



Making disciples who make disciples
Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 21, 2020

Church Worship & Office Location

2215 S 8th Ave, Yuma, AZ 85364
(928) 343-9551

ctryuma@gmail.com

Fr. Austin Mansfield, a/OSA, Rector
(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

Assistant Treasurer

Mary Sue Houston,

neverhom2003@yahoo.com

Motty Durham, mottydurham@yahoo.com

Pat Fraser, lakefrontwest@shaw.ca

Jo Towner, josephine.towner@gmail.com

Ann Traverso, anntraverso@hotmail.com

David Wayman, dwayman66@yahoo.com

Next Parish Council Meeting

June 24, 2020

Currently services are on Facebook ONLY.

The virtual live stream begins at 11:30 a.m.

Please join us!

In Words – When the Church Was a Family

We often hear the term *church family* used, but we don't really mean it. At least not in the sense used in the church during the New Testament times.

In his book, *When the Church Was a Family*, Joseph Hellerman uses the movie, *Titanic*, as a cultural example for our time. For those who haven't seen the movie (or fast-forwarded through the first two hours to get to the part where the ship hits the iceberg), the story revolves around 17-year-old Rose, whose mother has arranged Rose's pending marriage to a high-society gentleman (Cal), in order to keep the family in the social lifestyle they had while Rose's father was still alive. Rose meets a lower-class artist (Jack) who won a free ticket for the cruise. Rose doesn't love Cal, and spends an evening with Jack, who sketches a nude portrait of her wearing the priceless blue diamond Cal bought her. Cal sees the sketch and gets Jack locked up below deck. The *Titanic* hits an iceberg; Rose leaves Cal and rushes to rescue her true love, Jack.

Western audiences throughout the movie are rooting for true love to be victorious, and as the 101-year-old Rose is relaying the tale to her granddaughter, you can feel the dislike for Rose's mother and fiancé in the audience and the sense of joy during the scenes with Rose and Jack. How dare her mother try to force Rose into a loveless relationship.

Early Christians would have seen the situation differently. They lived in an honor and shame society in which loyalty to one's family took precedence over everything else. In their perspective, it would be Rose's duty to sustain the honor of her family name by marrying Cal as arranged by her mother. Leaving her betrothal to Cal to be with Jack brought shame on her mother

and her family and dishonored herself. Her selfish focus on her own happiness at the expense of her family's honor would have been horrific to any community in biblical times (and even now in many Middle Eastern and Asian cultures).

Sirach shows us a hierarchy of loyalty representative of the culture:

I take pleasure in three things, and they are beautiful in the sight of God and of mortals: agreement among brothers and sisters, friendship among neighbors, and a wife and a husband who live in harmony. — Sirach 25:1

Sibling loyalty and amity had the highest priority of all. That and being friends with one's neighbors were more important than a happy marriage.

David shows the same notion in the start of Psalm 133.

Look, how good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity. — Psalm 133:1 (LEB)

With that perspective in mind, let's look at what Jesus says in part of this week's Gospel passage from Matthew.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace on the earth! I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”³⁵ For I have come to turn a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.³⁶ And the enemies of a man will be the members of his household.³⁷ The one who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and the one who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. — Matt 10:34–37 (LEB)

Jesus is saying something that would have astounded anyone hearing it: He expected his followers to put him ahead of their own families! Jesus was accurate and prophetic. After his ascension, followers of Jesus would be persecuted and rejected by their families and friends because of it. The new communities of disciples of Jesus—Christian communities—were equated to physical families in the level of dedication and loyalty expected within them. Paul uses the term, *brother*, 93 times in his letters, almost always in reference to a spiritual family relationship. Luke shows Ananias visiting the blinded Saul (who had been coming to Damascus to arrest disciples of Jesus), laying hands on him to heal him as Jesus commanded, and saying, “Brother, Saul, the Lord Jesus ... has sent me...” (Acts 9:17). That statement was a recognition to Saul of his new status as a member of this spiritual family.

Paul implores the Corinthians to behave as a spiritual family by reminding them 26 times that they are *brothers* (the Greek word used also applies in a mixed group and *brothers and sisters*). The intense family loyalty that Jesus declares will be torn apart if people choose to follow him is replaced by a loyalty to their spiritual family that is even stronger. Christians in prison were brought food and clothing by other Christians, risking death themselves by doing so when the prisoners' physical family members had denounced their sibling, parent, or child.

The old saying, “You can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family” is part right when applied to one's spiritual family. You **must** choose to be part of it, but you have no say over who else is part of it. If you decide to follow Jesus, you are agreeing to be his disciple. As a disciple, you are part of the Body of Christ, a Christian community—a spiritual family, in the biblical sense. It is a family whose needs come before our own. Our sense of pride, of being offended, anger, hurt, disappointment, or dissatisfaction are to be put aside for the sake of the rest of the family. The Western church neither

requires nor requests that of its members. When we look for churches, we're looking to satisfy our criteria, our wants and needs, not because of what we may be able to offer the church.

Our language betrays us: *My* journey with Jesus. *My* relationship with Jesus. *My* walk with the Lord. We pray to *Our* Father, and then sing "*My Jesus, My Savior.*" Our private prayers often betray a stronger desire that "*my* will be done" than that "*thy* will be done."

Very few people will actually disown their families and leave their parents and siblings because they don't get along with them, but hundreds of Christians do it every day to their spiritual brothers and sisters. The strange thing is that in countries where Christians are actually persecuted—imprisoned, tortured, and killed, not just made to feel uncomfortable socially—they are bound together, as the hymn describes *with ties that cannot be broken*. Here in the West, where Christians can worship freely without fear of execution for it, the slightest slight unravels their loose bonds of fellowship. This is not what it means to be a family.

The Christian bond is meant to adhere soul-to-soul. This is the type of family Jesus expects when he said, "*My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it*" (Luke 8:21 NRSV). This is the family Jesus promises will replace the physical one from which his followers were often forced.

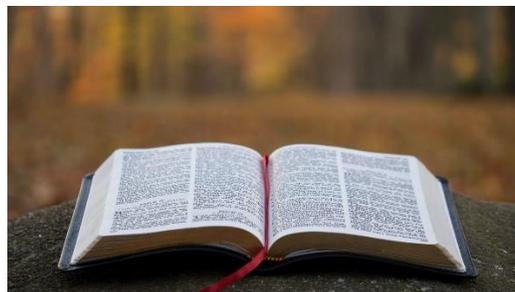
Being part of a family often requires a level of selflessness. When we get married and have children, we give up things we did when we were single because we have new responsibilities and people who are relying on us. It's the same with a spiritual family. The self-centered priorities we had before becoming disciples are replaced by God's love and gifting that enables us to do things for the sake of others. In fact, *Churches for the Sake of Others* is the name of Bp. Todd Hunter's diocese.

That selfless, loving devotion to each other is what makes us a spiritual family. A willingness to put the needs of others before our own. It's not a bed of Roses.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Austin

✠ ✠ ✠



Readings for the Third Sunday after Pentecost

*Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:8-11, [12-17], 18-20;
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39*

✠ ✠ ✠

Those Who Serve (6/21/2020)

Lessons ~ Al Manning

Prayers ~ Connie Whitener

Chalice ~ Mary Sue Houston & Sherri Wayman

✠ ✠ ✠

Discernment Teams Needed

We are in the process of establishing Discernment Teams for two candidates to the diaconate in our parish. Training will be done via Zoom at the end of this month. If you are interested in being part of a team or would like to know more about the discernment process, contact Deacon Linda at 928-259-6620.

✠ ✠ ✠



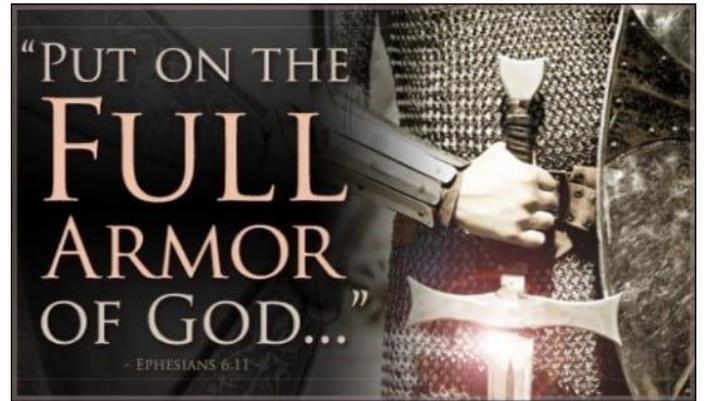
The Church pictorial directory is under construction. To ensure it is current (for at least a day or two) we need your help. Please email the church office with any new contact information (e-mail address, phone, snail mail address). Your help is appreciated.

Can You Help?

On Saturday July 11th, Civil Air Patrol will be collecting canned goods/non-perishable food for the Yuma Food Bank. Both Maj. Scotty Haskell and I belong to Squadron 508. Scotty is the Communication Officer and I am the Cadet Development Instructor. In both capacities, we are a Christian presence within a very diverse group of kids and seniors. We would welcome any donations from CtR for this very worthy cause. Deacon Linda



Deacon Linda blesses the squadron plane prior to the 'Rides for Kids' event.



We at CtR have a number of people who work at the Yuma hospital. Some work on the COVID-19 ward. Their shifts start at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Their role in the fight against this virus is challenging, in part because of the isolation, but also because of the underlying uncertainty and stifling aloneness. Patients suffer and die alone. Medical teams fight and struggle to save lives in isolation. There seems to be no end in sight, but they continue day in day out. The fear of contamination takes its toll, both in the workplace and at home and still they continue to work their 12-hour shifts. They need our prayers; they need to know we care. They need to know they are not alone in this fight. So, our Tuesday morning women's prayer group (Hillary, Diane, Sandy, Zoe, Patty and Sydney) would ask you to pray using Ephesians 6 (The Armor of God) as a guideline, over each and every front line worker at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. every day (or as your schedule permits).

For example: Lord we lift up to you all the front-line workers on the COVID-19 ward of our Yuma hospital. We ask that you put your full armor on each, so that they can stand strong in this fight against COVID-19. Place the belt of truth around every waist, the breastplate of righteousness over every heart, the gospel of peace on every foot, the shield of faith in front of every worker, the helmet of salvation on every head and the sword of the spirit in every hand. Let them feel your presence as they walk into work and as they return home. Let them sense your protection. Place your peace and righteousness before them, so that fear will be shot down. Let the truth of your word be in their hearts, assuring them that you are in control. Let faith sustain them, and your spirit guide them and may the Love of Christ permeate all they do in caring for others in need.



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 Bishop Keith, Abbie Bundy, Alfredo & Lilian Campa, Betty (Bo Peep) Penny, Donna, Kate Campa, Dcn. Linda, Lorraine Chavez, Steve Chacon, Merle Shyne, Laura, Darlene O., Maddy, Lauren, Steven, Elena, Armida, Armida's mother, Officer Shay K. Mikalonis, 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. Jerry and Sharon Bouck with Wendy, Rebecca and Andrew, Holy Redeemer Anglican Church, Tucson

The Rev. Peter and Julie Forbes, Kings Cross, Tucson (Oro Valley) AZ



EVENTS

Mark your Calendar

Sunday, June 21

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

Tuesday, June 23

6:30 a.m. Bible Study (Ezra) via ZOOM

Wednesday, June 24

2:00 p.m. Bible Study (Pauline Letters) via ZOOM

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

6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM

Sunday, June 28

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

CTR PRAYER PROJECT

Proverbs 3:5-Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

Last Sunday, at our little church on the Arizona rim, the sermon was about trusting God. This morning, three of the four devotions I read were about trusting God, so I think this week's Accord Prayer page needs to be about trust. Trust is one of those words that flows easily off the tongue, but is much harder to put into action. While searching for a Scripture verse about trust, I came upon this one in Proverbs, and I chose it because I think it reveals man's real problem with trust. We tend to trust either ourselves or others, instead of God. The footnote in my Life Principles Bible says we must reject our own limited perspective and honor God in every area of our life. It says that this is the heart of godly living. Instead of trying to do things on our own, without God, He wants us to go directly to Him with every need. Philippians 4:19 tells us that He is faithful to provide what we need. Looking back on life in our country over the course of this pandemic, I see we've been encouraged to trust lots of different people. First, it was the government, telling us to avoid

unnecessary travel stay at home, if possible, and increase our cleanliness practices. That sounded sensible, so we all towed the line. Then, the government formed a medical task force, and the task force encouraged us to close all non-essential businesses, not visit nursing homes or hospitals, stay inside and self-quarantine, and wear masks. As we saw the number of cases increasing at a rapid rate, this, too, sounded logical. Next, we were told to trust the Governors and Mayors, who closed all the schools, ordered social distancing, and issued orders to use a canoe, but not a motor boat, avoid buying paint and seeds, and walk on the dry sand, but not the wet sand. That's when people began to wonder if they should be trusting the advice of those elected officials. The Internet informed us that masks are dangerous. The nightly news told us some treatments were better than others. Churches changed to online services, indicating that even the religions shouldn't completely trust God to protect their members. And we trusted whomever we chose to trust. Can you just picture God up there, shaking His head and saying, "Oh, men of little faith!" Over the past several months, it appears that man has been doing just the opposite of what God instructed us through Solomon to do in the Book of Proverbs. We are leaning on our own understanding and leaving God completely out of the equation. We are trusting others, as knowledgeable as they may be, to determine our courses of action, instead of asking the Lord what He would have us do. And some are even choosing not to trust anyone but themselves, believing they have rights and are invincible, and not caring if their actions might possibly endanger others. Our God is a God of order. Trusting in the Lord with all our heart means acknowledging that God and God alone knows the best course of action, has the best perspective on all of this, and stands ready and willing to assist us in any way, if we will only ask Him. Trusting God takes patience. Trusting God takes humility. Trusting God takes surrender. Trusting God takes lots of prayer. And trusting God means God gets the glory, not mankind.

Praying in One Accord-Trusting God requires us to be in one accord with God's Word, God's commands, and God's entitlement to glory.

Accord Prayer-Lord Christ, You demonstrated trust from the moment You set foot on Earth. Help us see things from Your perspective, not our own, so You receive the glory and honor. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-Omniscient and Omnipotent Father, thank You for being trustworthy. Thank You for strengthening our resolve to place our complete faith and trust in You. Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠

Jeremiah Compelled to Preach (Jeremiah 20:7-13)

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

BECOME	BURNING	DENOUNCE
DERISION	DESTRUCTION	DISGRACE
EVERYONE	FIRE	HEART
LAUGHINGSTOCK	LIKE	LOCKED
LONG	LONGER	MENTION
MOCKING	NAME	OFTEN
OVERPOWERED	PERSUADED	PREVAIL
SHOUT	SPEAK	STUMBLE
THEN	VIOLENCE	YAHWEH