will share. It is customary to give thought to our own final days, as well as how we would like to be remembered. While it is a bit sobering to actually plan all that is involved, it can be a great gift to our loved ones if we leave our final wishes in order.

We will begin and end with an overview of the BCP’s Burial Rite and plan or update our own memorial choices, led by clergy. In the intervening weeks, we will hear from a local attorney who specializes in wills and trusts; a representative from a local funeral service regarding burial options; and from our own Leslie and Joel Norton, both skilled medical professionals, about emergency response as well as health care directives.

Please join us for this series, and ask any questions about the planning process that you need. Contact [Marilyn+](#) with any questions.

Daily Meditations and Weekly Zoom Group: “The Hardest Part” by Kate Bowler

One of the free options available to us this year is from Kate Bowler, noted Christian writer. She bills this series as “Lenten Meditations for Real Life” - meaning in the midst of the struggle that so many are facing at this time. Below is a link to the daily meditations, beginning on Ash Wednesday. (Use the link below and sign up early so you have access.)

In addition, there will be a weekly Zoom meeting (Tuesdays, 7 pm, 3/11 – 4/15) based on the week’s meditations, meant for anyone who is struggling with any particular issue right now: loss, grief, sadness, fear. This will be an opportunity for many of us to practice our listening skills and to be a companion to others who are walking a bumpy road. We will use the meditations to clarify what speaks to us, and share only as much as we wish. All discussions will be confidential. Important: Contact [Marilyn+](#) for Zoom access.



THE HARDEST PART by Kate Bowler

Lent isn't about rushing to the happy ending—its about sitting in the mess. It's about the phone call that changes everything. The waiting that makes you wonder if hope is even worth it. *The Hardest Part* is for those moments, the ones we'd rather avoid but know we need to face.

Each day offers a Scripture, a reflection to sit with life's messy parts, and a blessing to remind you that somehow, grace has a way of sneaking in—even when it feels impossible.

[The-hardest-part-individual-download](#)

So, let's do *this* hard part together. Let's sit with the ache and the fragile parts we'd rather avoid, and trust that hope is somewhere nearby, waiting for us to notice. Because when we stay with the hard part, something else happens: we get to the good part. I swear.

The 2025 Event Fair Events have begun!

Watch the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall for photos of this year's events. Inside the Parish Hall is a table with last year's photos – help yourself!



Marion Hunner,
Children and Youth Director



Como Zoo Event – We started the month of February with a behind-the-scenes tour of Como Zoo, led by Pete Lee. We got an up-close look at penguins, bison, ostriches, giraffes, and gorillas. We even got to feed the bison and giraffes! Everyone had a great time. Look for pictures in the Upper Narthex.

Bible Story Project – We had fun recording another Bible story in February, and we are scheduled to complete the last two in March. Following that, we hope to prepare a presentation for the congregation.

Pre-YE Middle School Retreat – We joined youth from nine different faith communities at St. Mary's in Saint Paul for the Pre-YE Middle School Youth Event. Many people have asked what Pre-YE stands for. . . . The high school youth event, which used to be TEC, is now DYE (for Diocesan Youth Event), so Pre-YE is for middle schoolers – a precursor event. We had such a blast! Together, we played and learned new games, sang songs, ate lots of food, explored church in innovative ways, reunited with old friends and made many new ones. We are already looking forward to the next Pre-YE event in October.



Hearts and Hands

Hearts and Hands volunteered at **Second Stork** on February 20, and presented their representative with a \$1,000 Mission Opportunities Grant from St. Christopher's.

In partnership with hospitals, **Second Stork** provides a helping hand to mothers who lack even the most basic infant-care supplies needed to keep a baby safe. Hospital social workers use their expertise to identify parents in crisis. With no red tape and no strings attached, they distribute critical supplies provided by Second Stork to the family immediately upon their newborn's discharge. Second Stork meets this challenge with a highly efficient operation run by volunteers, funded by donations.





Coming Right Up...

We hope you will join us in the Parish Hall for **Lenten Soup Suppers!**

(Ash Wednesday is March 5th)

Wednesdays through Lent from 5:30-7:00 pm:

March 5, 12, 19 & 26 and April 2 & 9

(Gluten free and vegetarian soups will be available weekly!)



Way of the Cross will be at 7:00 pm, beginning March 12th.

VESTRY SHORTS

On February 17, the Vestry unanimously approved two Mission Opportunities grants: \$1,000 to Meals-on-Wheels and \$1,000 to Second Stork.

The Vestry unanimously approved the Parochial Report. The finalized report is being submitted to the national church in New York City, and to ECMN.

The Altar Guild is preparing for extra services during Lent. Additionally, we are working with a local artist to create a new earthenware communion set. The artist plans to use clay from St. Christopher's as part of the final design.

Ellery and Roland attended the pre-YE event St. Mary's in St. Paul. Pete Lee also recently hosted a behind-the-scenes tour at Como Zoo for the youth.

Upcoming events include Lenten Soup Suppers, a food drive on April 2, a garden cleanup (TBD), a Lenten Adult Forum series on end-of-life planning, and a bike blessing on June 1. Way of the Cross will be celebrated on Wednesdays during Lent. Event Fair events are ongoing. Marilyn Baldwin will represent St. Christopher's at the upcoming ECMN Clergy Retreat.

Ruby Mayr was baptized on February 2. Father Randy celebrates 6 years at St. Christopher's in March.

MARCH Calendar



1 Saturday

12 PM Vietnamese Lunch Event – Offsite

2 Sunday—Last after Epiphany

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

1 PM GSVLOC – Parish Hall – to 5 PM

3 Monday

4 PM Cello Lessons - #219 – to 7 PM

4 Tuesday

8 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM

4:30 PM Cello Lessons - #219 – to 6:30 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall

5 Wednesday—ASH WEDNESDAY

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 11 AM

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes – Church

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218 – to 7:30 PM

5:30 PM Lent Soup Supper – Parish Hall – to 7 PM

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes – Church

8 PM Parish Choir short rehearsal – Music Room

6 Thursday

12 PM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 1:30 PM

5 PM Bible Story Recording – Parish Hall

7 Friday

4:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218 – to 6:30 PM

8 Saturday

10 AM Angie Gordon Visitation – Chapel

11 AM Angie Gordon Memorial – Church
Reception Follows

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS – SPRING AHEAD!!

9 Sunday – Lent 1

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

9:15 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

10 Monday

4:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218 – to 7 PM

11 Tuesday—Special Election Day

7 AM Polls Open – Parish Hall – to 8 PM

12 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

5:30 PM Lent Soup Supper – Parish Hall – to 7 PM

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

6:30 PM *Wednesday AA – Gathering Room*

7 PM Way of the Cross - Church

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

13 Thursday

14 Friday

9 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 10:30 AM*

4:30 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 6:30 PM*

15 Saturday

9 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 10 AM*

1 PM *Bible Story Recording – Parish Hall*

6 PM *Klondike Kate Karaoke Event – Parish Hall*

16 Sunday--Lent 2

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

9:15 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

17 Monday – St. Patrick’s Day

4 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 7 PM*

5:30 PM Finance Committee – Parish Hall

6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall

18 Tuesday

8 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM*

10 AM *Tuesday OA - #218*

12 PM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 1 PM*

4:30 PM *Cello Lessons - #219 – to 6:30 PM*

7 PM *Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall*

19 Wednesday

10:45 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 12 PM*

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

3:30 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 7:30 PM*

5:30 PM Lent Soup Supper – Parish Hall – to 7 PM

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

6:30 PM *Wednesday AA – Gathering Room*

7 PM **Way of the Cross - Church**

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

20 Thursday—SPRING!

10:30 AM Hearts & Hands – Parish Hall

21 Friday

4:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218 – to 6:30 PM

22 Saturday

9 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 10:30 AM

1 PM Speed Puzzle Event – Parish Hall – to 3 PM

23 Sunday – Lent 3

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

9:15 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

24 Monday

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218 – to 7 PM

25 Tuesday

4:30 PM Cello Lessons - #219 – to 6:30 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall

26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218 – to 7:30 PM

5:30 PM Lent Soup Supper – Parish Hall – to 7 PM

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

7 PM Way of the Cross - Church

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

27 Thursday

28 Friday

4:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218 – to 6:30 PM

29 Saturday

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 11 AM

30 Sunday – Lent 4

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

9:15 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

31 Monday

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218 – to 7 PM

Please note that most of our outside groups have returned to meeting in the building. Those groups are now on this calendar (*in italics*) to avoid over-scheduling. **ALWAYS check** with the church office before scheduling a meeting.



Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the March **e-Traveler!**

Right now, it looks like March will "come in" like a lamb; let's hope it also "goes out" like a lamb. I wouldn't mind skipping the "lion" part, this year!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Josh Kattelman, Sr. Warden; Ann DePaolis-Jones, Jr. Warden
Robert Williams, Clerk; Bruce Warkentien, Treasurer

Kathy Ackerman; Darlene Cross;
Becky Lucas; Rich Pieper; Jane Suilman;
Ann Trapnell; Betsy Wesenberg

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Rev. Christopher Haack, Deacon
Rev. Mary Rowe, Assisting Priest
Rev. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Schedule:

*Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.
Recorded services can be found on YouTube at:
Saint Christopher's Episcopal Roseville MN*

Sundays:

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:00 AM Fellowship

9:15 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: **12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** in the Sanctuary

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

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