



***Making disciples who make disciples***

*The Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 14, 2021*

**Church Worship & Office Location**

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**Worship Service Times**

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

**Church Mailing Address:**

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Find us Online: [ctryuma.org](http://ctryuma.org)

Find us on Facebook:



Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church,  
A Christian Community

**Parish Council Members**

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***Next Parish Council Meeting  
February 24, 2021 6:30 p.m.***

A graphic for Ash Wednesday worship. The words "ASH WEDNESDAY" are in a large, grey, blocky font, with "worship" written in a smaller, red, cursive font below them. The background is a light grey brushstroke.

**7:00 p.m. February 17**



*I would like to say a big thank you for all of the prayers for me during this long session. I am now 2 weeks post op and doing very well. I have full use of my legs again and none of the original pain. I will soon be good as new.*

*Looking forward to coming home.*

*Love to you all, Ann Traverso*



**Lenten Devotions**

Thank you to those who submitted a devotion. A limited number of paper copies will be available on Sunday. The entire booklet will be emailed next Tuesday, as well as the devotions being emailed to you daily.

If you have any questions, please contact the office.



**Sunday's Scripture Readings**

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

## ***In Word – Double Portion***

When Elijah was hiding from Jezebel in the wilderness, hoping to die, the “angel of Yahweh” appeared a second time to him. He gave Elijah food and water, and sent him to Mount Horeb, the “mountain of God,” where the “word of Yahweh” came to him and asked what he was doing. Elijah thought he was the only one in Israel who still worshipped Yahweh. Then Yahweh told him there were many more than Elijah thought.

*“[Yahweh said,] I will leave in Israel seven thousand, all of the knees that have not bowed down to Baal and all of the mouths that have not kissed him.” — 1 Kings 19:18 (LEB)*

Yahweh then sent Elijah to anoint a protégé, Elisha, to replace him when the time comes. Five chapters later, in 2 Kings 2, that time comes. As they travel to Bethel, sons of prophets come out to tell Elisha that Elijah will be taken by Yahweh that day.

*When Yahweh was about to take Elijah up in the storm to heaven, Elijah and Elisha went from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for Yahweh has sent me up to Bethel.” Elisha said, “As Yahweh lives and as your soul lives, I will certainly not leave you!” So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup> Then the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and they said to him, “Do you know that Yahweh*

*is going to take your master from you today?” He said, “I also know; be quiet!” — 2 Kings 2:1–3*

Elisha already knows what is about to happen and doesn’t want to be reminded of it by others. His closest friend and mentor is about to be taken away. This is not a joyful moment for him. The same thing happens again as they enter Jericho.

*Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please stay here because Yahweh has sent me to Jericho.” And he said, “As Yahweh lives and as your soul lives, I will certainly not leave you!” So, they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup> Then the sons of the prophets who were in Jericho came near to Elisha, and they said to him, “Do you know that Yahweh is going to take your master from you today?” He said, “I also know; be quiet!” — 2 Kings 2:4–5*

Apparently, besides just being faithful to Yahweh, many of these people were also prophets. Elisha carrying on as Israel’s leading prophet after Yahweh takes Elijah away is not as clear as we think—as we are seeing the story unfolding in hindsight. As they get to the Jordan River, 50 more sons of prophets meet them and are waiting there as the two cross the Jordan miraculously.

*Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, because Yahweh has sent me to the Jordan.” He said, “As Yahweh lives and as your*

*soul lives, I will certainly not leave you!” So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup> Then fifty men from the sons of the prophets went and stood opposite them at a distance while the two of them stood by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up, and struck the water. It divided in two, and the two of them crossed over on dry land. — 2 Kings 2:6–8*

As Elijah recognizes he will soon be departing, he asks Elisha what he would like him to do for him. Elisha’s response seems a little odd to us in our Western 21<sup>st</sup>-century culture.

*After they crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I may do for you before I am taken away from you.” Then Elisha said, “Please let there come to me a double portion of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup> He said, “What you ask is difficult. If you see me being taken from you, it will be so for you, but if not, it will not happen.” — 2 Kings 2:9–10*

It’s not greedy in the sense of asking for twice as much as Elijah planned to give him, or a double helping in the buffet line, or a double scoop on an ice cream cone. In Elisha’s time and culture, the first-born male child inherited a double portion of the father’s property and became the head of the household and tribe. Elisha is asking for the grace necessary to be able to carry on in all of

Elijah’s duties and responsibilities when Elijah has gone.

Elijah rightly tells him that that gift isn’t his to give, but that if that’s what Yahweh plans, Elisha will see confirmation of it by seeing Elijah taken away. If he doesn’t see it, that means Yahweh has other plans.

*Then they were walking, talking as they went. Suddenly a fiery chariot with horses of fire appeared and separated between the two of them. Elijah went up in the storm to the heavens <sup>12</sup> while Elisha was watching and crying out, “My father, my father; the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!” But he could not see him any longer, and he grasped his clothes and tore them in two pieces. — 2 Kings 2:11–12*

Elisha witnesses Elijah leaving in a storm (some translations say “whirlwind”), and sees an angelic chariot and horses as well, affirming that the mantle of Israel’s greatest prophet has indeed been passed to Elisha.

And then Elisha tears his clothes.

Tearing one’s clothing was a sign of grief in those days. Despite witnessing his friend and mentor being brought to Heaven by angelic beings, Elisha is sad. This is grief.

With Elijah now gone, there’s a hole in Elisha’s heart that will take time to fill in. When we lose someone we care about, even

though we know where they have gone and that they are “in a better place,” we feel the loss and it hurts.

Jesus felt the grief of everyone around Lazarus’ tomb following his death, and despite know that he would be raising Lazarus from the dead in a matter of moments, he wept.

Grief is not rational, but it is real. Elisha saw his friend enter into the ultimate reward of God’s glory and mourned the loss rather than celebrate Elijah’s new life. He was no doubt happy for Elijah, but the pain of his loss was still overwhelming for him.

The crowd recognized that the Holy Spirit had chosen Elisha as Elijah’s successor and bowed before him in recognition of Yahweh’s providence. Elisha had indeed been granted his request and received the “double portion” he had hoped for. He trusted God to lead him through the difficult days ahead. And God did.

Whatever loss we have in our lives will cause grief. Even if we know the outcome is actually better for the person who has gone, we will miss them. Being sad is not a lack of faith. It’s a part of loving someone and recognizing an emptiness when they are no longer there. Like Elisha, we are comforted by God’s grace and through it are able to continue the journey that he has set for us.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Austin

## Prayer Time in the Chapel

In response to the prayer survey CtR is offering 2 days per week to come together in prayer:

**Tuesdays, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. and  
Thursdays, Noon – 1:30 p.m.**

Please speak with Connie Whitener if you have questions. All are welcome to come!



## Mark Your CALENDAR



### Sunday, February 14

11:30a.m. Worship Service

### Tuesday, February 16

6:30 a.m. Bible Study

9 – 10:30 a.m. Prayer time in the Chapel

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

1 – 3 p.m. Bible Study at Dorothy Warner’s Home

6:30 p.m. GriefShare Program ~ CtR Library

### Wednesday, February 17

2:00 p.m. Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Eucharist Service

### Thursday, February 18

11:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Prayer Group

12 – 1:30 p.m. Prayer time in the Chapel

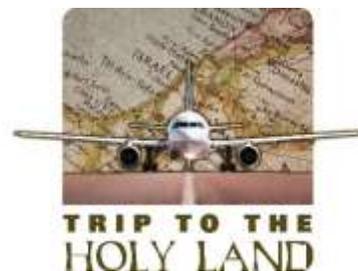
### Sunday, February 21

11:30 a.m. Worship Service



## Join Fr. Austin on a Trip to Israel!

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 December 6 and return on December 13, 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.

Some of you will remember Deacon Honore (pronounced as ON-OR-AY) . I met him at Synod and immediately sensed a special connection, then I got cancer and my life priorities changed. However, Honore kept in touch, visited while I was at the Cancer Center of America in Goodyear. At that time Honore was living in Glendale and attending Christ Church. Honore would like to visit us in March. He has 5 little ones and will bring 3 when he comes, (they don't have a vehicle large enough for his whole family). Please pray for this visit and consider how you may help out. We will be looking for accommodations as well as someone willing to show them around Yuma. They will be attending our Sunday service and then return home. The exact date in March has not been confirmed so stay tuned!  
~ Deacon Linda

We pray for Bruno Hildebrandt, Kara, Eric, Ella & Timothy, Gerry Pyper, Sandra Pyper, Kenna Tanaka, Wes Tanaka, Steven Fischer, Ann Traverso, Neil, Lauren, Marcela, Brenda and Lonnie, Fr. Austin, Pat Galloway, Dorothy Green, 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, 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 AZ**

**The Rev. Steven and Darci Balog, with their children Nicholas, Jonathan, Ashely, and James,** Holy Spirit Anglican Fellowship, Prescott, AZ

**Ryan and Noleen Thurman, with their children Ethan, Keilah, Micah, and Eleyana,** the House Church, "Apprenticeship to Jesus," serving Grand Canyon University, Phoenix



## CtR Prayer Project

**1 John 4:16-We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

You may ask, “Who are you?” I might answer, “Chardee’s Mom”. Our daughter lives here in Yuma and many more people know her than know me. I might answer, “I’m a teacher. I’ve taught at Crane, Somerton, Wonderland, the Marine Base, and I’ve taught women’s Bible studies for over 30 years.” I might answer, “I’m Chuck’s wife.” Many people knew him as a drip irrigation expert, with stores in Arizona and Mexico, but he is retired now, and many more people are coming to know him as the local scratchboard artist. We have a tendency to define ourselves by what we do, rather than by who we are. Brennan Manning, author of “Abba Child”, instructs us to define ourselves as one radically loved by God. What makes God a radical lover? Well, He is Almighty God, yet He offered to come to earth as a human being so He could die on the cross for our sins. He did not come as a mighty ruler, but He came as a humble servant. His closest friends were not Pharisees or Sadducees, but fishermen. He never sinned, lied, or hurt anyone—either physically or by speaking in self-defense. He was offered a role of leadership but chose a path of surrender. God’s Word tells us He loves unconditionally. Unlike us humans who love based on the love we receive from others, Jesus is love, so His nature enables Him to love even those who do not love Him in return. As Christians, we experience lifelong sanctification, the process of being transformed into the likeness of Christ. This means that we are learning to love unconditionally and learning to abide in love. As God abides in us and we in Him, we become more loving. When we find ourselves loving even our enemies and loving even those who do not love us in return, we acknowledge that our transformation is definitely under way, and we are not only radically loved by God, but are also becoming radical lovers ourselves.

**Praying in One Accord**-It is hard to be in one accord with Christ when we only love a few of the people He created.

**Accord Prayer**-Lord Christ, You love everyone equally and unconditionally. Please help us do the same. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**-Abba Father, thank You for loving us and for revealing Perfect Love through Your beloved Son. Thank You for giving us Your Spirit to enable us to love others as You do. Amen.



## The Transfiguration of Jesus

Mark 9:2-9

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

ALONE	ANSWER	APPEARED
BECAME	CAME	CLOTH
CLOUD	DAYS	EARTH
ELIJAH	EXTREMELY	GOOD
HERE	HIGH	JAMES
JESUS	JOHN	LIKE
MAKE	MOSES	MOUNTAIN
PETER	RABBI	RADIANT
REFINER	SAID	SHELTERS
TALKING	THREE	TOGETHER
TOOK	TRANSFIGURED	WHITE