



Making disciples who make disciples

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021

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 llostokes1@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

Frank Durham, frankdurham65@yahoo.com

Junior Warden

Randy Smith, Bumper1194@gmail.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

Ann Traverso, anntraverso@hotmail.com

David Wayman, dwayman66@yahoo.com

Connie Whitener, Believe47@q.com

Eric Scherrer, ericandrewscherrer@gmail.com

Next Parish Council Meeting

March 31, 2021 6:30 p.m.

In Word — *Saved for Works, not by Works*

Our New Testament letter this week is to the church in Ephesus by Paul. This letter has such theological depth that there are multi-volume commentaries just on this one letter. Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones' commentary on Ephesians, for example, is eight volumes.

I mention this to show that our habit of quickly glossing over our reading causes us to miss much of the message that has been carefully crafted within the letter.

Let's look at Sunday's passage:

And you, although you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all formerly lived in the desires of our flesh, doing the will of the flesh and of the mind, and we were children of wrath by nature, as also the rest of them were. — Ephesians 2:1–3 (LEB)

Paul tells these Christians in Ephesus that they used to be spiritually dead, not just ailing and needing a spiritual booster shot. Totally under the influence of Satan, along with the rest of the world living in disobedience to God, doing what they want to do instead of what God wants them to do. Dead.

Yet we see that this passage also indicates that something else precedes it, since it begins with “And you.” The verses before that passage describe our Heavenly Father placing Christ as sovereign over all things including his followers. He then describes us and our predicament — that we were consigned to eternal separation from God, and that it was our natural tendency.

Then Paul adds a “but.”

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
— Ephesians 2:4-9(ESV)

By grace, not anything that we do or could do, God raises us from our spiritual death with Jesus himself, saving us from the punishment we had earned by our decisions and behavior.

Despite our rejection of God and his will, he gives us this gift if we are willing to trust and be loyal to him (the deeper meaning of the word used for “faith”).

This grace is a gift from God, not something we earn. We can’t bump up the grace pump by doing good things (or “works” as Paul writes). Our efforts have absolutely no effect on God’s grace.

Likewise, we can’t cancel grace by bad things we do. God doesn’t give us less grace if we’re bad, and more if we’re good. If he did, that would be a result of our own efforts—which Paul tells us is not how grace works.

Yet we rightly expect Christians to be doing good works as followers of Jesus (Good trees are known by producing good fruit, etc.). The flow of grace, however, is unidirectional. Grace flows into us through our belief, trust, and loyalty in God, and causes a behavior change within us — a desire to do loving acts of kindness that we otherwise may not have been so inclined to do. The reverse flow doesn’t work. We can’t just do things that seem good, and then hope to earn grace and faith as a result. Faith causes good works, not the other way around. Good works can’t cause faith any more than perfume can cause flowers.

And yet we were created by God to do certain good works for which he has blessed us with the natural and spiritual gifts that enable us. Paul shows us this perspective in Verse 10:

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. — Ephesians 2:10

We reiterate that understanding each week in our Post-Communion Prayer:

*“... And we humbly ask you, heavenly Father, to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, **and do all such good works as you have prepared for us to walk in;** through Jesus Christ our Lord ...”*

Good works are an important indicator of how our walk with Jesus is going. They are a result of his love for us, not the cause of it. Our Heavenly

Father loves us unconditionally. He sent his son to suffer a horrible, excruciating death to free us from the penalty of our treason against his kingdom.

During this season of Lent, we are called to intentionally focus on our devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ. Good Friday brings the resurrection, and with it, salvation for all of us willing to accept it. It is a gift we can receive, not a wage we have earned. It doesn't make us better than anyone else, just blessed.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Austin

~ ~ ~ ~

Prayer, Praise and Healing Service

Wednesday, March 17 5:30 p.m.

Gospel music, laying on of hands, testimony, and more.

All COVID-19 protocols will be followed.

A free will offering will be taken.

This service will also be livestreamed on Facebook.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sunday's Scripture Readings

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;

Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Deadline for newsletter and bulletin items is Wednesday by 9 a.m. Thank you.



Sunday, March 14

11:30a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, March 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, March 17

2:00 p.m. Bible Study

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

Thursday, March 18

11:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Prayer Group

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

Sunday, March 21

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

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. The trip will depart on Dec. 6 and return on Dec. 13, 2021.

For more information, contact Fr. Austin.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Those Who Serve

Altar Guild – AVAILABLE

Ushers – Randy & Patty Smith

Chalice – Connie Whitener & Sherri Wayman

Lessons – Al Manning

Prayers – Dorothy Warner

Sunday, March 7, 2021



We had a wonderful visit with Rev. Deacon Honore and 3 of his 5 children. They escaped the Congo to avoid being killed because they were Christian. Lived in a refugee camp in Burundi for 10 years. Moved on to Rwanda and then the US.
Motty Durham



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 Kenneth Holbert, Katy Mize, Chuck Warner, Lina, Bruno Hildebrandt, Kara, Eric, Ella & Timothy, Gerry Pyper, Sandra Pyper, Kenna Tanaka, Wes Tanaka, Steven Fischer, Ann Traverso, Neil, Lauren, Marcela, Fr. Austin, Pat Galloway, Dorothy Green, Denise, Connie, Sue, Scotty Haskell, St. Paul's Church (Payson, AZ), 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. Dr. Earle Fox, Good Shepherd, Mesa

The Rev. Leo and Sylvia Laney, Living Faith, Tempe



CtR Prayer Project

Matthew 21:22-And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

We know God is everywhere at the same time. We know God sees and hears everything that is said or done, even those things said or done in secret. And we know God is all-powerful--that nothing is impossible for Him. So, we wonder why He doesn't just take care of things, like getting rid of diseases, preventing murders, putting out forest fires, or anything else we may see as difficult for us but a breeze for Almighty God. Why did Jesus have to die on the Cross when He could just forgive us at the time of our natural deaths? Why did God make the Israelites march around Jericho when He could have merely instructed those walls to fall down? Why did He ask the sick man at the Bethesda Pool if he wanted to get well, when He already knew the man had been ill for 38 years? Many have turned their backs on Christianity in the past because they either expected God to heal them or their loved ones without prayer, or they asked with only one acceptable solution in mind. In Matthew 21:22, Jesus does not say that all things we ask for in prayer we will receive. The key word in this Scripture verse is often overlooked or ignored by readers; the key word here is **believing**. But believing WHAT? We believe we have accepted Christ as our Savior and that God loves us, or we wouldn't be asking for His help in the first place. We believe God is capable of healing. We believe God can perform miracles, and we see no reason why He shouldn't or couldn't perform one in our current situation. But our God wants us not only to believe He is our sovereign God, He wants us to prove our belief by living it out in our words and actions, surrendering our will to His. Our God answers our prayers, not according to our belief in the ideal solution, but according to His goals and plans for all concerned. And our God sees not only the present, but also the future, so He wants us to believe His timing is better than any timetable we may be considering. If we pray "Thy will

be done, on earth as it is in heaven”, we will be able to give God the glory for however and whenever He chooses to answer our prayers.

Praying in One Accord-When it comes to seeking answers to our prayers, our beliefs need to be in one accord with God’s goals, methods, timing, and glory.

Accord Prayer-Lord Christ, we do not have because we do not ask, or when we ask, we ask in disbelief. Nothing is impossible for You, so help us pray, remembering that Your solution and Your timing will be ever so much better than ours. In the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-Father God, thank You for not only hearing and answering our prayers, but also for using our requests to help us grow in our faith, wisdom, patience, and gratitude. Amen.



God’s Love for This World
John 3:16-21

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

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| ALREADY | BECAUSE | BEEN |
| BELIEVE | COME | DARKNESS |
| DEEDS | DONE | ETERNAL |
| EVERYONE | EVIL | EXPOSED |
| GAVE | HATES | JUDGE |
| LEST | LIFE | LIGHT |
| LOVED | NAME | ONLY |
| ORDER | PEOPLE | PERISH |
| PRACTICES | RATHER | REVEALED |
| SAVED | SEND | TRUTH |

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is the time of year during which we look forward to Resurrection Sunday and celebrate with robust Allelu___s after many long weeks! Please consider a memorial or thanksgiving Easter lily that will adorn the altar on Easter Sunday and then **will** go on to bless residents at Yuma Nursing Center and anyone you may recommend who may be shut-in or in the hospital. The recommended donation is \$15 per potted lily. The proceeds go to purchase bread and other items that are used during all of our weekly communion services. Donations are accepted until Palm Sunday. May God bless you and make His face to shine upon you!

Jennifer Kircher
Altar Guild Directress

Please complete the form at the right and include the slip with your donation. Please place in the offering.

Thank you for your contribution!



Easter Lilies

From:

In Memory of/Thanksgiving for:

Please circle one

Donation: _____