



Making Disciples Who Make Disciples

Sep. 26, 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 llstokes1@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

Sep. 29, 6:30 p.m.



In Word – Healing Prayer

We don't really believe in miracles.

This isn't a theological perspective regarding whether they exist or not, but rather a description of the intensity of our belief in the Western Christian church.

In African and Asian churches, they expect miracles to happen, and they are deluged with them. In our American brand of Christianity, we expect less dramatic results, so God responds accordingly to our expectations.

I have personally seen miraculous healings: tumor shrinkage that added a year-and-a-half to the person's life; a non-responsive Hospice patient being healed enough within hours to be discharged from Hospice for being too healthy; and an unresponsive motorcycle crash victim with no pulse or respirations reanimate following prayer.

There's the old story of a congregation in a farm community suffering from a drought that gathered together to pray for rain. The pastor looked out at the crowd assembled on one of the parishioners' dry, barren fields and said, "I know you're all here with me today to pray for rain to save our community. But what I really want to know is, 'Where are your umbrellas?'"

That's the attitude James expects in his comments about prayer and healing in his letter to the Church.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with

oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. — James 5:13–15 (NRSV)

Notice that James calls for people to pray regardless of their circumstances. If things are going rough for you, pray. If you're happy with your lot, pray and sing as well! If you're sick, have the elders of the church come pray for you and anoint you with oil. The word James uses for elder is *presbyter*. Anglicans and many other denominations translate it as *priest* and use it to describe a particular level of ordained clergy. But that's not quite accurate. For Anglicans, that would preclude deacons (*diakonos*) from doing this because they are the *diaconate* and not part of the *presbyterate* (from which we get *Presbyterian*). Likewise, laity would be prohibited.

Unfortunately, many clergy believe this, and think that only priests are authorized to pray for healing and anoint people with oil. But the word refers to older members of the church, who have been disciples of Jesus for a while, and have some level of authority and responsibility (along the lines of *counselor* today). He isn't saying that no one else is allowed to pray, but that these particular people have the most experience doing this sort of thing. These people would be lay leaders, as well as deacons and priests, in our current congregations.

In April 2005, Francis MacNutt, leader of *Christian Healing Ministries*, wrote the book, *The Nearly Perfect Crime: How the Church Almost Killed the Ministry of Healing*. The next year it was republished as *The Healing Reawakening: Reclaiming Our Lost Inheritance* because bookstores had been placing it in the murder mystery section by mistake.

In it he explains how the church over the centuries gradually took prayer and anointing away from everyday Christians and authorized it solely for a professional class of church leadership, despite the clear biblical imperative for its widespread practice. In fact, he points

out, that under Charles I, praying for healing was prohibited for everyone except the king, with violations of that edict punishable by death. What better way to demonstrate God's choice of monarch than for people to be healed of sickness by the king's prayers? It tends to cut down on sedition and revolution if the people believe they'd be overthrowing someone whom God favors.

But we are all called to participate in healing prayer, with one caveat: We don't know how it works. Not everyone is cured. I've prayed for people who had unexplained healing; and I've prayed for people who died. We are all here temporarily, and, at some point, God calls us out of this realm.

James tells us to pray anyway and to confess our sins to each other (he doesn't even mention *presbyter* for this).

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. ¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰ you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. — James 5:16–20

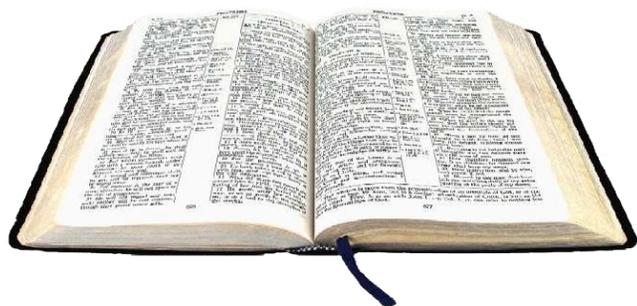
Confessing our sins to one another helps reconcile us to God. We are encouraged by other disciples and reminded of God's forgiveness to those who repent and turn away from their sins and to him instead. There's also the human idiosyncrasy of not wanting to let other know our failings. Doing so keeps us humble, and humility is not a natural disposition for us. We don't like admitting mistakes, so we have a vested interest in not repeating them.

It would be a great part of our spiritual exercise if we got back into the habit of confessing our sins and praying for miracles like we really expect them to happen.

Because they do.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Austin



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Season after Pentecost Sunday's Lessons

1st Reading: Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29

Psalm: 19:7-14

2nd Reading: James 5:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9: 9:38-50



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 their hearts to know your love and feel your presence.

We pray for Carrie Ruse, Al 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, 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, Steven, Elena, Officer Shay K. Mikalonis, Niki, Roni, Bob, Carol, Kim Henehan, Kathy Watson, Jim and Wendy Music, Maureen Light, Tim Harris, Emily Carlisi, Stan Watowich, 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

Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all my heart. — Psalm 119:34

Dr. Jason Koppen is President of Indian Bible College on the Navajo Reservation in Northeastern Arizona. He preached last Sunday on "The Heart of the Disciple," explaining that Jesus is after our hearts, not our minds. I've been teaching women's Bible study groups for 32 years, so much of my learning has been head knowledge.

I spend a lot of time preparing for each week's session, and I share all the insights I have gleaned in the process, but what Jesus wants from all of us who are reading and studying our Bibles is not the ability to regurgitate the story of the flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the birth of Christ, the crucifixion and Ascension, the events on Pentecost, or Paul's encounter with the risen Christ on his way to Damascus, but the life lesson behind all those stories.

What Jesus wants from us, according to Dr. Koppen, is something called "transformational discipleship." It refers to a life-changing relationship with Christ—one that causes us to want to become more like Christ. In the Great

Commission, disciples are told to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.” Go. Baptize. Teach. We usually consider that it is the Pastors who should go, baptize, and teach. But, if all we can do is tell the stories that are recorded in our Bibles, we are not apt to share anything that is transformational.

What people are looking for is how the Gospel has changed each of us! We know God’s commands, but are we living in obedience, or in total disobedience? Actions speak louder than words. Change on the outside is demonstrated by attending worship services regularly, by becoming a donor at our churches, and by doing other things that people identify with Christians. But change on the outside is nothing more than “a whitewashed tomb” (Matt. 23). We can appear white as snow on the outside but be harboring secret sins on the inside. Secret sins are the work of the devil in us.

God doesn’t just want us to have eternal life, but abundant life. He wants us to produce fruit that comes from a changed heart. The Gospel is not just saving us from sin. It is saving us to become more like Jesus. Transformational discipleship is all about having a changed heart and then demonstrating that changed heart to the world around us.

Praying in One Accord God is calling us to not only be in one accord with what His Word commands us to do, but also with what His Word calls us to become.

Accord Prayer Lord Christ, when Your Word encourages us to become more like You, we are in the process of becoming transformational disciples. Help us toward that end. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving Heavenly Father, thank You for cleansing us from the inside out; thank You for sending Your Son to be the perfect example of all You want us to become. Amen.

Mark Your CALENDAR

Sunday, Sep 26
11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, Sep 28
6:30 a.m. Bible Study (Matthew)
6:30 p.m. GriefShare

Wednesday, Sep 29
2 p.m. Bible Study (Jude)
5:30 p.m. Worship Service
6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, Oct 3
11:30 a.m. Worship Service

The Effective Prayer of Faith (James 5:13–18)

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

ACCOMPLISHES	ANOINTING	ANOTHER
ANYONE	CHEERFUL	CHURCH
COMMITTED	CONFESS	EFFECTIVE
ELDERS	ELIJAH	FAITH
FORGIVEN	HEALED	HUMAN
LORD	MISFORTUNE	MUCH
NAME	OLIVE	PERSON
PRAISE	PRAY	PRAYER
RAIN	RAISE	RIGHTEOUS
SAVE	SICK	SING
SINS	SUFFERING	SUMMON