



Making Disciples Who Make Disciples

July 11, 2021

Church Worship & Office Location

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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
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Find us Online: ctryuma.org

Find us on Facebook:



Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church,
A Christian Community

Parish Council Members

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Junior Warden

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Treasurer

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Assistant Treasurer

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Next Parish Council Meeting

July 28, 2021 6:30 p.m.

In Word – Predestination

The prefix, “pre-,” means “before.” We have butchered this concept in common usage, rendering it almost useless. Prenatal care still happens before birth, and pre-op appointments still occur before the surgery, but most other usage indicates the opposite of what the word really means. A prerecorded tape has something recorded on it already, even though it should be blank, because the term indicates a time before anything is recorded on it. A preheated oven is cold. When you add fire or electricity to a cold oven, you are heating it. There is no difference in common usage between heating an oven and preheating one—once you’ve heated something, it can’t logically be considered “preheated.” Likewise, for “pre-existing,” as in “pre-existing condition,” which is a term used by the grammatically challenged to mean “existing.” Unfortunately, we seem to be pre-stuck with it.

We do the same thing to biblical translation sometimes. In Sunday’s passage from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians (1:3-14), the New Revised Standard Version uses the term destined. Most of the other main translations (KJV, NKJV, NIV, NASB, HCSB, et al.) translate the Greek word that Paul uses as predestined. In fact, the NRSV’s predecessor, the RSV, uses destined, but the NRSV’s successor, the ESV, uses the more accurate predestined.

Here is the phrase in context:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless

before him. In love ⁵ he **predestined** us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will ... ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been **predestined** according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. — Eph 1:3–5, 11-12 (ESV)

The word Paul uses is *proorisas* (from *proorizo*), which means “to decide beforehand; to determine ahead of time.” The prefix “pro,” like “pre” in English, means before.

The Bible uses another word, *orizo*, which means “to decide; to determine.” We see it in the disciples’ decision in the Book of Acts regarding whether they should help the church in Jerusalem.

*So, the disciples **determined**, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. — Acts 11:29 (ESV)*

There’s a difference between the disciples determining (deciding) to do something after assessing the situation and discussing their alternatives, and God predetermining (deciding beforehand) what each of us will do in our lives and whether that will result in our being with him in his kingdom or not.

So why is the NRSV/RSV translation different? I believe it displays a theological bias of the translating committee against the Calvinist idea of predestination, toward the Arminian concept of free will. We Anglicans rather like the idea of free will, and we’re not particularly fond of God laying things out beforehand—resulting in us doing what he already knows we’ll do. Hence, the distinctly Anglican translations of the RSV and NRSV from the past century or so

display that thought process. The newest version (ESV) accepts the “beforehand” aspect of the original text more readily.

The idea of God creating people whom he knows will reject him and never be with him goes against the concept that we prefer of a God who creates everyone with a chance (even if somewhat slim) of beating the odds and getting into Heaven.

The possibility that God created a Hitler who was predestined to be evil even before the world was made bothers many of us. We’re more comfortable thinking that Hitler started out good, and then became bad somewhere along the way, and blew his shot at Heaven. That Hitler may never have had a shot at Heaven to begin with doesn’t sit well with us. It doesn’t fit the image of God we created.

It does, however, fit with what the Bible actually says. Paul explains further in his Letter to the Church in Rome:

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son... ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. — Romans 8:28–30 (ESV)

Paul doesn’t say God did these things for everyone. For those whom God chose before creation, these things are happening. Anytime we use the word those to describe something, we are saying that there are other things that are not those.

We must be willing to accept that Heaven is God’s kingdom, and kingdoms are monarchies. God gets to make all the rules regarding who will or won’t be in his heaven, and we have no say in

the matter. We don't get a vote; there's no petition to gather signatures on; and no protests to demand God should do things our way.

Sometimes our beliefs run headlong right into the big brick wall of scripture, and we're forced to make some uncomfortable decisions. Do we modify our view to conform to the newly discovered information, or continue to believe what we want despite the new evidence to the contrary? Phrased that way, it seems like a simple and easy choice. But we face that challenge a lot, and it's really very difficult for us.

Jesus preached that the perspectives of many of Israel's most religious and devoted followers of God were inaccurate and needed adjustment. Some, such as Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, changed their views and followed Jesus' guidance. Many others continued believing what they'd always believed, despite the evidence Jesus showed them (such as an empty tomb).

We may not know what choices we will make in our lives, but the Bible tells us that God already knows, and that he knew it before we were even born. That's good news for us, because the fact that you care about it indicates God's grace at work in you. Your acceptance of Jesus as your savior indicates your salvation as well.

Remember, when Jesus asked Peter who he thought Jesus was in Caesarea Philippi.

Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. — Matt 16:16–17 (ESV)

Our recognition of Jesus as our savior comes from the Father by grace. Grace is what gives us faith, and faith sets us apart from the rest of the world as believers in Jesus Christ.

As Paul and Silas told the Philippian jailer when he asked what he must do to be saved:

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved... — Acts 16:31 (ESV)

It's that simple.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Austin



Arizona Anglican Men's Retreat

This year's retreat will be at Emmanuel Pine Retreat Center in Prescott, Sept 10-12. The anticipated cost will be \$95 for the weekend and a few scholarships for people with hardships will be available. The retreat begins at 4 p.m., Friday, Sept. 10 and continues until about noon Sunday. For more information, please contact Jeff Bisgrove (jeffmbisgrove@me.com, 602-653-9996) or Teke Sankey (Tekes2@hotmail.com, 303-884-3651).



Season after Pentecost Sunday's Lessons

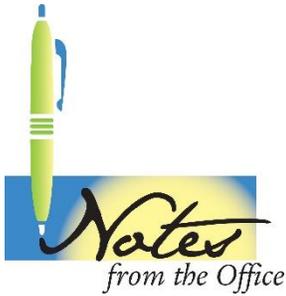
First Reading: Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

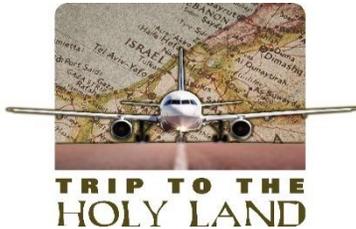
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel Mark 6: 14-29





Please note:
All items for the newsletter
need to be in the office by
Wednesday at 9 a.m.
Thank you.



Join Fr. Austin on a Trip to Israel!

Brochures and Registration forms for Father Austin 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.



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 Diane Manning, Dale, Corney, Scotty Haskell, Julie Corral, Bill and Judy

Fletcher, Zachary Kircher, Ben Berkshire, Kenneth Holbert, Katy Mize, Lina, Bruno Hildebrandt, Kara, Eric, Ella & Timothy, Gerry Pyper, Sandra Pyper, Steven Fischer, Ann Traverso, Neil, Lauren, Fr. Austin, Pat Galloway, Dorothy Green, Denise, Connie, Sue, 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, and Kathy Watson.

To submit or update prayer requests for this newsletter, please contact the church office at 928-343-9551, or ctryuma@gmail.com

CTR Prayer Project

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews in the Bible does not identify himself, and some scholars believe that possibly it has more than one author. In my early teaching days, I thought it was Paul who wrote it, because he had a deep and profound understanding of Old Testament covenants, prophecies, and sacrifices. But the author also has a good grasp of the new covenant, as well, encouraging us to believe that Christ is better than the angels, the prophets, the high priests who preceded Him, and so many of the Old Testament pillars of faith. The epistle was written to the First Century Jewish Christians, who were being persecuted by their countrymen and who were tempted to return to the Jewish faith to escape their suffering. If anyone had told me when I was a teenager or even a young adult that Christians would be persecuted in my lifetime, I would have told them they were nuts. I grew up in a time when most of my friends and neighbors were Christians, and even if many of them worshiped in denominations different from my own, we still had much in common. In fact, during my high school years, I attended youth group meetings and worship services with my friends, and their services were not much different than what I experienced in my home church. Yet here we are today, being criticized, censored, and mocked.

Today, Christians are being called racist, homophobic, hate mongers, and much more. Some still believe in Christ but are not attending worship services or actively involving themselves in a church community because they don't want to incur the criticism or belittling from their co-workers or friends. The Book of Hebrews aims at drawing us closer to Christ, reminding us that He is superior in every way to the old covenant, and that if we persevere to the end, we will reap the benefits of faithful believers who have gone before us. When we read the Book of Hebrews, we are reminded that Christ is God's Son, that God has made Him higher than the angels, that the Father has placed His Son on the eternal throne, and that the very same Son who made the heavens and the earth is the Son who has defeated the enemy, who has all authority in heaven and on earth, and who will lead us through times of persecution to maturity and victory. When we listen to the Son, we are listening to the Father, as well. When we worship the Son, we are worshiping the Father, as well. And when we believe in the Son, we are believing in the Father, as well. The same God who brought victory to the Israelites long ago is the same God who will bring us victory in America today. Just as the prophecies of old foretold God's plans for the future, we can read and glean encouragement from prophecies today. We just have to be willing to wait for fulfillment in order to verify they are truly from Christ.

Praying in One Accord-When we pray in accord with God's Word, we are able to persevere and find victory in the midst of persecution.

Accord Prayer-Lord Christ, You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Your words to believers are as comforting today as they were centuries ago. Help us find solace and healing from the hurtful words of others by reading Your Word and persevering in our faith. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-Loving Father, thank You for leaving us with the words of Christians long ago, who not only believed You and Your Son, but lived their lives in sacrifice and service to You. Amen.



Mark Your CALENDAR

Sunday, July 11

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, July 13

6:30 a.m. Bible Study (Acts)

6:30 p.m. Grief Share – CtR Library

Wednesday July 14

2 p.m. Bible Study (James)

5:30 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, July 18

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Herod Kills John The Baptist

L R M M O T H E R S T D I
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| HEROD | HERODIAS | IMMEDIATELY |
| JOHN | KING | KNOWN |
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| OTHERS | PLATTER | PRISON |
| PROPHET | RAISED | SAID |
| SAYING | SENT | WANT |
| WENT | WHEN | WIFE |