



Making disciples who make disciples
First Sunday of Christmas
December 27, 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
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Worship Service Times

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

Church Mailing Address:

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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

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Jennifer Kircher, jangyuma@yahoo.com

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Next Parish Council Meeting
January 27 6:30 p.m.

A Christmas Poem (Author Unknown)

At Christmas time there was a man
who looked so out of place
As people rushed about him
at a hurried sort of pace.

He stared at all the Christmas lights,
the tinsel everywhere,
The shopping center Santa Claus,
with children gathered near.

The mall was packed with shoppers who
were going to and fro,
Some with smiles, some with frowns,
and some too tired to go.

They rested on the benches
or they hurried on their way
To fight the crowds for purchases
to carry home that day.

The music from the stereo
was playing loud and clear.
Of Santa Claus and snowmen,
and funny-nosed reindeer.

He heard the people talk about
the good times on the way.
Of parties, fun, and food galore,
and gift exchange that day.

“I’d like to know what’s going on,”
the man was heard to say.

“There seems to be some sort of
celebration on the way.

“And would you tell me who this is,
all dressed in red and white?
And why are children asking him
about a special night?”

The answer came in disbelief,
“I can’t believe my ear!
I can’t believe you do not know
that Christmas time is here!

“The time when Santa comes around with gifts
for girls and boys.

When they’re asleep on Christmas Eve,
he leaves them books and toys.

“The man you see in red and white
is Santa Claus, so sly.
The children love his joyful laugh
and twinkle in his eye.

“His gift-packed sleigh is pulled along
by very small reindeer.
As he flies quickly through the air
while darting there and here.

“The children learn of Santa Claus
while they are still quite small.
When Christmas comes he is
the most important one of all!”

The stranger hung his head in shame;
he closed a nail pierced hand.
His body shook in disbelief;
he did not understand.

A shadow crossed his stricken face;
his voice was low but clear.
“After all these years they still don’t know...”
... and Jesus shed a tear.

In the 16th century, Martin Luther had noticed the drift toward materialism at Christmastime and was so disturbed by it, he preached about the importance of the people turning their focus away from it and back to the “Christ child.” Since both Luther and the people to whom he preached were German, “Christ child” was pronounced differently in translation. The term for *child* in German is *kind* (from which we get *kindergarten* in English—literally a garden for children). Both *Christ* and *kind* in English have a

long vowel sound (like the English, *ice*), whereas, in German it’s a short sound (like the English, *kin*). It didn’t take long for the English-speaking Western Christians to convert *Christ Kind* into *Kris Kringle*—a new name for most well-known icon of Christmas materialism.

This poem reminds us that our thoughts at Christmas should be of God’s gift to humanity, not our deliveries from Amazon or Walmart. And as we look to the kid in the crib, we should be mindful of the Christ on the Cross—the ultimate purpose for the incarnation we celebrate this Friday.

Feliz Navidad!

Fr. Austin



Readings for December 27

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

Psalm 147

Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7

John 1:1-18



Those Who Serve

Altar Guild ~ Jennifer Kircher

Ushers ~ Randy & Patty Smith

Lessons ~ Al Manning

Prayers ~ Dorothy Warner

Chalice ~ Sherri Wayman & Alan Kircher



CTR Prayer Project

Mark 2:27-Then He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”

When I read this verse in a devotion this morning, I immediately thought that, like the Pharisees, we could easily turn this around and replace the word Sabbath with the word Christmas. Jesus was telling His disciples that God intended the Sabbath as a day of rest from their labors, not a day on which they had to worry about accidentally doing something that could be considered “work”. Christmas today has become work (at least for women in the household). Cooking, baking, decorating, writing and addressing Christmas cards, shopping, wrapping and tagging gifts, organizing, packing, and executing family gatherings, and when all is said and done, cleaning, un-decorating, storing everything, and writing thank-you’s. Christmas was very different when I was a child. We purchased our tree a few days before Christmas, decorated it on Christmas Eve, and took it down on Epiphany. We attended church services on Christmas morning, not on Christmas Eve. Our stockings were filled with fruit, nuts, and a few hygiene supplies, rather than with jewelry, gift cards, and candy. Nowadays, it appears Christmas was made for man. Cities put up their decorations before Thanksgiving, and stores start selling Christmas wares before Halloween. Christmas carols used to delight shoppers right up to closing time on Christmas Eve, (and stores weren’t open on Sundays), but now we are hard-pressed to hear carols even on the radio. God made Christmas for man by sending His only Son as a baby into a humble family in order to save us from our sins. Man has done everything he can to turn Christmas into a list of manmade preferences: No nativity sets in schools or on government properties; “Happy Holidays” instead of “Merry Christmas”; blow-up Santas, snowmen, and reindeer instead of ever-green wreaths, stars, and bells. And with the pandemic restrictions this year, the “Christmas made for man” is bitterly complaining about not being able to shop locally, eat at favorite restaurants, travel cross country to visit friends and relatives, or gather the entire family around the table for dinner. The Christmas God created for man celebrates the true meaning of Christmas: a human baby born to die on the Cross and free man from sin; the assurance of our forgiveness and salvation; the hope of a future government led by a divine King; a new life in Christ, leading to eternal life with Him; the fellowship and camaraderie of the Church; the gift of the Holy Spirit and immortality; and peace and joy in the midst of whatever life throws at us. I, for one, prefer Christmas made for man, and I’m doing everything through the power of the Holy Spirit to preserve

things just the way God intended them to be. Won’t you join me?

Praying in One Accord-When Jesus is the reason for the season, we are in one accord with the true meaning of Christmas.

Accord Prayer-Lord Christ, it is so easy for us to buy into the commercialism of Christmas, but if we truly want to experience Christmas joy, we need You to help us put You first, others next, and ourselves last. Please help us do this. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-Father God, thank You for creating the Sabbath as a day of rest and worship, and Christmas as a day of thanksgiving for the gift of Your Son, the gift of our salvation, and the gift of hope of eternal life with You. Amen.



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 the family of Mary Mansfield, Fr. Austin, Pat Galloway, Dorothy Green, Ann Traverso, Linda Pruden, Denise, Connie, Sue, Scotty Haskell, St. Paul’s Church (Payson, AZ), Christopher Randle, Diane Manning, 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, 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 Right Rev. Keith and Gail Andrews,
Bishop of the Diocese of Western Anglicans

The Very Rev. Thomas and Elizabeth Phillips,
Dean of the Deanery of Arizona

Spencer Johnson, President of the Executive Committee of the Diocese

Roger Pelham, Chairman, the Steering Committee of the Deanery



The Birth of Jesus Christ

Luke 2:1-7

Sunday, December 27

11:30a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, December 29

9:30 a.m. Prayers and Squares – CtR Library

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

Wednesday, December 30

5:30 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, January 3

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, January 17

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

1:30 p.m. CtR's Annual Meeting with brown bag lunch – more details to come



Thank you to those who provided Poinsettias for the Altar

Richard & Lisa Reel
in memory of Rufus Ethington

Connie Whitener in memory of
My parents up in Heaven,
Gus & Carmen Guenin

Ann Traverso in Thanksgiving for
All of my blessings

Sandy Reynolds in Thanksgiving for
Jennifer, Sherri, and Mary Sue for all the blessings
they give the Church keeping everything running

Merritt & Hillary Thomas
in Thanksgiving for Family



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.



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

ALSO	AUGUSTUS	BECAUSE
BETHLEHEM	BIRTH	CAESAR
CALLED	CITY	DAVID
DAYS	DECREE	EACH
EMPIRE	EVERYONE	FAMILY
FIRST	GALILEE	GOVERNOR
HAPPENED	HOUSE	JOSEPH
JUDEA	NAZARETH	PLACE
QUIRINIUS	REGISTER	REGISTRATION
SYRIA	THERE	TOOK
TOWN	WENT	WHEN