



Making Disciples Who Make Disciples

Aug. 22, 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

Find us on Facebook:



Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church,
A Christian Community

Parish Council Members

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Next Parish Council Meeting

Aug. 25 6:30 p.m.



In Word – Gotta Serve Somebody

This week's Old Testament passage is from the end of the Book of Joshua. It shows a renewal of the Israelites' covenant with Yahweh now that they have entered the Promised Land and behaved as they wanted instead of as God had commanded.

They had been worshipping other gods in addition to Yahweh, despite his command not to do that. The pull of the local culture was stronger than their obedience to God.

The passage begins with a very old Joshua (about 110 years old) calling the Israelites together for a pronouncement:

And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem; he summoned the elders of Israel, their heads, their judges, and their officials, and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says Yahweh the God of Israel..." — Joshua 24:1–2a (LEB)

We read the introduction and then the lectionary cuts the passage in mid verse (hence the "2a" designation) and skips forward to verse 14. In that missing portion, Joshua relates God's synopsis of the Israelite's miraculous history through his beneficent power from the emancipation in Egypt in the Book of Exodus, through the interference of King Balak of Moab and the pagan prophet Balaam in the Book of

Numbers, to victory at Jericho and other battles bringing them to the land they were enjoying — reaping harvests from vineyards and olive groves they didn't plant.

Using that history as the preface for the renewal of their covenant, Joshua then tells the Israelites what God's expectations are for them. They must choose. They can't continue the relationship as they've been living it any more — accepting Yahweh as their liberator and benefactor without obligation on their part.

“So now, revere Yahweh and serve him in sincerity and faithfulness; remove the gods that your ancestors served beyond the river and in Egypt, and serve Yahweh. ¹⁵ But if it is bad in your eyes to serve Yahweh, choose for yourselves today whom you want to serve, whether it is the gods that your ancestors served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve Yahweh.” — Joshua 24:14-15

The people respond as we would expect. They like the idea of God protecting them and will agree to anything. It's like any other relationship we mess up. When confronted with our poor behavior and a demand that we change, we say we will, but often revert to our old ways soon thereafter.

And the people answered and said, “Far be it from us that we would forsake Yahweh to serve other gods, ¹⁷ for Yahweh our God brought us and our ancestors from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery, and did these great signs before our eyes. He protected us along the entire way that we went, and among all the peoples

through whose midst we passed. ¹⁸ And Yahweh drove out all the people before us, the Amorites who live in the land. We will serve Yahweh, for he is our God.” — Joshua 24:16-18

The passage ends here in our lectionary, but continues on in the Book of Joshua, as Joshua tells the people that they will not serve Yahweh, despite their promise to do so. They reaffirmed their dedication to Yahweh, and Joshua wrote their promise on a scroll and set a large stone under a large tree as a shrine to Yahweh commemorating their promise that day — a shrine he declared would be a witness against them if they ever violate their vow.

Joshua died soon after that (we're not sure exactly how soon), before Israel spiraled into the cycle of depravity shown in the Book of Judges.

After these things Joshua son of Nun servant of Yahweh died; he was one hundred and ten years old. — Joshua 24:29

Joshua understood what Jesus and Paul would declare as well later: that we will serve a master. We are not created as independent entities; we have a natural inclination and need to worship something, and something else will fill the void if we don't fill it with God.

“No one is able to serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You are not able to serve God and money. — Matthew 6:24

Do you not know that to whomever you present yourselves as slaves for obedience, you are slaves to whomever

*you obey, whether sin, leading to death,
or obedience, leading to righteousness?
— Romans 6:16*

Perhaps that great American theologian,
Bob Dylan, put it best:

*But you're gonna have to serve somebody,
yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil,
Or it may be the Lord,
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.*

The same decision that faced the Israelites
faces us today. Our culture calls God's
command of obedience "intolerant" and
abhors Christianity for giving the world a
savior whose salvation requires obedience
from the saved. The false and pagan gods
who would be appeased by whatever
sacrifices the people felt like offering didn't
interfere with their prurient desires, and in
fact, often intensified them. Our culture likes
that concept; it meets their "tolerance" ideal.

There also was no objective standard against
which behavior was judged; everything was
relative (just like today). Our worldly focus
distracts us from truly serving Jesus. Our
donations to our church and charities are
often based on what we have left to spare
after paying for other stuff we consider more
important.

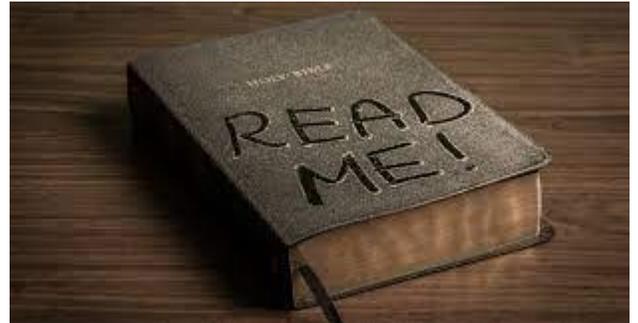
A look at our checkbook registers (for those
who still use them), or monthly budget,
shows our priorities. Who do we serve? Who
will we serve?

As Joshua tells us, we need to choose today
who we will serve. Will it be the false gods
of our culture we have set as idols in our
lives, or will it be our Heavenly Father, who
is one with Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

I pray that for us and our houses, we will all
serve the Lord.

Grace and Peace,

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: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 34:15-22
Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20
Gospel John 6:56-59



Please note:
The deadline for newsletter
submission is 9 a.m.
Wednesday. Thank you.



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, Scotty Haskell, Julie Corral, Bill and Judy Fletcher, Zachary Kircher, Katy Mize, Lina, Bruno Hildebrandt, Kara, Eric, Ella & Timothy, Gerry Pyper, Sandra Pyper, Steven Fischer, Ann Traverso, Neil, Lauren, 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, Kim Henehan, Kathy Watson, Jim and Wendy Music, Steve Warner, Tim Harris, Lety, Bryan, and Linda.

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

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.” — Acts 5:29

Apostasy is not a word we hear or use very often, but the word means “faithlessness.” Chapter 5 of the book of the prophet Jeremiah is titled, “Jerusalem’s Godlessness,” and God tells the people that their apostasies are numerous. He says that men have refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock. They have refused to repent. They are foolish. They do not know the way of the Lord. They have broken the yoke and burst the bonds. Their transgressions are many. Sound familiar?

This could be titled, “America’s Godlessness” instead, couldn’t it? In Chapter 8, the Lord speaks again through Jeremiah, saying, “Why has this people turned away in continual apostasy? They hold fast to deceit. They refuse to return. They have spoken what is not right. Everyone is greedy for gain. From the prophet even to the priest, everyone practices deceit. They say, ‘Peace, peace,’ but there is no peace.” In 2 Thessalonians 2, we are told that Christ’s Second Coming will not occur until after the apostasy comes and the antichrist (man of lawlessness) is revealed. Would you agree with me that we are in a time of apostasy? I think it is evident, not only in society, in our government, and in our schools and universities, but it is also evident in our churches. Our son is preparing to leave the church he and his family have attended for over ten years, because worldly doctrine is being preached from the pulpit. Secularism is showing up in the children’s Sunday School Classes. God’s Word is truth. God tells us we must be IN the world, but not OF the world. He tells us that we cannot worship God and mammon. We are not to be about filling our pews. We are to be about hearing the Word of God and obeying it. Like Peter and the apostles, if we have decided to follow Jesus Christ, we don’t really have a choice anymore. We simply MUST refuse to obey man and determine to obey God instead.

Praying in One Accord It is impossible to be in one accord with God and mankind at the same time.

Accord Prayer Lord Christ, help us to be sensitive to the teachings and nudges from the Holy Spirit, so we will know when we are in danger of falling into apostasy. The way for us to avoid apostasy is to stay close to You and teach others the truth of Your Word. Help us toward that end. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving Loving Father, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to help us discern the truth from the lies. Thank You for helping us recognize apostasy and steer clear of it. Amen.



Mark Your CALENDAR



Sunday, Aug 22

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, Aug 24

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

6:30 p.m. Grief Share – CtR Library

Wednesday, Aug 25

2 p.m. Bible Study (1 Peter)

5:30 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday Aug 29

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Spiritual Warfare (Ephesians 6:10–20)

B Y A M A U T H O R I T I E S
 S P I R I T U A L W V S N V U
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| ABLE | ARMOR | AUTHORITIES |
| BECAUSE | BECOME | BLOOD |
| DARKNESS | DEVIL | EVERYTHING |
| EVIL | FINALLY | FLESH |
| FORCES | FULL | HEAVENLY |
| LORD | ORDER | PLACES |
| RESIST | RULERS | SPEAK |
| SPIRIT | SPIRITUAL | STAND |
| STRATAGEMS | STRENGTH | STRONG |
| STRUGGLE | SUPPLICATION | TAKE |
| WICKEDNESS | WORD | WORLD |