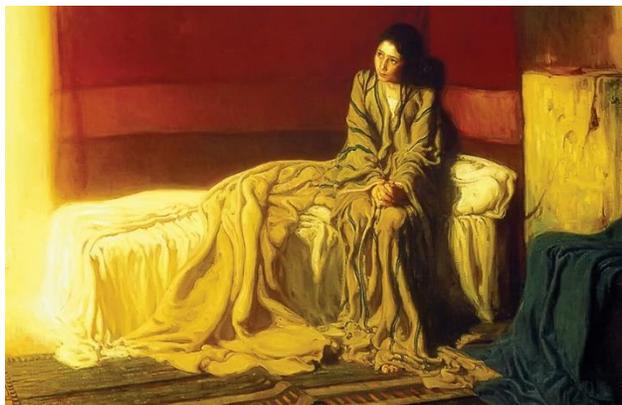




Christ Church Chronicle

MARCH 2021

*Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”
- Luke 1:38*



Yes to God – Welcoming Christ Into Our Lives

Quite late New Year’s Eve 1975, I returned home to Colorado Springs, Colorado, after having served two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia. Most of January 1976, I spent re-adjusting to living in the USA and to figuring out what type of work I would pursue. I decided I would not continue working in education. For some reason, I considered a career in banking. Colorado Springs, like cities its size and geographical location, had many banks. Since I desired to live on my own with some distance between the family home, I moved to Denver. I enrolled in a monthlong course in banking. On March 1st, I began working as a teller in the drive-in at National City Bank at 99 South Broadway in Denver. A few months later, I took a second job: part-time cashier at Lu Jack Liquor Store, owned and operated by one of the bank’s customers. The store, located on the same street as the bank, was a three-minute walk. [From the start, I knew very little about beer, wine, hard liquor, and the like. Two years later, when I left Denver, my knowledge had hardly increased.]

Monday-Friday, from 9 to 6, I worked at the bank. Wednesday evening, from 6:15 to 11:15 and Saturday, I worked at the liquor store. If I worked the day shift one Saturday, the next Saturday, I worked the night shift, which meant my co-worker and I closed the store at 12 midnight. Co-workers at the store drove me home after we had finished our tasks.

I lived comfortably alone, frugally, and very close to the municipal bus routes. To my destinations, I needed to take only one bus. I had a radio, but no television. One night a week, I taught English to immigrants. Otherwise, I spent most evenings at home engaged in reading books from the Denver Public Library. Very occasionally, I went out Saturday nights with friends.

During my Peace Corps years, I had fallen out of the habit of going to church every Sunday. Once I went to worship at the Coptic Orthodox church in my village. A few Sundays, I went to the Holy Communion service at Saint Matthew’s Anglican Church in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

Surrounded by cathedrals and churches in Denver, I chose to worship at “Saint Mattress and All Bed Springs” most Sunday mornings until 7:30 or 8:00. After the shower, I read the newspapers. Sometime after 11, I was ready for something to eat. For many Sundays, a friend and I had brunch at different restaurants in the city and its suburbs. Since he drove us, I gladly paid for our meal. I enjoyed these outings because of my friend’s company at the table.

I had become accustomed to my Sunday routine. After my friend moved out of state, to live closer to his girlfriend, how would I spend Sundays? I thought about going to church and about God’s place in my life. I had missed the liturgy, the Sacrament, and active, regular involvement in the church. Conversations with God constantly

occurred. God asked me to become more than a C & E Christian. Several months passed before I responded in the affirmative, and I was glad I did.

- Fr. Henry Doyle



God So Loves the World

John 3:16 – it appears a lot of places, and mostly not a quote of the text but just that citation of gospel, chapter and verse. Just the name “John” followed by the number “3,” a colon and the number “16.”

It appears on placards at sports events, on signs people post on their front lawns and inside the bottom rim of paper cups at fast-food restaurants.

The professional football quarterback Timothy Richard Tebow – you have probably heard him called Tim – has been known to print the reference in his eye black. This he did most famously in 2012 at what became known as “the 3:16 game,” when Mr. Tebow – then of the Denver Broncos – threw the ball a total 316 yards in a playoff upset against the Pittsburgh Steelers, winning the game 29 to 23.

Immediately afterward, “John 3 16” became the top Google search in the United States.

On Amazon.com today, you can find books titled “The 3:16 Promise” and “3:16: The Numbers of Hope.”

People seem to be really fixated with John 3:16 – and no wonder. The verse has caught attention of sports fans, casual readers and theologians alike.

Martin Luther famously called it “the gospel in miniature,” indicating that it is the very heart of our Christian faith.

It says: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

The very heart of our faith – that God loves the world.

The “giving of his Son” part will resonate with parents, who sacrifice for their children; with soldiers, who sacrifice for their country; and with anyone who sacrifices anything out of love for another.

And the idea that everyone may have eternal life – well, that’s the basic Christian hope, right?

This, too, will make sense in other contexts. For what parents want anything but the very best

for their children? What manager wants anything but the very best outcome? And eternal life is the very best God has to offer.

The sacrifice, the giving of one’s best, these are all premised on one simple thing: love; God’s love for us.

When you think about it, God’s love for the world is nothing short of miraculous.

God created the world, of course – so that accounts for some of it. We tend to like the things we have created, such as when we bake a pie, or fashion a table out of wood or even draw a picture with crayons.

But we humans have continued to be such rebellious louts. We ignore God’s plan, we bargain with God’s commands and we fight against God’s justice – at least some of the time.

Martin Luther once said, “If I were as our Lord God ... and these vile people were as disobedient as they now are, I would knock the world in pieces.”

And you might think God would do just that – knock the world in pieces.

Knock the Taliban in pieces.

Knock Congress in pieces.

Knock the whatever in pieces. You fill in the blank.

And that’s not all. Each and every one of us is quite capable of doing the most vile sorts of things – and sometimes we do. We trespass against God, we commit offences, we sin.

After all, who among us has not done what we ought not to have done, or left undone what we ought to have done? Who has not – from time to time – denied God’s goodness in others, in ourselves, or in the world around us?

Maybe God should knock us in pieces, too!

But in the person of Jesus, we find a God who is not much interested in retributive justice. Not much worried about punishing offenders. Not much invested in inflicting a penalty for wrongdoings.

No. We find a God who seeks to forgive, for whom restorative justice is the priority, who seeks to repair the hurt – not inflict another.

And this, too, arises out of God's love for us.

God loves us too much to cause us to cower in fear.

God loves us too much to inflict corporal punishment on us.

God loves us too much to make us suffer – or to suffer any more than we already do.

And that is Good News for us, for all of Christianity, and for all of the world.

God loves us.

This doesn't mean we should go around deliberately committing offences and expecting we be forgiven.

This does mean that when we cause offense, we will be forgiven by God – but we may also have to pay the earthly penalty for our actions.

When we do things we know are wrong, irresponsible and dangerous, we can pray for God's forgiveness. But we can also expect that our society will demand payment of a penalty, and as Christian citizens of a democratic nation we should be prepared to pay that price, make the necessary apology, restoring what was taken or serve the very community we have harmed.

Because, as the blessed Apostle Paul says in today's epistle, God "loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, [and] made us alive together with Christ."

When we sin, we sin against God, ourselves and the Body of Christ of which we are a part.

Yet, when we stumble into the pit of sin, God loves us.

Our Illusions of Separateness

Dear Beloved Community,

Rev Barbara Brown Taylor writes, "almost everyone has a story to tell about the first time God let you down. Maybe you were eight, ten, or twenty. You knelt by your bed, you clasped your hands in front of you, and you prayed for all you were worth. You gave yourself away; you held nothing back. You asked for a sign, a hand, a map, a cure and you waited confidently

When we follow the path of righteousness, God loves us.

So our job as Christians is first to recognize that God loves each and every one of us, and just how much God loves us.

When we truly appreciate this deep and abiding truth, our lives change.

We take responsibility for our actions, and we seek healing for those against whom we have transgressed.

We admit we have done wrong, and we strive to do better.

And we strive to be the very image of God in which we are all created – by loving others as God loves us.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Let us pray, work and give to make it so – by seeking not punishment, but reconciliation; by sacrificing for others; and by loving as best we are able.

- *J. Barrington Bates - Now retired, Barrie Bates has served Episcopal and Lutheran congregations in California, New York, and New Jersey over the past 20+ years. He holds a Ph.D. in liturgical studies and serves on the General Board of Examining Chaplains. He looks forward to spending more time on the shores of Lake Michigan, and he welcomes conversation about his sermons.*

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sermon/god-so-loves-the-world-lent-4-b-2015/>



for God's answer to your prayer. Only it never came."

We weren't heard. At least that's how it felt. God's silence was deafening. Not just being listened to, but not being heard. It is one of our deepest longings that the essential people in our lives respond to the unspoken words of our feelings and let us know we matter, that we are valued.

So, did God hear us when the fervent prayers we prayed never gave us the answer we asked for? When we have prayed earnestly and whole heartedly for peace, for health, for safety, for brotherhood but our world continues to spiral into more divisive and destructive paths, is God not listening?

But Isaiah (58:6-7) tells us God has listened. And maybe, it is us who were not listening: "Is this not the fast I choose, "God said to the sackcloth and ashes crowd, "to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yolk to let the oppressed go free, to break every yolk.?"

"For the chosen people (and perhaps, sometimes for us) God was not where they thought. They thought God was supposed to be with them when they prayed and fasted and studied Scriptures. They thought nothing pleased God more than to find them on their knees - but they were wrong."

God is not hanging out in empty churches. God is out in the streets warming his hand over a burring barrel with a bunch of homeless people, or running free food from the Community Cafe' to the hungry people waiting in their cars, or handing out blankets at St Vincent de Paul to those too poor to buy adequate bedding. And

God is not in the sanctuaries, waiting for someone to stop by for a chat.

"It is a great mistake to suppose that God is chiefly interested in religion," wrote an archbishop of the last century. God is not

interested in religion; God is interested in human beings. God has told us our relationship to Him is inseparable from our relationships to other people, especially the least of us. We cannot serve God without serving others.

And God has given us a way to be heard "we can surrender our illusions of separateness, of safety and of superiority. We can leave our various sanctuaries and seek God where He may be found - where people suffer from injustice or hunger or homelessness..."If God is silent, it may be we are not speaking God's language yet. God has taught us how to break the silence and has even given us the words - "Here I am" and if we listen we may hear the very voice of God saying "yes, hello. Welcome home. Here I am. Here I am."

Faithfully,
Deacon Bonnie
Let us pray:

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- The Reverend Bonnie Holt, Deacon, The Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour, Faribault.



The Fragility of Life

Dear Beloved Community,

This was a sad week for reminders about the uncertainty and fragility of life - one member of our community has died from Covid-19 and a dear friend was recently diagnosed with a deadly cancer. As much as joy and hope and vibrant life are part of celebratory life experiences, so is the persistent presence of suffering, loss and death.

As we approach Ash Wednesday next week, we are not only reminded of our mortality but also have been given the next 40 days of Lent for

prayer, reflection and renewal. We are reminded that as Baptism included a cross on our foreheads "sealing us by the Holy Spirit and marking us as Christ's own forever," so Ash Wednesday takes our life's beginning and our eventual ending full circle into one sacred moment.

We live in the tension between the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death. Rev Michael K. Marsh observes "we work pretty hard at denying, ignoring, forgetting, out running and overcoming those twin realities...but

they are always there...reminders of mortality and the fragility of life are all around us...they come every time a friend or a loved one dies...the reminder comes in an aging body, a body that no longer does what it used to do or no longer looks like it used to look. It's a bit slower, achier, flabbier, less agile...and as we have so often sifted the ashes of our lives, we have wondered where it has gone and where it is going."

So, how do we live with the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death? How do we use the opportunity of prayer and reflection during Lent to transform our lives? What if we decided Lent is a time to recognize that everything matters - every person in our life, every relationship, every moment, every intentional choice matters.

Then Lent becomes an opportunity to treasure:

- and relationships
- justice and compassion
- love
- forgiveness
- hope and peace

In the stillness of our souls, let us reflect upon those things of ultimate importance and infinite value and renew our practice of treasuring God's gifts in our lives. We were born beloved. We will die beloved. Thanks be to God.

Faithfully,
Deacon Bonnie

God Sees Our Potential

We are all simple people. Everyday God looks at each of us, as simple as we are but with all our flaws, weaknesses and mixed beliefs, and loves us. Mary was simple just like us, but he looked at Mary the same way, and loved her too. God always and often sees the potential in us, to be true and faithful and loving, just as God saw that potential in Mary.

No matter how small or insignificant we seem to ourselves, no matter how weak or flawed, God regards us with love, and constantly sends sign and messages to us inviting us to help bring God

From Psalm 51:11-13

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Let us pray:

Be at Peace

Do not fear the changes of life-

Rather look to them with full hope as they arise.

*God, whose very own you are, Will deliver you from
out of them. He has kept you*

hitherto,

And He will lead you safely through all things;

*And when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in
His arms.*

Do not be afraid or what may happen tomorrow;

The same everlasting Father who cares for you today

*Will take care of you then and every day. He will
either shield you from suffering,*

Or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at Peace-

And put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

- St. Francis de Sales

- *The Reverend Bonnie Holt, Deacon, The
Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour,
Faribault.*

into the world. He sees our potential, and our greater potential when he is a part of our lives.

May we learn to listen ever more closely for God's word to us. May we work through our fear and confusion and trust in God's love. May that trust give us courage to say yes to the risky, unknown path to which God summons us sometimes. May we do our part to bring God into the world, to help lighten the darkness by his presence. Amen.

- *Savile Lord, Senior Warden*

Reflections – Saying “Yes” to God

We hope to make this a regular feature of the Chronicle where members and friends of our community can share their own reflections and thoughts.

Wiping the slate clean
Making way for new challenges
Reinvigorating life by reigniting the wick
It will create confusion
“What still counts?”
Pleasing to neither social nor cultural ideals,
But to myself and my rebirth.
With sincerest respect to history and legacy,
To people and places held so very close to my heart
I wish to be different and choose to be more.
- Daniel Montenegro

Worship Schedule

March Worship Schedule

We are open again! Sunday services are at 10:30 am!

March 7	Lent III	Holy Eucharist
March 14	Lent IV	Holy Eucharist
March 21	Lent V	Morning Prayer
March 2		Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist



Prayer for The Future of the Human Race – BCP, page 828

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



*“Being yielded to God’s authority keeps us pliable and open-minded to
a possible change of plans.” – Beth Moore*

New Revised Common Lectionary Sunday Readings

Eucharist Lectionary - Year B

Daily Office Lectionary - Year 1

7-Mar-21	Third Sunday in Lent	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
14-Mar-21	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
21-Mar-21	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
25-Mar-21	Annunciation of the Lord	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
28-Mar-21	Liturgy of the Palms		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29		Mark 11:1-11
28-Mar-21	Liturgy of the Passion	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47



Priest-in-Charge: *The Rev. Henry Doyle*

Senior Warden: *Savile Lord*

Junior Warden: *Kenneth Johnson*

Vestry: *Peggy Havener, Jeff Shaft*

Organist: *Gail Thurnau*

Treasurer: *-Joy Shaft*

Parish Secretary: *George Favell*

Fr. Henry - Please keep me in the loop

Far too often, you might hesitate to inform me of your desire/need for pastoral care, because you do not want to bother me. On the contrary, you are not bothering me when you inform me of a major illness, yours or a loved one’s illness. Because of privacy issues and regulations, staff at hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities will not contact me. You, a family member, or a close friend must contact me, if you have a pastoral need.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

– Acts 2:42

Christ Episcopal Church March Birthdays

16 – Samantha Jean Erickson

20 – Bev Blakeslee

20 – John Selvig

22 – Heather Anderson

23 – Russ Olson

Episcopal Church in Minnesota Cycle of Prayer

During the month of March please pray for those involved in specialized licensed ministries throughout the Episcopal Church in Minnesota including lay preachers, Eucharistic ministers and visitors, and lay readers; and for our musicians and worship committees.

2 LENT (February 28) ST. DAVID'S Minnetonka

3 LENT (March 7) CATHEDRAL OF OUR MERCIFUL SAVIOUR, Faribault

4 LENT (March 14) GOOD SHEPHERD Windom

PALM SUNDAY (March 28) BRECK MEMORIAL MISSION Ponsford

Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer

1-Mar	The Diocese of	Armidale	The Anglican Church of Australia
2-Mar	The Diocese of	Arochukwu / Ohafia	The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
3-Mar	The Diocese of	Aru	Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
4-Mar	The Missionary Diocese of	Asaba	The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
5-Mar	The Diocese of	Asante-Mampong	The Church of the Province of West Africa
6-Mar	The Diocese of	Saint Asaph	The Church in Wales
7-Mar		Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo	
8-Mar	The Diocese of	Athabasca	The Anglican Church of Canada
9-Mar	The Diocese of	Athooh	The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
10-Mar	The Diocese of	Atlanta	The Episcopal Church
11-Mar	The Diocese of	Auckland	The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
12-Mar	The Diocese of	North West Australia	The Anglican Church of Australia
13-Mar	The Diocese of	Aweil	The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
14-Mar		Iglesia Anglicana de Chile	
15-Mar	The Diocese of	Awerial	The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

16-Mar	The Diocese of	Awgu / Aninri	The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
17-Mar	The Diocese of	Awka	The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
18-Mar	The Diocese of	Awori	The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
19-Mar	The Diocese of	Ayod	The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
20-Mar	The Diocese of	Badagry	The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
21-Mar		The Church of England	
22-Mar	The Diocese of	the Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands	The Church in the Province of the West Indies
23-Mar	The Diocese of	Bakuru	The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
24-Mar	The Diocese of	Ballarat	The Anglican Church of Australia
25-Mar	The Diocese of	Bangor	The Church in Wales
26-Mar	The Diocese of	Banks & Torres	The Anglican Church of Melanesia
27-Mar	The Diocese of	Barbados	The Church in the Province of the West Indies
28-Mar		Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui	
29-Mar	The Diocese of	Bari	The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
30-Mar	The Diocese of	Baringo	The Anglican Church of Kenya
31-Mar	The Diocese of	Barrackpore	The (united) Church of North India

Community Communication

Father Doyle

Home - 507-334-3742

Cell - 507-491-2695

Office - 507-333-1651

Email: henry.doyle@s-sm.org

Mailing Address: Shattuck-Saint Mary's School, 1000 Shumway Ave., Faribault, MN 55021

Parish Office

The Parish Office is open on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10am to 2pm.

Office Phone: 507-373-3188

Office email: cecalmn@gmail.com

Weekly Sunday Bulletin

Please get all items for the following Sunday to George Favell (Church Office) by 10am Thursdays.

Monthly Christ Church Chronicle

Please get all items to George Favell (Church Office) by 10am of the 2nd Thursday of the preceding month.



March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 3 rd Lent Holy Eucharist	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 4 th Lent Holy Eucharist	15	16	17	18	19 ST. JOSEPH	20
21 5 th Lent Morning Prayer Vestry Meeting – 9:15am	22	23	24	25 THE ANNUNCIATION	26	27
28 PALM SUNDAY Holy Eucharist	29 MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK	30 TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK	31 WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK			

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – 2/21/21

Present: Father Henry Doyle, Savile Lord, Jeff Shaft, Peggy Havener, Joy Shaft, Kenneth Johnson

Father Henry opened the meeting in prayer. The financials were reviewed. Nothing surprising. We did not do \$350 in outreach, so that will be removed. Jeff moved to approve the financial report and Peggy seconded. All approved.

Technology 9 came and did some work to help us with our computer. We will wait until the remainder of the work is done, installing the hard drive and pay the bill once it is final.

State Farm transferred 2 accounts, the youth and money market to US Bank. There is now no checking account for these 2 accounts. And our last statement is from October. We discussed moving the accounts over to Acadia, so that we would have a simpler time. Joy will call US Bank and find out where it stands.

We received a check from Bev Blakeslee for a memorial and she asked that it be put into the account that handles the maintenance of the church. We will hold onto the check until more is known about the work that needs to be done on the labyrinth.

Father Henry worked on the Parochial report with Joy and during our meeting Father Henry submitted it to the Vestry. Savile made the motion to approve the parochial report as submitted, and the Kenneth seconded.

Junior warden info. Kenneth is going to check in with Paul about the items on the white board in the hallway to see where they stand or if he needs help getting them completed. We discussed the labyrinth and will check with Gail to see if she has gotten a quote. We will wait until the snow has melted to move forward with the flag poles.

George is working on the annual meeting notes and will be getting to those to us shortly. He has undertaken quite a task as they were over 50 pages of notes to transcribe!

Earlier in the month the Vestry approved the purchase of a basic package for Zoom so that we could stream our services. We discussed the need for an iPad, tripod, and microphone to do this successfully. Jeff is going to investigate the options they use at his work.

We discussed having a training for Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Readers. Father Henry will research what we need to have this done.

Our next meeting will meet on March 21st at 9:15 Father Henry will not be there, but we will still hold the vestry meeting.

Jeff motioned for us to adjourn; Kenneth seconded. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Savile Lord
Senior Warden