



Making Disciples Who Make Disciples

July 25, 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 on Facebook:



Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church,
A Christian Community

Parish Council Members

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Next Parish Council Meeting

July 28, 2021 6:30 p.m.



In Word – Not About Us

Both this week's passage from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (3:14-21) and the start of that chapter begin with, "*For this reason.*"

Whenever we see that sort of introduction, it should spark some curiosity within us regarding what the "this" is to which Paul refers.

In Chapter 2, Paul explains that Gentiles and Jews are both remade through Jesus Christ into a new creation that's part of the one body of Christ. There isn't a Jewish body of Christ and a Gentile body. Paul welcomes the Gentile Christians as:

...members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord... — Ephesians 2:20-21

He then tells these Gentile Christians that not only are they a part of this glorious temple of God built upon Jesus, but they are also being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Holy Spirit.

Paul's next sentence, starting Chapter 3, says that "*for this reason*" he is now giving them insight into the mystery of Christ which was hidden from humanity until after Jesus rose from the dead, and then revealed by the Holy Spirit.

Paul tells them he has been sent by God to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to them, and the hardships he is enduring are part of that mission. So, he asks them not to lose heart because of his current suffering. We should remember that Ephesians is one of the four letters Paul wrote from prison (Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon being the others).

This leads us into today's passage at verse 14:

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power

*at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. —
Ephesians 3:14–21 (ESV)*

Paul's shows us a Trinitarian perspective when he says that "*for this reason*" he kneels in prayer to our **Heavenly Father** for these new Gentile disciples will be *strengthened by the Holy Spirit*, so that **Christ may dwell in their hearts**. Only through the power of all three can we be "filled with **all** the fullness of God."

Now comes the shocker: Church isn't about us. Paul makes it clear in verse 20 when he says, "*to him who is able to do far more ... than we can think... be glory in the church...*"

Worship is all about God. It's not about whether you like hymns or modern music, how decorative the vestments are, or the length or quality of the sermons. We are all there to serve our Lord using whatever spiritual gifts he has given us.

Many Christians think of it as a spiritual meal prepared just for them, and if they don't feel "spiritually fed," they're off to a different Jesus buffet the following week. This consumer mentally pollutes our worship and leads us to focus inwardly on our own wants rather than serving others.

In gathering together for worship, we demonstrate that it's a group activity. For those who wonder whether they can just stay at home and worship God by themselves and be a Christian the answer is no. Being a

Christian means being a disciple of Jesus Christ, not just filling out a church membership card and dropping by the sanctuary a couple times a year.

Paul describes a community of believers gathering together frequently (at least weekly) working together outside of the worship time as well, serving others both inside and outside their particular gathering or assembly (which we typically call “church”).

To put it another way, sitting in the stands doesn’t make you a football player; you have to actually be on the field with the rest of the team to be one. So why do Christians think we don’t have to do anything except agree that Jesus rose from the dead, and we’re automatically disciples?

Paul is reminding the Gentile Christians that they have been saved by Jesus for a purpose, and that they are to work together as one body to fulfill that purpose that glorifies God, not them. Many of the original hearers of Paul’s message in Ephesus were persecuted by the Roman emperor at that time (Nero) or his successors (Domitian-Diocletian). But that didn’t dissuade them from serving God or each other. It’s their combined public discipleship of Jesus Christ that caused the church to expand beyond Jerusalem for generation after generation to today.

We are called to gather our gifts together to serve God for his glory, regardless of how convenient it is, according to the power of God at work within us. There are no “Lone Ranger” Christians. We’re in this together.

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: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-19

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

Gospel Mark John 6:1-21



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



Fellowship Gathering.



**Last Sunday of the Month.
This will include Bible Conversation
And Compline.**



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. 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, Kathy Watson, Jim Music, Steve and Caleb Warner.

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 CTR Prayer Project-Week
442 (July 25, 2021)**

2 John 8-Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

For many years when our children were young, my husband and I sponsored Boy's Little League Baseball Teams. We loved going to the games and cheering for the players. At the end of the season, we paid for a "year-end banquet" for the team and parents, whether the team won or lost. Then, one year, the coach asked us to pay for trophies for all the players, even though we had lost most of our games. We were happy to provide the uniforms, equipment, and team support, but we felt that giving trophies to a losing team taught the boys a wrong lesson. Life has winners and losers, and in order to win, a team needed to show up for all the practice games, put forth effort to learn the game and its rules, show good sportsmanship, and end up with more wins than losses. As a teacher, I felt the same way about passing and failing my students at the end of the year. Some students chose not to do their homework, stayed home on test days, and disobeyed school rules; then they were surprised to find out I wasn't able to advance them to the next grade. All that has changed now. Students are never held back, and they have learned that no matter what they do or fail to do, they will be rewarded. We are seeing the results of these policies in society today. The children who were rewarded for disobedience, lack of cooperation, and a minimum of effort are now parents themselves, and they come down hard on teachers when their children aren't treated with equity in the classroom, regardless of minimal effort or academic failures. We are teaching our children today that there is no such thing as "wrong", no such thing as "defeat", and there are no unpleasant consequences when they choose not to do the assigned work. God's Word tells us that we ourselves determine what kind of reward, if any, we will receive from God. Our honest and sincere belief in Jesus Christ determines our salvation, but God has promised rewards in heaven based on our works here on earth. This means that He is watching how closely we walk with Him and how obedient we are to His commands. No works, no obedience, no trophies. Why is that the case? It's because He has given each and every believer His Holy Spirit to enable and encourage our works. We do well to learn to put forth effort now if we want the Coach to reward us after the game.

Praying in One Accord-Our Rabbi offers rewards, but we must walk in one accord with His commands in order to receive them.

Accord Prayer-Lord Christ, You set an example for righteous living. Help us not only to live by Your laws, but also to congratulate others when their efforts at obedience exceed our own. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-Father God, thank You for rewarding us for our godly works, while at the same time making belief in Christ's atonement the basis for our salvation. Let our works express our heartfelt gratitude. Amen.

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 25
11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, July 27
6:30 a.m. Bible Study (Acts)
6:30 p.m. Grief Share – CtR Library

Wednesday July 28
5:30 Prayer Praise and Worship

2 p.m. Bible Study (James)
5:30 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday August 1
11:30 a.m. Worship Service

God Speaks Now to Job (Job 38:1–11)

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

ANSWERED	BASES	CORNERSTONE
COUNSEL	DARKENING	DECLARE
DETERMINED	DIFFICULT	DOORS
EARTH	FOUNDATION	HERE
KNOW	KNOWLEDGE	LAI D
LAYING	LIKE	LINE
MEASURING	MORNING	POSSESS
PREPARE	QUESTION	SAID
STORM	STRETCHED	SUNK
TASK	TELL	THEN
UNDERSTANDING	WHEN	WORDS