



Making disciples who make disciples
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 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

September 30, 2020

Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church has returned to **public gathering** for our worship services as well as continuing the Facebook live streaming.
Worship begins at 11:30 a.m.

Fore Word — Living as Christ

This week's passage from Paul's letter to the Philippians is an explanation of the statement he makes just before it. The lectionary leaves out the word "For," which in the English text begins the sentence. That's a hint for us to see what comes "beFore" it.

Let's look at the passage itself:

For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² But if it is to live in the flesh, this is fruitful work for me, and which I will prefer I do not know. ²³ But I am hard pressed between the two options, having the desire to depart and to be with Christ, for this is very much better. ²⁴ But to stay on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. ²⁵ And because I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that what you can be proud of may increase in Christ Jesus because of me through my return again to you. ²⁷ Only lead your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent I hear your circumstances, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one soul contending side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not letting yourselves be intimidated in anything by your opponents, which is a sign of destruction to them, but of your salvation, and this from God, ²⁹ because to you has been graciously granted on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer on behalf of

him,³⁰ *having the same struggle which you saw in me and now hear about in me.* — *Philippians 1:21–30 (LEB)*

In the paragraphs before (after his greeting, thanksgiving to God for them, and his prayer for their spiritual maturity), he tells them that his imprisonment for being a Christian is well-known by all the residents of that region, and has led to many more people speaking publicly about the Gospel. He puts them in two groups: ones who are doing it doing it as a means of raising their status due to their envy of Paul—from “selfish ambition” as Paul calls it. The others are doing it out of love, knowing that God appointed Paul to spread the Gospel and they are doing their part to help fulfill that mission.

Paul tells them that the motives of the individuals don’t affect the result: Jesus is still being preached. By Paul’s example, others are carrying on his work regardless of his freedom or incarceration. He states his belief that he will be released as based on his hope in God, not by his understanding of the circumstances around him. This is a similar perspective to the one shown by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:17-18) as they were being sentenced to death in the furnace. They believed through their trust in Yahweh that he was keeping them alive, even though their circumstances indicated the opposite.

Paul’s statement that Christ will be exalted whether in Paul’s life or death, is not a statement of uncertainty regarding the outcome of Paul’s situation. God had told Paul when he would be done, and his time had not arrived. Paul is using a term that describes his entire life as dedicated to Jesus, in a saying that was fairly common at the time.

In the sentences that follow, Paul displays the inner turmoil of living or dying for believers. He also uses an alliterative style that is lost in translation. “Christ” and “gain” have similar sounds in Greek: To live is *Christos* and to die is *kerdos*. Paul understands that the choice is totally up to God, and that both life and death serve a purpose. Living is in Christ, dying is gain, because while living he is doing important

work for Jesus, but in dying, which he would prefer, Paul gets to be *with* Jesus. He realizes that his purpose in remaining here is for the benefit of others.

The rest of the Body of Christ has the same purpose. It exists for the sake of others. The friendships, music, and sense of belonging are resulting effects of being part of the Body, but they are not the purpose. The purpose of the church is to bring people to salvation through Jesus. The church exists for the sake of others. Many Christians behave as though their church exists only for their enjoyment, entertainment, and education. Those aspects help enable the church to do its mission but are not the reason Jesus keeps Christians in the world.

It would be preferable to most Christians to be brought into Heaven immediately after accepting Jesus as their savior; however, that’s not how it works. Christians remain in this world, not for their benefit (they’re already saved), but for the benefit of others.

In emphasizing this perspective Anglican Bishop Todd Hunter named his diocese “Churches for the Sake of Others” (www.c4so.org). Their self-description shows the status and function of Christians as “ambassadors of Christ” (2 Cor 5:20): *“We plant and cultivate church communities that are embassies of the kingdom of God, developing followers of Jesus who are Spirit-enabled ambassadors of the kingdom—sent into the world for the sake of others.”*

It seems so logical and obvious, yet I would bet that most Christians have heard many times that they are ambassadors of Christ but never thought of their church as an embassy. Christians are in this world, but not of it (John 18:36). We belong to a different kingdom.

While we are in this world, as ambassadors proclaiming the message of our king to the people here, our base of operations is the embassy—our church. Embassies fly their home nation’s flag publicly. Their ambassadors are clearly identified, How about Christians? Are we as willing to display

our allegiance to our king to others, or are we afraid of their reaction?

Paul closes this week's passage with a reminder to the Philippians to stand firm in their faith, to declare the Gospel clearly and consistently despite the hardships they will face—to "live (their) lives in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ," for the sake of others.

Because to live is Christ and to die is gain, but while we're here, Jesus has work for us to do.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Austin

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Readings for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalms 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

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They're here! They're here!

The current edition of "Our Daily Bread" is available for you to pick up on Sunday morning. Daily devotions will be sent out through Sunday. Remember you can also find them online at odb.org.

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Those Who Serve (September 20)

Altar Guild ~ Mary Sue Houston
Ushers ~ Randy & Patty Smith
Lessons ~ Jeffrey Polston
Prayers ~ Alan Kircher
Chalice ~ Mary Sue Houston



Sunday, September 20

11:30a.m. Worship Service (*In church and via Facebook*)

Monday, September 21

Office Closed ~ Carrie out of office

Tuesday, September 22

6:30 a.m. Bible Study – Job (*via ZOOM*)

Wednesday, September 23

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

5:30 p.m. Prayer, Praise and Healing Service (*In church & via Facebook*)

Sunday, September 27

11:30 a.m. Worship Service (*In church and via Facebook*)

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FREE Livestream Conference September 24-26, 2020

Last Chance to sign-up for this Conference!

(www.greenhousemovement.com/heal)

With teaching, prayer, worship, and fellowship, we hope to offer space for everyone to draw closer to the healing presence of God. Check out the Website (listed above) for more information about the leaders and to register. **It's free.**



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 Scotty Haskell, St. Paul’s Church (Payson, AZ), Christopher Randle, Diane Manning, Fr. Austin, 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, Officer Shay K. Mikalonis, Niki, Roni, Bob, Carol, Mickey Greenlund, Zachary, Kathy Watson, 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. Ernest and Lalitha Victor, The Anglican Campus Fellowship, Arizona State University

The Rev. Peter and Kristie Smith, with their children Cohen, Hannah, and Ezra, Living Faith Anglican Church, Tempe

Deacon Matt and Tina Allen, with Tina, Brigid, and Aiden, Living Faith Anglican Church, Tempe



The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard Matthew 20:1-16

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

AGREEMENT	ALSO	APIECE
BECAUSE	CAME	COME
DENARIUS	EARLY	ELEVENTH
FIRST	GIVE	HEAVEN
HIRE	HOUR	HOUSE
KINGDOM	LAST	LIKE
MASTER	MORNING	OTHERS
PEOPLE	RECEIVE	SAID
SAME	SENT	STANDING
VINEYARD	WANT	WENT

CTR PRAYER PROJECT

John 14:16-17-And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.

Many years ago, someone sent me a photo on the Internet of the Challenger blowing up in space. I sent it to my son, telling him how neat it was to see a photo of that. He quickly responded, telling me that the photo was a fake--that it had been photo-shopped, because there was nobody in space and no cameras to capture the Challenger from outside the spaceship. Color me red! I was very embarrassed to come to the realization that I hadn't thought of that before sending it on to family and friends. Now, when I don't have time to verify things I receive on the Internet, I try not to forward them. I'm not batting 100%, but I'm a lot better than I was in the past. Today, with all that is going on with the worldwide pandemic and USA politics, I'm having difficulty believing ANYTHING and EVERYTHING! I read the headlines in the newspaper, and have to read to the end of the article to get to the truth. Last week, the CDC lowered its calculation of deaths in the USA caused by Covid-19 to approximately 6% of the entire population. (My brother tested positive, and 3 days later tested negative!) Acquaintances are telling me that people in California are moving out in droves, while others insist that everything is A-OK. And on the political scene, what we hear and choose to believe is dependent on which side of the fence we are on. But truth is truth. We believe the Bible because it was inspired by the Spirit of Truth. We believe Jesus spoke the truth, because He never sinned. We believe God has given us the Spirit of Truth because He knew there would be times like these, when we don't know who or what to believe. But how many of us take the time to verify the truth by taking it to the Spirit for confirmation? How many of us trust our family member or best friend more than we trust the Spirit of Truth, Himself? How many of us quickly pass along tidbits of information without checking

to see if they have been "photo-shopped"? God wants us to depend on Him for our every need. We need to be FROGS. Fully Relying On God! It used to be that a man's word could be trusted as "the Gospel Truth". Not anymore. People say and do whatever brings them the most benefit. Children learn at an early age to lie to avoid punishment. We used to be able to trust the journalists for the truth, but not anymore. I've even known a priest who said it was better to act first and explain later than to ask permission before acting and risk disapproval. What kind of an example does that set for us? When we can't trust our elected officials, our teachers, our journalists, or our priests, whom can we trust? Thanks be to God! We can ALWAYS trust HIM! But we must first get into the habit of running everything by the Counselor before we act or pass along information we've not yet verified. God's Word tells us that the world cannot accept the Counselor, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. The Spirit of Truth is the Spirit of our Lord, our God, our Savior, our King, our Teacher, our Shepherd--our EVERYTHING. And, as Christians, when we fail to ask HIM to verify the truth, we have no excuse for swallowing the lies.

Praying in One Accord-Whenever we want to pray in one accord with the Truth, all we need to do is consult the Spirit of Truth before we begin our prayer.

Accord Prayer-Lord Christ, You defeated the father of lies on the Cross, but we are still tempted to believe him; help us go straight to the Spirit of Truth to verify everything we are tempted to believe. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-Heavenly Father, thank You for sending us the Counselor to help us see God and know God; thank You for guiding us to the Truth whenever we ask for His help. Amen.