



Making disciples who make disciples
Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020

Church Worship & Office Location

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

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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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Jo Towner, josephine.towner@gmail.com

Ann Traverso, anntraverso@hotmail.com

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Next Parish Council Meeting

December 16 6:30 p.m.

Please Note:

Faith Lutheran Church Council has informed us that the heating and cooling system in the Sanctuary will be replaced between Nov. 20 and December 13. This means there will be NO A/C and NO heating available during that time. Please bring a jacket or sweater if you are prone to getting chilled. Thank you!

In Word – How We Should Be

There's a saying in theology, "Don't put a comma where God has put a period." It refers to adding our own perspective rationalizing a behavior that God specifically forbids. The reverse should apply in translation, "Don't put a period where God has put a comma." English translations often do this in the New Testament letters to make them readable. For example, our NRSV Bible shows five sentences in the beginning of Ephesians (3-14), despite Paul having written it as one long, run-on sentence. Verses 15-23 are also one sentence, as is the start of the next chapter (2:1-10).

In 2 Peter, the Lectionary stops Sunday's passage not just in the middle of a sentence, but also in the middle of a verse (15a). If congregations never hear the next two-and-a-half verses, it is easier to discount the authority of Paul's comments in his letters. We'll look at that in a moment.

First, let's look at the warning we see in Peter's letter. God is merciful and prefers that everyone turn away from sin rather than perish—but will end the world at some point. The end is described as horrific, not as a quiet gathering where everyone is seated in an open field watching a movie of their lives (as in the Left Behind book series).

Now, dear friends, do not let this one thing escape your notice, that one day with the Lord is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not delaying the promise, as some consider slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not want any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will disappear with a rushing noise, and the celestial bodies will be destroyed by being burned up, and the earth and the deeds done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹ Because all these things are being destroyed in this way, what sort of people must you be in holy behavior and godliness, ¹² while waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by being burned up and the celestial bodies will melt as they are consumed by heat! — 2 Peter 3:8–12 (LEB)

The end of the world looks a lot like a supernova of a nearby star or nuclear war. Zechariah describes people's flesh rotting "while they are still on their feet; their eyes will rot in their sockets and tongues will rot in their mouths" (Zech 13:12). That's a pretty accurate description of the resulting heat from a nuclear blast if you were describing a vision without knowing anything about nuclear bombs. Maybe that's how God will do it; maybe not. We don't know. What we do know is that it will happen somehow and some day, and we are warned to live our lives as though it could happen at any moment.

But according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness resides. ¹⁴ Therefore, dear friends, because you are waiting for these things, make every effort to be found at peace, spotless and unblemished in him. ¹⁵ And regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. — 2 Peter 3:13–15a

That period at the end is really a comma. Verse 15b is a continuation of Peter's sentence and thought. Let's look at the rest of the verses, which close out his letter.

...just as also our dear brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom that was given to him, ¹⁶ as he does also in all his letters, speaking in them about these things, in which there are some things hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, as they also do the rest of the scriptures. ¹⁷ Therefore, dear friends, because you know this beforehand, guard yourselves so that you do not lose your own safe position because you have been led away by the error of lawless persons. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. — 2 Peter 3:15b–18

"Our dear brother, Paul" can only refer to the Paul described by Luke in the book of Acts, whose letters comprise about half of the entire New Testament (13 of 27 letters/books). Jews, and therefore Jewish Christians, believed that wisdom was something *given by God*, not developed by humans. Peter's statement that Paul's letters all attest to the statement he is making about salvation includes the recognition that others who are "ignorant and unstable" are distorting his teachings "to their own destruction," as they do "the rest of the Scriptures." The term *graphas* means *writings*, and in this context of distorting certain writings, Peter is undoubtedly counting Paul's letter as part of the God-inspired writings he had previously been only those in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

Paul's pastoral comment to Timothy (2 Timothy 3:16–17), "**All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, in order that the person of God may be competent, equipped for every good work**" by Peter's reckoning would include all of Paul's letters.

Some contemporary Christians (both clergy and laity) find that their perspective of Jesus's requirements of his followers is different from Paul's—that Paul seems unfair to women and didn't reject slavery or call for overthrowing the Roman government, and therefore is not applicable to our world today (which by implication means we are more "enlightened" than the church was back then). It's easier to get away with preaching that if no one you're preaching to has read or heard Peter's description of Paul's writings as authoritative and inspired by God *just as much as every other bit of Scripture*. Rather than trying to understand the history, background and context of Paul and his audience, they find it easier to dismiss or distort his statements. Peter warns that doing that will lead to our destruction.

Peter's warning about how we should live in anticipation of Christ's return includes a warning that since we are now aware of these things, we should ensure we are not led away by false teachings. Only by knowing what the Bible actually says can we do that.

To grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus requires work and study, more than just doing church on Sunday mornings. As the old saying goes, "Jesus is calling for disciples, not decisions."

Your Brother in Christ,
Fr. Austin



Readings for December 6

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8



This Sunday is the **celebration of St. Nicholas**. He will visit and tell us his story. Come and enjoy. Unfortunately, there will be no photos with St. Nicholas this year.



Prayer, Praise, & Healing Service Wednesday, December 16 5:30 p.m.

In addition to a testimony, prayers, and communion, we will be singing Christmas carols and collecting socks for Crossroads Mission. Contact Deacon Linda (928-259-6620) for more information.



Found: A man's ring, outside the Altar Guild door. To describe and claim it call Deacon Linda 928-259-6620.



Our Annual Sock Drive to benefit those at the Crossroads Mission will begin on Sunday. Socks are needed for men, women, and children. For more information, please contact Motty Durham.



**The office will be closed
Monday, December 7.**



CTR Prayer Project

Romans 15:13-Now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we begin another new Church Year, our focus is once again on hope, joy, and peace. We hope this pandemic will end. We hope our family members will remain safe from Covid-19. We hope our businesses can re-open and that our children and grandchildren can go back to school. We hope we will be free to travel once again. We hope we can all worship in person together again. We hope we will never have to go through all this again in our lifetimes. But wait! This type of hope is based on uncertainty--not knowing for sure whether 2021 will be a carbon copy of 2020. And, if what we hope for doesn't pan out, any sign of joy and peace we may be looking forward to is unlikely to surface. Right? Wrong! Romans 15:13 tells us our hope comes from God, and that the way to abound in it is by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, our hope is a matter of choice, isn't it? We can trust the world and all its leaders for our hope, or we can trust our God and all His strength and power for our hope. The world is in a mess right now---suffering the effects of the very same pandemic that we are suffering here in the USA. Our world leaders are at a loss as to how to deal with a pandemic. Nothing seems to be working, and the world economy is suffering, as well. God, on the other hand, is all-seeing, all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present. He knows the source of the pandemic. He knows the cause of it. He knows when it started and when it will end. He knows who will live in fear and who will live in faith. He has the capability of revealing the cure or holding it back for His

own beneficent purposes. He has the power to calm us, to help us cope, to sustain us, and to bring us His peace---the peace that surpasses understanding and the peace that provides calm in the midst of chaos. And He has given every one of us, His Children, the hope of everlasting life with Him. So, is our hope just wishful thinking, or is it based on the Rock-solid promises of our awesome and amazing God? As we begin a new Christian Year, let's choose to abound in the hope that only our God can provide.

Praying in One Accord-In order for our Christian lives to be characterized by hope, we must be in one accord with the God of hope.

Accord Prayer-Lord Christ, before You came to earth, sinful men were helpless and hopeless; as we await Your Second Coming, fill us with the hope that assures us Your sacrifice on the Cross has opened for us the gates of eternal life with You. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-God of hope, our hope is in You. Thank You for being our hope, filling us with hope, giving us the hope of glory, and calling us to a living hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



Do you have a prayer request that you would like to submit?

Our Thursday morning prayer group will be praying for all submissions at our weekly meetings. Kindly submit your prayers to Deacon Linda via email – llstokes1@me.com, or call at 928-259- 6620, or fill out a form found in your bulletin during our worship service.

All prayers are kept confidential.



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 Pat Galloway, Dorothy Green, Mary Mansfield, Ann Traverso, Linda Pruden, Denise, 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. Jerry and Sharon Bouck with Wendy, Rebecca and Andrew, Holy Redeemer, Tucson

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



Our Noisy Offering is Back!

The Noisy Offering Can will be in the back of the church every Sunday. Your Noisy Offerings will be totaled each month and delivered to the selected charity.



Altar Guild has the

Church Year Calendars

available for \$5 each. They are available in the foyer. Please leave your payment in the basket. Thank you and God bless you.

Poinsettia Orders

Greetings! It is that time of year for poinsettias for the altar on Christmas Eve. A donation of \$15 is suggested for a live poinsettia. After the service, they will be given to shut-ins and residents at Yuma Nursing Care who do not have family or friends visiting. Order forms can be found at the end of this newsletter and in the Narthex on Sunday.



Sunday, December 6 2nd Sunday of Advent
11:30a.m. Worship Service

Monday, December 7
Office Closed

Tuesday, December 8
6:30 a.m. Bible Study – Psalms
9:30 a.m. Prayers and Squares – CtR Library
1 – 3 p.m. Bible Study at Dorothy Warner’s home

Wednesday, December 9
2:00 p.m. Bible Study - Pauline Letters
5:30 p.m. Worship Service

Thursday, December 10
10 a.m. – Noon Women’s Prayer Group - CtR Library

Sunday, December 13 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent
11:30 a.m. Worship Service



Join Fr. Austin on a Trip to Israel!

Don't miss out!
Time is running out to reserve your place on this trip!
You will depart Feb. 22 and return



March 1. Brochures and Registration forms for Fr. Austin’s trip are available in the Narthex at church, or by contacting the office.



*Poinsettia Altar
Flowers for
Christmas Eve*

From: _____

*Indicate in Memory of or
Thanksgiving for:*

Amount of donation: _____

Suggested donation is \$ 15

*Thank you for supporting the Altar Guild
with your offering.*

Comfort For God's People

Isaiah 40:1-11

B R I N G E R L L H D N C
 F H E A R T L A O N T E O
 L U E C A L L B U O L W M
 O M L W E G O O D B K S P
 W A L F S I R R U H S E U
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| BRINGER | CALL | CLEAR |
| COMFORT | COMPULSORY | DOUBLE |
| EVERY | FLOWER | FULFILLED |
| GOOD | GRASS | GROUND |
| HAND | HEART | HUMANKIND |
| JERUSALEM | LABOR | LIFT |
| LIKE | LOOK | MAKE |
| MOUNTAIN | NEWS | PAID |
| PEOPLE | RECEIVED | SPEAK |
| STRENGTH | VOICE | WILDERNESS |