



Making disciples who make disciples
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2020

Church Worship & Office Location

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Worship Service Times

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

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Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church,
A Christian Community

Parish Council Members

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Next Parish Council Meeting

October 28, 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.

In Word – Culture of Honor and Shame

Judaism in 1st-century Israel was not a single, monolithic perspective. There were about five major groups, commonly separated by political ideology more than theology. The Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Essenes, and Zealots.

The Pharisees believed in the full text of Scripture as adapted by them to create rabbinic law, authority, and binding rules of oral tradition.

The Sadducees believed in the written Scriptures only, not oral tradition, and just the first five books (the *Torah*, or *Pentateuch*, in Greek). They did not believe in the resurrection, since it is not mentioned in those books.

The Herodians were supporters of King Herod, and therefore, supporters of Roman rule, which had installed Herod as king, despite his status as an Edomite instead of Israelite, and subsequently a birth line not descending from David, as required biblically for kings of Israel.

The Essenes focused on holiness and proper living in community outside the rest of Judaism. The region of Qumran was home to them, and much of what we know about that community we get from the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were found there. They are not specifically mentioned in the Bible.

The Zealots were intensely opposed to Roman rule and sought to change the status quo by any means available,

including stabbing Roman soldiers in crowds. One of Jesus' 12 apostles was a Zealot (Simon, mentioned in Matt 10:4, Mark 3:18, and Luke 6:15).

The Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians were not allies. The common thread uniting them in the Gospels was their hatred for Jesus, which is why in this week's Gospel passage from Matthew (22:15-22), we see two of them allied to try to trap Jesus.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" — Matt 22:15–17 (NRSV)

Their plan was that if Jesus said he supported the taxes he would be viewed by the people as collaborating with the Romans who were oppressing Israel. If Jesus spoke against the tax, then he would be fomenting sedition against the emperor. The Pharisees were no fans of Rome, but they enjoyed their lifestyle and didn't want that interfered with by any new "Messiah uprisings." So, we see them working with the Herodians in this plan they thought was foolproof.

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹ They answered,

"The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. — Matt 22:15–22

A question that comes to mind is, "Why did these Jewish religious leaders have denarii instead of shekels?" The Roman coins had engraved images of a person calling himself a God and are therefore not allowed for Temple donations. One coin inscription reads, "Tiberius Caesar Augustus, son of the Divine Augustus."

Jesus declared that since Caesar's likeness is on the coin created and used by Rome, then Rome has the authority to demand them back. And since everything belongs to God we should give to God without complaint.

The text says, "they left him and went away." The next passage shows the Sadducees trying a similar tactic with the same embarrassing result. After that the Pharisees sent a lawyer, and that fails as well. In each case, no one dared ask him any more questions.

Public questions are used for two purposes: Either to gain knowledge, or to embarrass the person being asked by them being unable to answer correctly. The second choice is what these leaders were trying to accomplish. It kept backfiring on them though and they were the ones publicly humiliated. In a culture based on honor and shame, publicly shaming someone is a tremendous insult (despite the fact that that was exactly what they were trying to do to Jesus).

It wasn't until after these humiliating exchanges that these separate political groups of religious leaders allied themselves to have Jesus killed.

But beyond mere death, which could lead to martyrdom in the eyes of his followers. Jesus had to be destroyed, in the most shameful way possible. Thus, crucifixion became their plan.

If they could humiliate Jesus, they would regain their own lost honor. Showing him to be cursed by God would clearly show he was not the Messiah after all.

Deuteronomy showed “*When someone is convicted of a crime punishable by death and is executed, and you hang him on a tree, his corpse must not remain all night upon the tree; you shall bury him that same day, for anyone hung on a tree is under God’s curse.*” — Deut 21:22–23.

The problem was that that Jesus was innocent. The text in Hebrew uses a single word that usually means “*sins,*” which gets translated in many English texts as “*is convicted of a crime,*” or “*commits a crime.*” Jesus did not sin, so he should not be punished by death. Thus, Jesus’ crucifixion further shamed the religious leaders instead of himself. Their attempt to retrieve their lost honor instead brought even more honor to Jesus through his resurrection.

Pride is a powerful force. These were once holy men who had devoted their lives to serving Yahweh to the best of their ability. They didn’t see that Jesus was the culmination of the promises in Scripture; they saw him as a threat to their comfortable lifestyle. Their pride kept them from seeing God’s truth. Their pride led them to believe political stability was their goal as leader of God’s people. Their pride led them to reject the promised Messiah.

Many people today have hardened their hearts against Jesus. They see the love of Christ as a threat to their political status quo—a threat to the behaviors they have grown accustomed to that defy God’s desire for his creation and grieve his spirit.

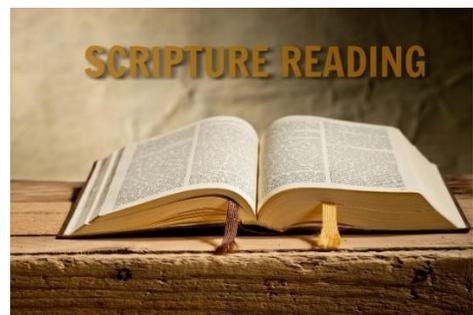
In these difficult times, we need to put our pride aside and recognize the embodiment of Jesus in all his disciples. We need to prayerfully consider how Christ is calling each of us to be salt and light. If we are baptized into Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit as one of his own, we belong to God and not this world.

So, give to God the things that are God’s.

In Christ,

Fr. Austin

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Readings for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

*Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9, [10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22*

† † †

Those Who Serve (October 18)

Altar Guild ~ Sherri Wayman
Ushers ~ Jim Slater & Dave Wayman
Lessons ~ Ann Traverso
Prayers ~ Sherri Wayman
Chalice ~ Sherri Wayman & Jeffrey Polston

Prayer, Praise and Healing Service Wednesday, October 21 5:30 p.m. "Healing of Our Nation"

Invite a friend, or two, and join us as we pray for God's continued blessing, as we strive to bring Christ's healing touch into our world.

Deacon Linda



UP COMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 18

11:30a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, October 20

6:30 a.m. Bible Study – Job

9:30 a.m. Prayers and Squares

1 – 3 p.m. Bible Study at Dorothy Warner's home

Wednesday, October 21

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

5:30 p.m. Prayer, Praise, and Healing Service

Sunday, October 25

11:30 a.m. Worship Service



Join Fr. Austin on a trip to Israel!



TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

Brochures and Registration forms for Fr. Austin's trip are available in the Narthex at church, or by contacting the office. Trip will depart on February 22 and return on March 1, 2021. For more information, contact Fr. Austin.



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 Bill Ramsey, Barbara Ramsey, Connie, Sue, Scotty Haskell, St. Paul's Church (Payson, AZ), Christopher Randle, Diane Manning, Fr. Austin, Bishop Keith, Abbie Bundy, Betty (Bo Peep) Penny, Donna, 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, Tyler, 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. Austin and Mary Mansfield, Christ the Redeemer, Yuma, AZ

Deacon Linda Stokes and Everett Whitacre, Christ the Redeemer, Yuma, AZ

Deacon John and Carol Jordan, Desert Oasis Fellowship, Las Vegas



CtR Prayer Project

James 4:12-There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

My husband and I have just returned home from our summer spent on the mountain top. No television there. No newspaper there. And in the middle of a worldwide pandemic, little or no socializing there. We got home just in time to tune in to the debates and the beginning of the Supreme Court nominee hearings. In both debates, there was a lot of judging

going on, and in the hearings, there is a lot of debating going on. Here on earth, our temporal home, we have numerous lawmakers and Supreme Court Justices, but in our spiritual, eternal home, we have only one Lawgiver and our Lawgiver also serves as our Supreme Court Judge. When God created us, He gave us free will, so we humans have a tendency to write our own laws and change them whenever the circumstances change. If we don't like a particular law, rather than elect lawmakers who will write and pass new and better ones, we opt to either ignore the old one or find someone else's manmade law to follow. We rationalize that we have good reason for ignoring the laws in effect. We calculate that either there will be no consequences for choosing our own version over the legitimate one, or that it is unlikely our disobedience will ever be discovered. But as Christians, we are to have no other "gods" above our Creator God. Our nation might ignore God's laws, but as believers and disciples of our Lord and Savior, we have committed ourselves to obey them. God's laws have not changed since He first gave them to man. He gave us the Bible to read and record them; He gave us His Son to model them and teach them to us; and He sent us His Holy Spirit to remind us of them and interpret them, whenever we're in doubt. When He sends His Son back to earth to judge both the living and the dead, we will have no excuse for choosing man-made laws over God-given laws. And our omniscient and totally-just Judge will have every right to condemn the sinful disobedience of man for which He suffered and died on the Cross.

Praying in One Accord-When we choose to ignore God's laws, we are choosing to ignore God Himself.

Accord Prayer-Lord Christ, we acknowledge You as the one, true God--our Lawgiver and our Judge; Help us avoid the temptation to be our own god, write our own laws, and judge our own choices. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-Heavenly Father, thank You for doing everything in Your power to help us live godly lives; thank You for the wisdom of Your plan and Your laws, and especially for showing us through Your Son that total obedience is a choice we ourselves must make. Amen.



Paying Taxes to Caesar (Matthew 22:15-22)

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

ANYONE	BECAUSE	CAESAR
CARE	CONSULTED	DISCIPLES
ENTRAP	HERODIANS	HYPOCRITES
JESUS	KNEW	KNOW
MALICIOUSNESS	OPINION	PEOPLE
PERMITTED	PHARISEES	REGARD
SAID	SAYING	SENT
SHOW	STATEMENT	TEACH
TEACHER	TELL	TESTING
THEN	THEREFORE	THINGS
THINK	TRUTH	WENT