



**Making disciples who make disciples**  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 5, 2020

**Church Worship & Office Location**

2215 S 8th Ave, Yuma, AZ 85364  
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**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](http://ctryuma.org)

Find us on Facebook:



Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church,  
A Christian Community

**Parish Council Members**

Senior Warden

Sherri Wayman, [sswayman@yahoo.com](mailto:sswayman@yahoo.com)

Junior Warden

Jennifer Kircher, [jangyuma@yahoo.com](mailto:jangyuma@yahoo.com)

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David Wayman, [dwayman66@yahoo.com](mailto:dwayman66@yahoo.com)

**Next Parish Council Meeting**

**July 29, 2020**

**Currently services are on Facebook ONLY.**

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

**Please join us!**

**In Other Words – Dependence Day**

This weekend Americans are celebrating the 244<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our successful revolution against the oppressive English rule of King George III, having declared our independence in 1776. July 4 marks our national holiday known as Independence Day. We celebrate with fireworks, reminiscent of the battles fought to secure our freedom during the Revolutionary War.

As Americans, we don't particularly like monarchies. We invested too much blood and sweat in creating our republic to subject ourselves to governance by fiat ever again. So, Christianity is difficult for us.

John reminds us that Jesus set us free from our slavery to sin. The head of a household in biblical times had absolute authority over the people in it—family members, staff, and slaves—even regarding life and death. The first-born son had the delegated authority of the father. If he declared something—a purchase, policy, or prohibition—it had the same power as if it came directly from the Father.

So, if the son sets someone free, the decision is done. It needs no further approval. It isn't conditional. It can't be revoked by someone else. In John's Gospel, Jesus tells a crowd in the Temple courts, "*If you continue in my word you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free ... So, if the son sets you free, you will be truly free.*" — John 8:31–32, 36 (LEB).

Paul tells us, however, that if we are no longer slaves to sin, we are slaves to Jesus. We are designed to worship, and if we aren't worshipping God, we will find something else to worship. Where we spend most of our discretionary money is often an indication of what idols we have established as more important

than God. Often, sin becomes an idol for us. When we choose to continue sinning, we enslave ourselves to sin again. If we obey Jesus, as he commands disciples to do in order to be his disciples, we are slaves to him. Paul is quite clear about that.

*Do you not know that to whomever you present yourselves as slaves for obedience, **you are slaves to whomever you obey**, whether sin, leading to death, or obedience, leading to righteousness? — Rom 6:16*

Paul consistently declared himself as a slave to Jesus. We gloss over those parts of the text as we read them, not realizing the magnitude of the statement Paul is making. As a Roman citizen, Paul's expected loyalty was to the emperor in Rome. Recognizing someone else as one's king was treason—if Jesus is Lord, then Caesar isn't. Paul willingly accepted a role as slave (*doulos*) in the kingdom of God, evangelizing the Gentiles (sharing the Gospel) as his mission from Jesus, and had the audacity to publicly announce it to anyone who would listen.

Here are a few of Paul's statements about his role as a disciple of Christ.

*Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, — Rom 1:1*

*Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of the chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth ... — Titus 1:1*

*...If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a slave of Christ. — Gal 1:10*

*Tychicus, my dear brother ... and fellow slave in the Lord, — Col 4:7*

Paul also describes how a slave to Christ should behave.

*And the slave of the Lord **must not quarrel**, but **be kind toward everyone**, skillful in teaching, **tolerant** — 2 Tim 2:24*

*Epaphras, who is one of you, greets you, a slave of Christ always **struggling on behalf of you in his prayers**, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. — Col 4:12*

We don't like autocratic governance. We prefer a seat at the table, a vote in any decision being made, to have our say in any policy decisions that affect us. But that's not the way kingdoms work.

It takes real humility on our part to give our will over to Jesus as our master. We're just fine with the idea of Jesus as our Savior, it's with the idea of Jesus as our Lord that we have difficulty.

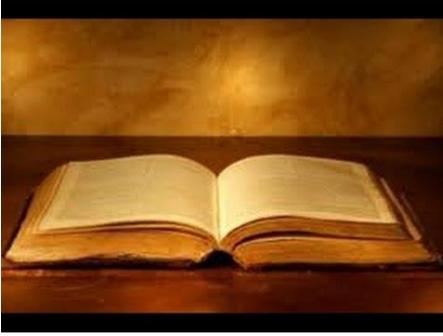
Peter tells us to give all our burdens to God to handle because he loves us. That's a strange sort of master, one who willingly accepts the burdens of his slaves; but that's what slavery to Jesus means.

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. — 1 Peter 5:6–7*

So, as we celebrate our independence as a nation this weekend, let us also celebrate our dependence on God, recognizing his costly sacrifice on our behalf, and willingly devoting our time here on earth in his service.

Your Fellow Slave in the Lord,

Fr. Austin



**Readings for the  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-15;  
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*



**Those Who Serve**  
Lessons ~ Al Manning  
Prayers ~ Sherri Wayman



Steve Tinsley ~ July 3  
Fr. Austin ~ July 15  
Johna Meek ~ July 17

*May the light of the Lord shine upon you  
and grant you happiness on your birthday and  
for many years to come.*



**Can You Help?**

This Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, Civil Air Patrol will be collecting canned goods/non-perishable food for the Yuma Food Bank. They would welcome any donations from CtR for this very worthy cause. Please contact Deacon Linda (259-6620) for more information.



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. Dr. Earle Fox, Good Shepherd, Mesa

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



**Sunday, July 5**  
11:30a.m. Worship Service (via Facebook)

**Tuesday, July 7**  
6:30 a.m. Bible Study (Nehemiah) via ZOOM

**Wednesday, July 8**  
2:00 p.m. Bible Study (Pauline Letters – 2 Corinthians) via ZOOM  
5:30 p.m. Worship Service (in church & via Facebook)

**Sunday, July 12**  
11:30 a.m. Worship Service (via Facebook)

