



Making disciples who make disciples

May 24, 2020

In Other Words – Why Jesus Ascended

Church Worship & Office Location

2215 S 8th Ave, Yuma, AZ 85364
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(928) 247-4001

fr.mansfield@gmail.com

Dcn Linda Stokes, Assisting Clergy
(928)259-6620 llstokes1@me.com

Worship Service Times

Sunday 11:30 a.m. & Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

Church Mailing Address:

PO Box 2919
Yuma, AZ 85366

Find us Online: ctryuma.org

Find us on Facebook:



Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church,
A Christian Community

Parish Council Members

Senior Warden

Sherri Wayman, sswayman@yahoo.com

Junior Warden

Jennifer Kircher, jangyuma@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Jeffrey Polston, Jeffrey@matpc.com

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Pat Fraser, lakefrontwest@shaw.ca

Jo Towner, josephine.towner@gmail.com

Ann Traverso, anntraverso@hotmail.com

David Wayman, dwayman86@yahoo.com

Next Parish Council Meeting

May 27, 2020

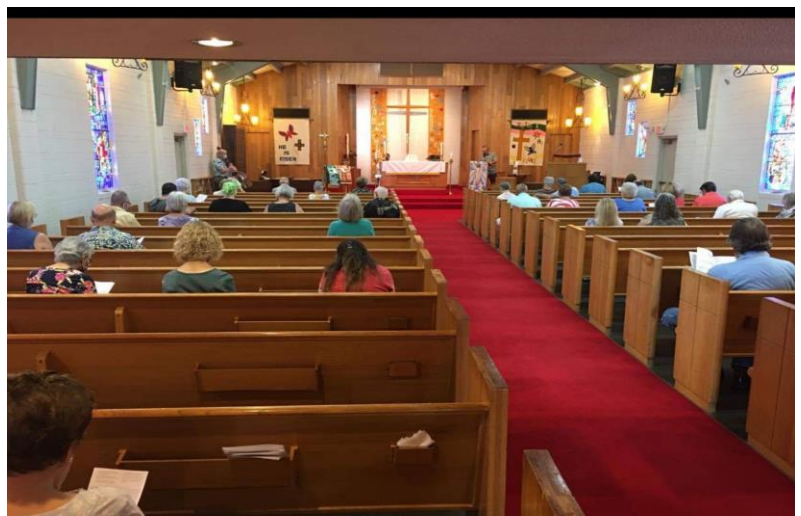
Reminder...We are gathering for worship in addition to the virtual live-stream on Facebook at 11:30 a.m. Please join us!

Joy filled our new church home last Sunday as we re-opened.

We were 6 feet apart but close in heart.

49 + the Trinity = 52 attended with such excitement.

God bless our congregation!



In Other Words – Why Jesus Ascended

Forty days after Easter, the church celebrates Jesus' ascension. Pentecost was 50 days after Passover, and was the Jewish holy day mentioned in the Book of Acts during which the Holy Spirit appeared to Jesus' disciples (Acts 2:1-4). Jesus ascended before Pentecost, and the disciples traveled a short distance and chose Judas' replacement (Matthias, Acts 1:26). Additionally, the numbers 40 and 10 are significant symbols in Scripture (40 days of rain in Genesis, 40 years wandering in the wilderness in Exodus-Joshua, and 40 day of Jesus fasting in the wilderness; also, the 10 commandments). So, Ascension Thursday being 40 days after Easter and 10 days before Pentecost seemed appropriate for celebrating this miraculous event.

*[Jesus said, "You] will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest part of the earth." ⁹ And after he had said these things, while they were watching, **he was taken up, and a cloud received him** from their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were **staring into the sky** while he was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood by them ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand there looking into the sky? This Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven like this will come back in the same way you saw him departing into heaven!" — Acts 1:8-11 (LEB)*

Why did Jesus choose to ascend? He could have just disappeared. After all, he appeared out of nowhere through a locked door into a room the disciples had hidden in after his resurrection. And he disappeared

during dinner with Cleopas and another disciple after the walk to Emmaus (Luke 24:31). In Middle Eastern minds at the time, there were three levels of Heaven. The first level was the sky. The second level was only visible at night as the stars and expansion of space. The third level, where God and his angel lived was even beyond that. Paul describes his own revelation from God in those terms.

*I know a man in Christ
fourteen years ago—
whether in the body I do not
know, or outside the body I
do not know, God knows—
such a man was **caught up
to the third heaven**... — 2
Corinthians 12:2*

Paul's letters were written decades before the Gospels, so he didn't have the same benefit we enjoy. We know from Jesus in the Gospels that Heaven is not a place beyond the stars, but rather a different sort of realm altogether that is among us here, which Christians are able to experience somewhat now and fully in the next stage of their life.

Now when he was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with things that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Behold, here it is!' or 'There!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst." — Luke 17:20-21

The other key part of the ascension passage often missed is the cloud reference. As Jesus rises into the sky, he is covered by a cloud. Throughout Scripture, clouds have been used as a symbol of God's presence. Let's look at some examples.

Following the flood, God tells Noah, "**My bow I have set in the clouds, and it shall be for a sign of the covenant between me and between the earth.**" — Genesis 9:13

As the Israelites traveled through the wilderness: *And **Yahweh** was going before them by day **in a column of cloud** to lead them on the way and by night in a column of*

fire to give light to them to go by day and night. — Exodus 13:21

When God gives his commandments to Moses: *And Yahweh said to Moses, “Look, I am going to come to you in a thick cloud in order that the people will hear when I speak with you and will also trust in you forever.” And Moses told the words of the people to Yahweh. — Exodus 19:9*

When Moses entered God’s presence to receive his commandments: *And the people stood at a distance, and Moses approached the very thick cloud where God was. — Exodus 20:21*

At the dedication of Solomon’s Temple: *The priests were not able to stand to minister because of the presence of the cloud, for the glory of Yahweh filled the house of Yahweh. — 1 Kings 8:11*

Jesus on the mountain with Elijah and Moses at his transfiguration: *And a cloud came, overshadowing them, and a voice came from the cloud, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!” — Mark 9:7*

And Jesus returning on Judgment Day: *And then they will see the Son of Man arriving in a cloud with power and great glory. — Luke 21:27*

Every Middle Eastern person seeing the ascension or hearing about it would understand exactly what had happened (granted, in the awe-filled moment, the disciples need some help from the angels to fully comprehend it). The resurrected Jesus, rising toward the sky and enveloped by a cloud as he disappeared from his disciples’ sight, unambiguously described the Messiah re-entering the kingdom of Heaven. It shows the fourth stage of the simple evangelistic Gospel message:

1. He Came
2. He Died
3. He Arose
4. He Ascended
5. He’s Coming Back



In His Grace,
Fr. Austin



Hello again from your new/old parish administrator! I am happy and honored to be back with the CtR family.

We wish many blessings to Ruth Elliot.

Please note: I will be in the office from 9 – 1, MONDAY – THURSDAY. All newsletter articles must be in by Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. Thank you!

Carrie Kositzke



Readings for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36;
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11



Those Who Serve
Lessons- Frank Durham
Prayers – Mary Sue Houston



CTR PRAYER PROJECT

John 3:30-He must increase, but I must decrease.

I'm pretty sure that when John the Baptist made this statement, he was not thinking of martyrdom. We read about large crowds coming to the Jordan River to either repent of their sins and be baptized by John, or to just watch him baptize others. He had become pretty popular. He even had disciples agreeing with his preaching and following him whenever possible. So, when he said Jesus must increase and he must decrease, I think he figured he would eventually let the Messiah do the preaching and baptizing and he would become His helper---His right-hand man. And when John was arrested and imprisoned, awaiting death, I think he thought the Messiah would figure out some way to free him---that His (John's) premature death would serve no purpose. Like John, I often think I've got God all figured out. I think I know what He's up to, so I set about putting "my" plan into action, figuring it must be according to Christ's will. I let my tongue have free reign. I let my mind organize things according to a pre-determined outcome. And I step into action, only to discover that my plan wasn't God's plan, at all. That's sort of what's been happening with regard to the opening of the economy that was shut down so abruptly when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Some of us are sure the best plan is to just re-open everything and see what happens. Some of us have planned to quarantine our businesses and/or our private lives until we see no new cases reported. Still others are taking the middle of the road approach, leaning back and forth as the winds of thought change their direction. Has anyone thought to ask God what the better plan might be??? John the Baptist was not wavering. He just had a different definition for the term "decrease". Our purpose here on earth is to glorify God in our every thought, word, and action. If we want Jesus to be glorified, then it can't be all about US! We have to decrease, and though that might possibly lead to martyrdom on our part, it more likely means total surrender---willingly laying down self, self-made plans, and selfish desires, so that our Lord has complete control over the situation, with no hindrance on our part and no

opposition from us. Decreasing is definitely more easily said than done.

Praying in One Accord-It's pretty hard to be in one accord with Jesus' plan to glorify His Father when most of mankind are Hell-bent on glorifying themselves, instead.

Accord Prayer-Lord Christ, You came to us from a place where You were glorified already; help us glorify You here on earth by fully surrendering our lives to You and by fully relying on You to help us through every storm that comes our way. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-Father in heaven, thank You for sending us Your Holy Spirit to help us humble ourselves before You and live according to Your divine plan, not ours; thank You for teaching us to decrease, so You, Your Son, and Your Spirit will increase and be duly glorified. Amen.



PRAYER REQUESTS



Lord, we ask you to comfort and sustain all who in this transitory life are in sickness, or any other adversity. Open the hearts to know your love and feel your presence.

We pray for Abbie Bundy, Alfredo & Lilian Campa, Betty (Bo Peep) Penny, Donna, Kate Campa, Dcn. Linda, Lorraine Chavez, Steve Chacon, Merle Shyne, and Pray for the World.

If you would like to submit prayer requests for this newsletter or if you have any updates, please contact the church office at 928-343-9551, or ctryuma@gmail.com



PRAYERS FOR THE DEANERY OF ARIZONA

The Rev. Dr. Earle Fox, Good Shepherd, Mesa

The Rev. Leo and Sylvia Laney, Living Faith, Tempe

We are pleased to announce that we are gathering for worship *in addition* to the virtual live-stream on Facebook.

NOTE: Our worship time is now **11:30 a.m.** for both formats.

CTR'S NEW ADDRESS!

Our new physical address for **BOTH** the Church Offices and our worship space is:

2215 S 8th Ave, Yuma, AZ 85364



If, however, you prefer to continue worshipping via Facebook, please continue to support CTR through your tithes and offerings by mailing them to the following new address:

**Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church
PO Box 2919
Yuma, AZ 85366**



Sunday, May 24

11:30a.m. Worship Service (in church & via Facebook)

Monday, May 25, Memorial Day

Office Closed

Tuesday, May 26

6:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM

Wednesday, May 27

2:00 p.m. Bible Study via ZOOM

5:30 p.m. Worship Service (in church & via Facebook)

Sunday, May 31 The Day of Pentecost

11:30 a.m. Worship Service (in church & via Facebook)

The High Priestly Prayer John 17:1-12

T R U E W O R D G H K R
O F C T K R N F L E S H
O R S B E H A L F A T P
G U D H P K A S Y V C B
J I T E T N G F E E G E
G A V E R N I A G N N C
F T C E I R L D I O T A
A U T H O R I T Y W L U
S E T L R A F R C U E S
K Y G C S I E K S I D E
I E L O L V S L N A M E
N S P M E A R T H O U R
G I V E N J E S U S W K

ASKING	AUTHORITY	BECAUSE
BEHALF	CHRIST	COME
EARTH	ETERNAL	EVERYONE
EYES	FATHER	FLESH
GAVE	GIVE	GIVEN
GLORIFY	HEAVEN	HOUR
JESUS	JUST	KEPT
KNOW	LIFE	LIFTING
NAME	ONLY	ORDER
SAID	SENT	SIDE
THINGS	TRUE	WORD

Exported from [Logos Bible Software](#)



If you are watching the Sunday service via



For Spiritual Communion

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people [gathered around every altar of your Church], and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.