



Making disciples who make disciples

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021

Church Worship & Office Location

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(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

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Next Parish Council Meeting

May 26, 2021 6:30 p.m.

After Word – *THINK About Love*

Anyone with email or Internet access has received over the years an overwhelming number of solicitations or invitations to hate someone. Not just disagree with their perspective or comments, but a contagious, visceral hate that borders on derangement. It's not all directed at one person; there's more than enough hate to spread around for multiple recipients.

Social media has exacerbated the problem. It seems to have started along political lines during the Bill Clinton presidency (coinciding with the Internet and email technology advancements in the 1990s).

An email quickly surfaced combining real and fictional actions of Jane Fonda during the Vietnam War, demanding that the email reader "*never forgive and never forget.*" Ironically, every time I've received those emails about her, they've come from Christian leaders (both lay and clergy) whose own sins have been forgiven and forgotten.

For I will be merciful toward their wrongdoings, and I will not remember their sins any longer." (Jeremiah 31:34) —
Hebrews 8:12 (LEB)

Mean-spirited invective soon seeped into political discourse on all levels, not just presidential. The days of American voters feeling both parties had a shared vision of America's future, just with two different ideas of how to get there, are long gone. No longer are liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans

considered patriots serving our country with different opinions about the best economic methods to use. We have transformed our political positions into pithy insults: bleeding-heart snowflakes versus evil, racist troglodytes.

Against this backdrop, we profess to be a Christian nation. And against our partisan pride, Christ tells us we're not.

In the Gospel passage called the Great Commandment, Jesus says:

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*³⁸ *This is the greatest and first commandment.*³⁹ *And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’* — *Matthew 22:37–39*

The most important ideas in Scripture are repeated many times. How much water is required for baptism isn't mentioned at all, but love gets 738 mentions. Seems to be a good indicator that God cares more about how we treat each other than whether we get sprinkled or dunked as his disciples.

It might seem absurd to mention such a minor issue as the amount of water needed for a baptism, but over the centuries hundreds of thousands of Christians have been killed by other Christians over this very issue—all for love of Christ.

Our passage from John's First Letter this week (1 John 4:9–21) focuses on the importance of real love to God. Because God is love, his love shines on us. We cannot love until we receive God's love first.

Just like a battery is only a dead chunk of metal until it is charged, so too are we merely empty

vessels without God's love filling us first.

¹⁰ In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ... ¹⁹ We love, because he first loved us. — 1 John 4:10, 19

There's a catch, though. John points it out in the next verse, that as Jesus alluded in the Great Commandment, we can't really love God and also hate his creation or any part of it.

²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar, for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen is not able to love God whom he has not seen. — 1 John 4:20

We can disagree with people without hating them. We can and must forgive those who wrong us if we expect God to forgive our wrongs against him. John tells us this isn't just a discussion topic with Jesus; it's a command.

²¹ And this is the commandment we have from him: that the one who loves God should love his brother also. — 1 John 4:21

In John's Gospel, we see Jesus say this at least four times: twice at the foot washing at the Last Supper, just before predicting Peter's denial of him, and again right after describing our relationship in him as being like a grapevine.

*(Jesus said,) “A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another—just as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”*³⁵ *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.” — John 13:34-35*

This is my commandment: that you love one another just as I have loved you. ... ¹⁷ These things I command you: that you love one another. — John 15:12, 17

The next time we're tempted to spread some hate-filled comment or meme on Facebook, Twitter, or other social media, we might want to **THINK** about it first:

Is it True?

Is it Helpful?

Is it Inspiring?

Is it Necessary?

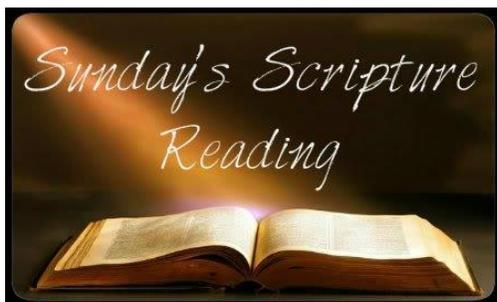
Is it Kind?

If you can't answer "yes" to all five questions, it's probably not loving either.

THINK about it and live in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us.

Love,

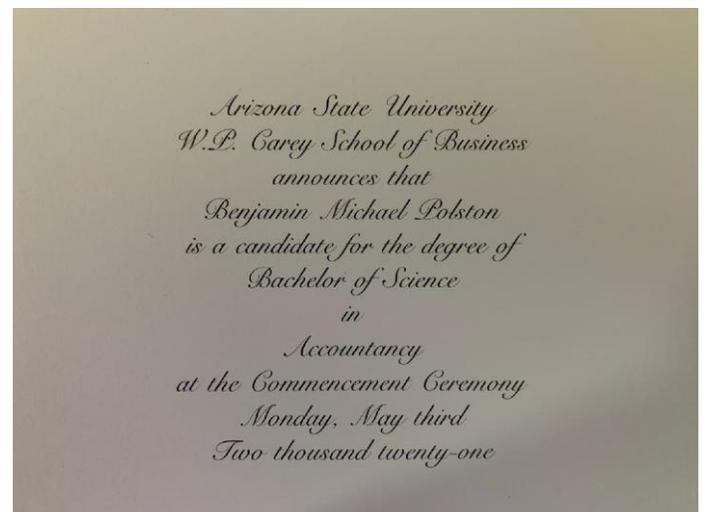
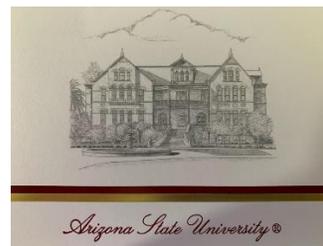
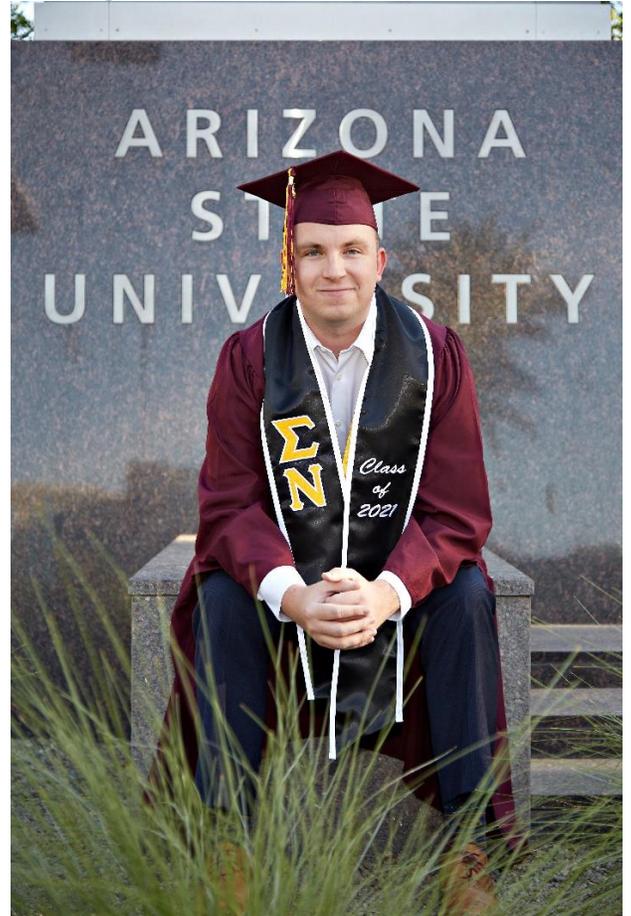
Fr. Austin



**Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:24-30;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8**



Congratulations, Benjamin!





Mother's Day Special Event

Sunday, May 9, is Mother's Day. An anonymous donor has pledged \$2 for every hat worn on Mother's Day. (If anyone would like to match that donation, that would be great!)

For more information, please contact Connie Whitener.



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 Anthony, Marcy, M., Ben Berkshire, Kenneth Holbert, Katy Mize, Lina, Bruno Hildebrandt, Kara, Eric, Ella & Timothy, Gerry Pyper, Sandra Pyper, Kenna Tanaka, Wes Tanaka, Steven Fischer, Ann Traverso, Neil, Lauren, 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

Fr. Pete Forbes, King's Cross Tucson

Fr. Lee Sissel, King's Cross, Tucson



CtR Prayer Project

Ephesians 2:8-9-For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

My mother was a legal secretary. She was excellent at shorthand and was an expert typist; and that was in the days of carbon copies. She believed there was a place for everything and everything should be in its place. Her drawers held neat stacks of clothing or other items. Her shoes were all in boxes with labels. And her files were alphabetically arranged and easy to locate. I used to pride myself on being like her, but when my cancer struck, all filing and arranging were put on the back burner. To this day I still have boxes labeled, "To be sorted". So, it wasn't any surprise to find me working hard to be a perfect Christian. I had stars on my Sunday School Attendance Chart to prove I never missed a Sunday. I sang in the church choir. I attended Young Episcopal Churchmen meetings weekly. I was duly Confirmed at the age of twelve, and I even attended church while in college. When I got married, my attempts to please God in every way possible didn't change. I didn't want to do anything that might cause me to miss the bus to heaven. But one day, on our way home from church, my husband pointed out to me that there was only one perfect human being, and it wasn't me. And if admittance to heaven was based on what I did or didn't do, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was for naught. Since then, I have come to see that rule-keeping is a form of legalism. God wants us to obey Him, but He wants us to do that out of love and appreciation for all He has done for us--- not because we are expecting a first-class ticket to heaven as our reward. If my obedience, or lack thereof, affects my ability to enter those pearly gates, then my salvation is based on **my** works rather than on **Jesus' work** on the cross. In God's Book, what really matters is that my name has

been entered in His Book of Life. He knew that no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't be perfect; but He also knew that He could be. Thank You, Lord, for Your perfect life and Your perfect sacrifice.

Praying in One Accord-When we stop trying to get to heaven through our own works and depend on Christ's gift alone, we are in one accord with God's Plan of Redemption.

Accord Prayer-Lord Christ, laws are important for us in order to live in peace and harmony with You and with each other. Please help us remember that You paid the price for our sins, once for all. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to live the perfect life and provide the perfect sacrifice for mankind's sins. Thank You for salvation being a gift, rather than something we must try to earn. Amen.

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 26:26-40

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

ALoud	ANGEL	AWAY
BAPTIZED	CAME	CHARIOT
COME	ETHIOPIAN	EUNUCH
GOOD	ISAIAH	JERUSALEM
LIKE	LORD	MOUTH
NEWS	OPEN	PHILIP
PROCLAIMED	PROPHET	READING
ROAD	SAID	SCRIPTURE
SOMEONE	SPIRIT	SPOKE
TAKEN	TOWARD	WATER



Sunday, May 2

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, May 4

6:30 a.m. Bible Study - Psalms

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

Wednesday, May 5

2:00 p.m. Bible Study - Hebrews

5:30 p.m. Eucharist Service

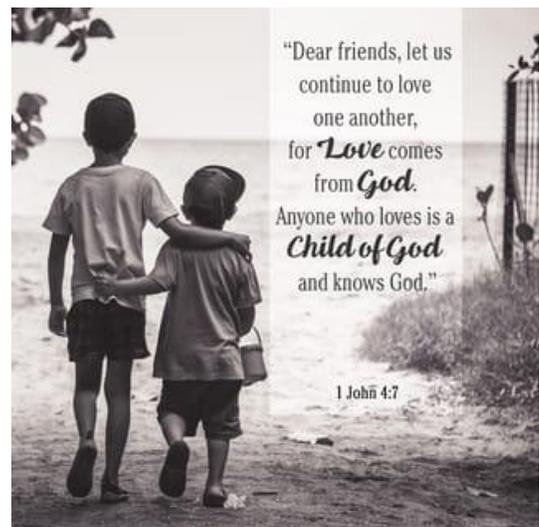
Thursday, May 6

11:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Prayer Group

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

Sunday, May 9 Mother's Day

11:30 a.m. Worship Service



"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for *Love* comes from *God*. Anyone who loves is a *Child of God* and knows *God*."

1 John 4:7