



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Report



Today was the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Sunday. The weather was once again picture perfect, clear, semi-dry and pretty warm; 73°F at sunrise, rising to 87°F by the end of church under those same blue skies with a few puffys! With Epistleer Ryan Hopkins back from the horse show, we had 4 people present.

Gathering Song

Jack Arnold played *Lord I lift Your Name on high* for the gathering song.

Lord I lift your name on high

Chorus:

Lord I lift your name on high
Lord I love to sing your praises
I'm so glad you are in my life
I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift your name on high.

Chorus.

You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift your name on high.

You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
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Chorus.

You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift your name on high



We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. Today, Hap printed the wrong words, but luckily everyone was flexible and Jack had a couple sets of the right ones. All fixed now!

Propers

Each Sunday there are Propers: special prayers and readings from the Bible. There is a Collect for the Day; that is a single thought prayer, most written either before the re-founding of the Church of England in the 1540s or written by Bishop Thomas Cranmer, the first Archbishop of Canterbury after the re-founding.

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. If you have a hard time remembering, "Do I read the Collect from last Sunday or next Sunday during the week?" Remember Sunday is the first day of the week. There are also two Bible readings, the Epistle and the Gospel. While they are "lessons", they are not the First Lesson and the Second Lesson, they are the Epistle and the Gospel. The Epistle is normally a reading from one of the various Epistles, or letters, in the New Testament. The Gospel is a reading from one of the Holy Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Collect is said by the minister as a prayer, the Epistle can be read by either a designated reader (as we do in our church) or by one of the ministers and the Holy Gospel, which during the service in our church is read by an ordained minister.

The propers are the same each year, except if a Red Letter Feast, that is one with propers in the prayerbook, falls on a Sunday, then those propers are to be read instead, except in a White Season, where it is put off. Red Letter Feasts, so called because in the Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

The Propers for today are found on Page 204-205, with the Collect first:

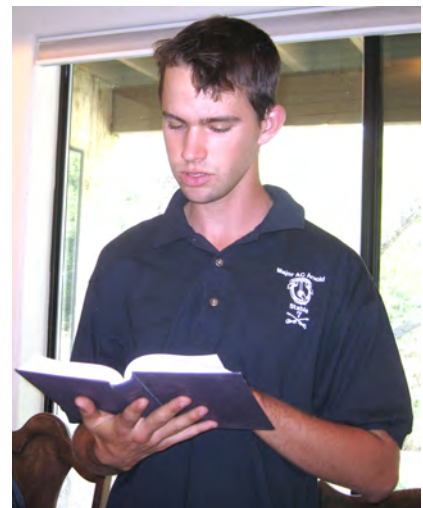
The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.

The Collect.

O GOD, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ryan Hopkins read the Epistle, which came from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, the Fifteenth Chapter beginning at the First Verse. Paul tells us he is delivering the message he received, the Good News of the Saving Grace of God through Jesus. He recounts the death and resurrection of Jesus; noting the various witnesses to the resurrection, including himself. He goes on to say, if he, who he categorizes as the least of the apostles, not even meet to be called an apostle due to his persecution of the Church of God, can be forgiven and work the Work of God, who cannot?

Brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first



of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed."

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read today's Holy Gospel which started in the Eighteenth



Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the Ninth Verse. Jesus tells a parable to an audience which apparently consisted of some self-righteous people, which likely fits each of us. The parable is that of a Pharisee¹ and a publican² both of whom pray in the temple. While the Pharisee might well have been a "better" man than the publican, he clearly was not the man he thought he was, for he "prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." Quite the holy fellow. The publican, quite aware of how much he fell short of God's perfection stood "afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon

his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner." Jesus told his audience, "this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." None of us is truly good, we can only strive to be better and look to our Lord to help us. Only through Christ will we be accounted as just before God.

Jesus spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or

¹ Pharisee - One of a sect or party among the Jews, noted for a strict and formal observance of rites and ceremonies and of the traditions of the elders, and whose pretensions to superior sanctity led them to separate themselves from the other Jews.

² Publican 1. (Rom. Antiq.) A farmer of the taxes and public revenues; hence, a collector of toll or tribute. The inferior officers of this class were often oppressive in their exactions, and were regarded with great detestation.

Literally a Publican is one who farmed the taxes (e. g., Zacchaeus, Luke 19: 2) to be levied from a town or district, and thus undertook to pay to the supreme government a certain amount. In order to collect the taxes, the publicans employed subordinates (5: 27; 15: 1; 18: 10), who, for their own ends, were often guilty of extortion and peculation (defrauding the public by appropriating to one's own use the money or goods intrusted to one's care for management or disbursement; embezzlement). In New Testament times these taxes were paid to the Romans, and hence were regarded by the Jews as a very heavy burden, and hence also the collectors of taxes, who were frequently Jews, were hated, and were usually spoken of in very opprobrious terms. Jesus was accused of being a "friend of publicans and sinners" (Luke 7: 34).

even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Sermon – Time and Action

Today's sermon tied the Epistle and Gospel together and is mainly contained in the forewords above. We are each grievous sinners, some worse than others, none better. Yet, we come before God all equal. In equally big trouble, some more, none less. It is only through faith we are saved.

Our faith? Partly, but not mainly.

We are saved by the perfect faith of Christ, our only mediator and advocate before the Father. The perfect faith of Christ allowed a single sacrifice to be made at one time, to right the account the sins of all mankind for all time. This is the faith that saves us and our faith in Him allows Him to operate in us. One of Paul's points in today's Gospel was that if he, the previous Chief Persecutor of the church could be saved by Jesus' that option was available to each of us. All we need to do is repent and follow. Thus, we need to Lead, Follow or Get out of the Way towards Christ and God's grace.

Bishop Ogles' message for today

Today's work from Bishop Jerry is on the Holy Gospel for this Sunday evening from the lectionary. It is very interesting. I cannot commend it to you enough.

Devotion for 11th Sunday after Trinity 4 Sept 2011 Anno Domini



"38 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,39 And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts:40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even

all her living." (Mark 12:38-44)

I have chosen for the devotion today the Gospel for Evening from the Lectionary. Though there are only seven verses in this Gospel Reading today, it will be difficult to cover the preponderance of meaning therein within the scope of a daily devotion; nevertheless, let us take as complete perusal of the grandeur of the landscape there as time will permit.

It is important to take note of the setting in which these last verses occur prior to seeking a better understanding of them. Jesus has just finished cleansing the Temple of money changes and merchants in the chapter immediately preceding. He has castigated the chief priest, elders and scribes for their lack of understanding and their hypocrisy. A

very complete account of his confrontation with these faithless wonders is given in Matthew 23:1-39. Please bear in mind that Christ used the utmost tenderness in dealing with the desperate sinner, but brooked no patience for these prodigious hypocrites!

"And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces," This indicates a continuation in His teaching reflected here, and in the previous chapter as well as Matthew 23. His Doctrine is quite a righteous contrast to the wicked and legalistic doctrine of the Pharisees. Their doctrine is fraught with manmade tradition and egregious departures from the Word of God as given in the Law and the Prophets. Jesus referred to this doctrine once as the "leaven of the Pharisees." Leaven always represents sin. This is why we use unleavened bread in Communion, for the thing represented should be symbolized in the nature of that which symbolizes. *"Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."* (Matt 16:6) The disciples misunderstood this remark by believing he referred to their failure to bring bread. *"O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."* (Matt 16:8-12) Just as many popular ministers of today who propagate lies for money, these culprits were teaching false doctrine for personal gain. This was one of those issues which attracted the attention of the courageous Martin Luther when he realized the thievery of the Roman clerics in selling indulgences for lucre.

Christ tells us that these false teachers love to wear fancy garments adorned with intricate embroidered hems and collars. They loved to be honored publicly. *"And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts."* The overriding point is simply this: they considered themselves better and more holy than all others. Do you believe that God hears the prayers of a bishop or priest with greater urgency than those uttered by a little child – a little child whose angel regards the face of God always? *"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."* (Matt 18:10) Spiritual arrogance is the worst form of hypocrisy. These men loved to make long and fancy prayers for the sake of public acclaim: *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."* (Matt 23:14) This verse from Matthew is also echoed here in our text today: *"Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation."* You will see that their motive is to consume what little property the widows and poor of the church have without compassion or love. The new versions (based on poor manuscript evidence) exclude Matthew 23:14 as well as many, many other verses of the Bible in face of God's warning given at Revelations 22:18-19. I wonder why the copyrighters of new bibles would exclude such a verse, or call into question whether the "woman taken in adultery" ever happened. We have them with us today! These two verses from Matthew 23:14 and Mark 12:40 set the scene for the following events recorded.

"And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much." Please do not assume that God does not see all that we do – not only how much we give in tithes and offerings. It is true that He takes note of our actions but, more importantly, He takes note of the

desires and thoughts of our hearts. It is the heart motive whereby we are known by God. The particular receptacle for these offerings was for the receipt of support for maintenance and upkeep of the Temple. The wealthy gave very much and no doubt ensured that this was obvious to all around. They would have been embarrassed for their station in life to offer two mites, so they protected their pride in giving much, but not so much that their lifestyle was cramped in any way.

"And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing." This poor widow was not counted among those *"rich who cast in much."* Those others did not attract the particular attention of Christ that this poor widow did. She is a particular person – a CERTAIN widow! Christ looked into the hearts of the rich and found nothing worthy of note, but in looking into the riches of the heart of a certain poor widow, He saw a life of hardship but a heart of tender love. He saw many oppressions wrought by the world against one helpless to withstand, but one whose strength of character was molded and made strong for God under these oppressions. He saw the want of her children, and the sacrifices she alone could make for them. He saw the Silver Cord loosed at the decease of the darling of her youth. And Christ also saw the great wealth represented in her two mites. These two mites may have given her one extra morsel of food at supper time, but she gave it to God. She gave ALL that she had which amounted to a tremendous offering in the eyes of the One whose knowledge of her gift mattered. How much of your time, your treasure, and your compassion have you given this day to one less able to provide for their needs? To give to widows and orphans is a direct gift to Christ, did you know?

Jesus would have us learn from the poor widow else He would not have raised the issue. He told His disciples, for He wanted them to learn as well: "And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury." Please observe that Jesus is not condemning the offering of the rich ones, but extolling the virtues of the widow whom His great Heart loves! Her two mites will gain a great deposit in heaven, and that is where it was directly deposited. This poor widow gave out of a FULL heart and an EMPTY purse. My heart is blessed to remember her and I love her without having seen her. It is estimated that if the widow's mite had been deposited at the "First National Bank, Jerusalem" to draw four percent interest semi-annually, the fund today would total \$4,800,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. This figure represents more spendable cash than exists in all the world today. Her two mites, gaining a better interest rate in heaven, have gained for her more than the whole world. Jesus saw her treasure in heaven!

I have heard some careless and faithless speculators surmise that the widow cast in two mites because she simply had no smaller coinage. How preposterous and denying of the clear words of Christ! *"For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."* Christ knew what the widow had, and what she did not have, so He tells us that she cast in all her living. What remarkable treasure can be had in two mites! The value of the two mites was not in the monetary value of the metal, but the virtue and love from which they were given!

I will conclude by borrowing the closing of my Lenten Devotion for April 6, 2011: *"The Words of Christ best informs us of how we should invest our treasure: **"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**"* (Matt 6:19-21)

When you get to Heaven, will you have riches on deposit?

Bishop Dennis Campbell

Today's Sunday Report has a guest sermon by Bishop R. Dennis Campbell. As you may have noticed, we often publish Bishop Jerry and Bishop Dennis sermons and notes. This is because no one I have ever heard does as fine a job at expressing biblical concepts in terms we can understand. Today is one of those times!



How God Shows Greatness

Luke 18:9-14

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

4 September 2011

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness"(Ps. 48:1). "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork" (Ps. 19:1). These verses from the Psalms remind us again of the grandeur and wonder of God. He created all things, and they exist for His pleasure and His purpose. He is not simply "out there," He is actively involved in His creation, so much that it is correct to say He is everywhere in it. He permeates it. His power sustains it. His decrees order the movement of the galaxies and of atoms and sub-atomic particles. He knows the number of the hairs on your head, and the number of the days of your life. This does not mean He and the creation are one and the same. It is incorrect to say He exists in the creation. It is correct to say the creation exists in Him. He is in it, and He fills it, yet He is distinct from it, so that it is not Him and He is not it. He is far more vast and complex than it. He is eternal in His being, and He is infinite in His being. The creation is finite in both, and though the universe appears vast and unfathomable to us, to God it is as a smudge of dust on His finger.

I say all of this to remind us again of the Great Being we have gathered to worship this morning. I think we often think of God in terms that are too small, and that we forget about His infinite being and power, and that we forget that this One, Infinite Being who dwells in eternity, is also infinite in holiness, and justice, and wisdom, and power. And when we forget this, we have a tendency to treat Him casually. We have a tendency to think of Him as being like us, and as being more like our good buddy in the sky or the "man upstairs" than as the Great High God who holds our being in His hand, and is able to cast us into Hell, and who is as infinite in holiness and goodness as He is in His being. If we could but glimpse the train of His robe we would be filled with such awe we would immediately cease the casual silliness that passes for faith and worship today, and we would fall on our faces in reverence and fear.

And yet, we have seen much more of Him than the train of His robe. He, Himself came to us and showed Himself to us. He did not reveal Himself in all of His power and glory. We could not see that and live. He showed Himself by becoming one of us, and by living among us, and facing life and sorrow, and joy, and temptation, and death, just as we have to do, for He became a real man.

For what purpose did Jesus come to earth, and teach us about God, and die on the cross? It was not to crush us under His feet. It was not to tread us in the winepress of the fierceness of His wrath. He will come back in judgment one day, and that will be a fearful day but that is not why He was born in Bethlehem and walked that long road to Golgotha. He came not to take life, but to give life. "I am come that they [His people]

might have life," He said in John 10:10. "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever believeth in me shall never die," He said in John 11:25 and 26. In Matthew 20:28 He said He, the Son of Man, came to give His life as a ransom for many. You and I could quote many other verses on this theme, but we have mentioned enough to make the point I am trying to make this morning: Jesus Christ came to show mercy. Jesus Christ came to save.

Imagine the vastness of this universe, so vast that, to us, it seems almost infinite. Imagine the complexity of this universe, or even of one single living cell. And all of this is nothing compared to God. Yet, when He chose to come to earth and give the fullest revelation of Himself we can receive as mere human beings, and when He chose to reveal that most important attribute of Himself, as far as His relationship to us is concerned, He chose to reveal His mercy. How absolutely stunning. It is too much for words.

This does not mean He overlooks our sin, or that He is not offended and angered by our sin. It does not mean He will not punish sinners. It does mean He delights in showing mercy, and every sinner who truly repents and unfeignedly believes His holy Gospel, is welcomed into His presence with true joy and love, forever. From the woman taken in adultery, to the Pharisee Saul who persecuted the Church, to the publican praying in the Temple to every person hearing or reading this sermon, all who trust in Jesus Christ will find God to be full of mercy, the Father of all mercies, who declares His almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity.

ALMIGHTY God, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandment, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

New Nametags

We had no new nametags today.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

We had no birthdays or anniversaries today.

After Church Hospitality

Because there is a going away party for the Thomas family, who are headed to Guam with the Navy for a two year tour, there was no snacking and no Burrito Ministry, but next week!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
4 September 2011	Dru Arnold
11 September 2011	Dru Arnold
18 September 2011	Opportunity Available
25 September 2011	Opportunity Available

People in our Prayers - <http://faithfulcenturionprayerteam.blogspot.com/>

Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.

It is not that God knows not our needs, for He surely does. Yet, Jesus commanded us to ask God for those same needs. In addition to the obvious of asking God for help, offering thanksgiving and the like, prayer helps us focus our thoughts on how we might

do God's work.

The Prayer Team of the Church of the Faithful Centurion was established to help our members and fellow Christians pray for those in need and to give thanks as well for the blessings we have been granted.

Who can be on the list? Do I have to be a member of the Church of the Faithful Centurion to be prayed for?

No! The only qualification to be on the list is that you want our prayer team to pray for you. We are Christians and are happy to pray for you, no matter who you are. If you want help from God, you are our kind of people.

What is the commitment from the prayer team?

Each member of the team will pray for the desired outcome at last once per day.

How do I get myself or someone else on the prayer list?

You can email one of the prayer team leaders: Jack - jack@faithfulcenturion.org or Dru - dru@faithfulcenturion.org, or call the church office at (619) 659-3608 or fill out a prayer card at church.

What should I ask for?

Depends on what you want. Some people merely want God to be asked to heal their ills and be mentioned by their first name, others want a specific outcome and / or have more of their personal information known to the team. Ask for what you want. It is your desire and need for prayer the team is attempting to meet. For typical examples, see the list below.

Updating the Team

If you are on our prayer list, or if you have submitted a person that you have asked us to pray for, please update one of the team members or Hap in person, by telephone or email. It helps to be able to pray specifically for these individuals including their specific needs; plus if they get better, it is nice to give thanks!

Please note that on the yellow (maybe green or orange if you get an old one) cards at church, you can ask that those to be prayed for have their names disseminated to the prayer team. Those names will be said in church and appear here. Or, you can ask that their names and purpose be kept confidential, then only Hap will know to pray for them.

Prayer List Notice – If you have someone on the prayer list and their needs have changed, please let us know. We'd like to update our prayers to reflect the need and most important to give thanks!

Travel

Tricia is on travel this week.

Move

The Thomas Family is on a short tour assignment in Guam for the next two years. Please pray for the assignment to go well for Kurt and for Mary and the kids to make new friends and Christyna and Mitchell in particular to develop good friends and school mates there so as to further their development.

Birthday

Shamim Gray celebrated her 44th birthday 4 September 2011.

Sandra Lee celebrated her birthday 14 August 2011.

Ryan Hopkins celebrated his 21st birthday 14 July 2011.

Homebound or Infirm

Sara's mother is in a state of deteriorating health. Please pray for peace of mind for her and the ability for both Sara and her mother to put their cares and worries on God's shoulders so they can deal with the many problems involved.

In need of a miracle or understanding of God's Plan

Todd and Kenny have both been fighting osteocarcinoma for over five years and have been told their time here on earth is nearing its end, absent a miracle from God. Both are ready to go home and leave the pain, but would like to stay. Please pray for them and their families.

Healing

Gil Garcia had heart problems on 10 August 2011. It turns out he has Congestive Heart Failure. The medical team is trying to work out medications to get a good fluid level in his blood stream, yet not allow pooling in the chest area, while getting his rapid heartbeat under control. He is home from Kaiser Fontana, not far from where worked when he was the comptroller at Kaiser Steel! Please pray for guidance for the team treating Gil to get his medication levels right. Pray also for peace of mind for Gil and his wife Mary.

Dotty Valkenaar has been diagnosed with a reoccurrence of breast cancer and had a double mastectomy and no reconstruction on 23 August 2011 in Seattle. Seemingly everything went very well, however there have been complications in the recovery and she remains hospitalized. Please give thanks for the surgical team doing their best, for the good result and pray for continued peace of mind through trust in God for Dotty and Lew, her husband, as well as their entire family.

Lew Valkenaar developed ankle and leg pain and swelling in his lower right leg. On his way to visit wife Dotty (see above) he stopped to check in with his doctor. A serious blood clot in the leg finds him not visiting Dotty, but hospitalized with a Heparin drip trying to dissolve the clot. Please pray for Lew's clot to dissipate so that he can get on with the business of taking care of Dotty.

Bill Aitken had a full knee replacement on 18 April 2011. He had an infection which set things back, then needed an additional operation the week of 25 July 2011. Now a mass has been found in the abdominal area and he underwent explorative surgery on 4 August 2011. It seems things are going okay, but the mass has yet to be indentified. Please pray for guidance for the team treating Bill and for his recovery. Pray also for peace of mind for Bill and his wife Sara.

Ryan Hopkins managed to injure his back somehow. Please pray for the medical people treating him to pay attention and figure out what the problem is, then come up with a workable solution. Give Ryan patience while all this happens.

Loretta Walker underwent gall bladder surgery on Friday, 1 July 2011. The surgery was expected to go fairly smoothly, but there was more to it than expected. She required a second surgical attempt, which did not solve the problem. She is home recovering and gaining strength for a third surgery the afternoon of Tuesday 30 August 2011. Please pray for her to develop a good attitude, trust in the Lord, as well as eat and in particular drink at home. Pray for her family, in particular her daughters Tricia and Jenny and granddaughters Whitney and Cayenne who are taking care of her. Please give thanks for her successful surgery and pray for a complete return to health. Please pray for peace of mind for Loretta and her family, in particular her daughters who are there to help her.

Pray for her trust in our Lord and for both her and her family to let God carry their worries while she recovers.

Morris Martin, 91, was hospitalized with pneumonia, he in rehab now and doing well, he has been irritated by having a feeding tube in until his throat can heal and be retrained, but he has responded with renewed effort when he failed the swallow test on 21 July 2011. He had a bit of a fever from which he seems to have recovered; it is hard, but he is strong. Give thanks for his great attitude and trust in God. Pray for strength and peace of mind for Morris and his family, in particular his son Paul. Pray for his trust in our Lord and for both him and his family to let God carry their worries while he recovers.

Steve Sundberg had a heart attack after Easter. After some time, the medical team treating him decided he was not a candidate for stents and a five-way heart bypass was performed the week of 6 June 2011. Please give thanks for an apparently very successful surgery and also pray for his complete recovery and for his three children and family who are very worried about him, pray also for his trust in our Lord and for both him and his family to let God carry their worries while he recovers.

Matt Alcantara, age 15, has Osteosarcoma (bone cancer), a very rare and often lethal form of cancer with limited treatment options. This is a disease that is about 90 percent fatal in a couple of years. He has no hip joint on one side, but he walks and swims! Courage? Guts? You bet! Matt's scans on 20 June 2011, were CLEAN! Thanks be to God for the way things have gone. Thanks also for the great faith of Matt and his entire family. Their faith and trust is a wonderful example for each and every one of us. But, now is not the time to stop praying. Actually, it never is the time to stop praying!

Andrew Scally was hospitalized with pneumonia, he is home now and doing very well, spending more and more time off the supplemental oxygen. Please give thanks for his recovery and pray for a complete return to health. Please pray for peace of mind for Andrew and his family, in particular his son Keith who has been there to help him. Pray for his trust in our Lord and for both him and his family to let God carry their worries while he recovers.

Won King underwent surgery the week after Memorial Day. She is now home, but doctors had difficulty stabilizing her blood thinning medication levels; but all seems fine now. Please give thanks for the successful surgery and medication setting.

Melanie Zimmers has what appears to be a badly bulged disc at C5-C-6 which is causing radiating pain down her right arm and numbness in her thumb and forefinger. She has been in physical therapy and is set to undergo epidural injections in July 2011. Please pray for resolution of her problem and a good attitude while a means to solve the problem is found.

Hal Campbell underwent apparently successful surgery for a cancerous lesion on the inside of his cheek and the associated lymph node on 7 March 2011, at the VA hospital in Seattle. Friday, 17 June 2011, his 62nd birthday, he started his first food by mouth since he finished six weeks of follow up Chemo and Radiation treatment to hopefully eradicate and cancerous cells that might have remained. Please pray for him to be able to eat so that he can have the feeding tube removed, for remission of the cancer and most of all for his acceptance of Christ.

Kyle Thompson, CPL USMC was injured was seriously wounded while on foot patrol in Helmand Province of Afghanistan on 25 October 2010. He has been released to

Camp Pendleton on casual status until his medical condition is clear. Likely he will be medically discharged.

You can reach out to him by emailing his father, Mike Thompson, at miket4k@yahoo.com. We may have a new address soon.

Todd Love, CPL USMC was seriously wounded while on foot patrol in Helmand Province of Afghanistan on 25 October 2010. Todd and his squad leader, *Kyle Thompson*, were hit by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) during a routine patrol. The IED took both of Todd's legs and part of his left arm. Pray for peace of mind, courage and healing for Todd. Pray for the medical teams treating him.

Send Todd a note or log on to <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/toddlove>.

Shamim Gray underwent a lumpectomy on Saturday 6 November 2010 at Bethesda Naval Hospital, with apparent great result. Please pray for a complete remission of the cancer. Pray also Shamim will maintain her great attitude and trust in God.

Judith Clingwall, is afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). She is currently in Laurel Place, an extended care facility in Surrey, British Columbia. Judith's condition seems stable a present, although the medication levels have been increased. Please pray for her to take an active part in her own life, for her strength, peace of mind, trust in God and remission of the disease so she might return home to her family. Pray also for strength for her husband Martin as he deals with all the problems and stress of Judith's situation.

Becky Madden is paralyzed from the neck down as the result of a tragic shooting accident. She has made it home and to church in a new donated magic wheelchair. Please pray for further recovery for Becky, as well as strength and guidance for each of those involved.

Betty Macauley, Tim's mom, is currently in a state of failing health. Please pray she will gain interest in life around her and actively pursue life here on earth. Please pray for her family, in particular her son Tim, as they try to help her.

Lauralee underwent a lumpectomy on Friday after Thanksgiving. A further anomaly has been discovered and she had additional preventative radiation treatment. Please pray for a complete remission of the cancer. Pray also Lauralee will maintain her great attitude and trust in God.

Luca, 5 years old, from our church family in Perth, Western Australia, who has just been diagnosed with leukemia. And for his Mum and Dad and extended family.

Jere Wolfe, Melanie Zimmers' dad, has cardiomyopathy, a weakening of the heart muscle. The pacemaker installation helped a lot, but he lost ¼ of his weight, so he has to fight his way back. He is getting stronger, but not gaining weight. He now has a bladder infection and is concerned because of the significantly adverse reaction he had to the antibiotics last time. Keep praying for his continued recovery and for him Jere to maintain his trust in the Lord.

Doreen Wolf, mother of Melanie Zimmers, is recovering from Bell's Palsy and still has a bit of difficulty with her foot, but she is mobile, for which she gives thanks.

Greg Chase asks that you pray for his family:

Diane, Greg's wife, has a positive attitude dealing with the ongoing treatment of her ulcerative colitis. They are grateful for a positive attitude and would be pleased to see physical progress.

Phyllis, Greg's mom, has stabilized as the result of the good home care she is receiving and recently celebrated her 89th birthday.

Wilma is at home after three weeks in the hospital and is working on building strength for a planned hip replacement in August 2011.

Vince (age 13), reoccurrence of cancer, recent testing found a nickel sized tumor in his lungs. The doctors are consulting with a specialist in Houston. Please pray for guidance for the medical team and for peace of mind for Vince and his family.

Obra Gray continues to take day by day. Please continue to keep Obra in your prayers, and give him the strength of knowing the Lord is with him and will never forsake him. Obra needs security of what lies ahead of him, and only the Lord can grant the solace to answer his prayer.

Bashir Ahmed, father of Shamim Gray, has been blessed with the Lord's breath of life to stay on this earth for the time being. But, things are hard for him and his loving wife, who cares for him. They have two young nieces living with them who see no real need to help, pray for God to enter their hearts. Above all, pray for his entire family to open their hearts to accept all God's love will bring them.

Kay Denton (Mrs. Kay) is still home and doing pretty well considering the bones in her neck and hands are degenerating as a side effect of her kidney failure. Her thumbs are not particularly useful any more. Mrs. Kay asks everyone who is praying for her know how grateful she is for their prayers. As always, she retains her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude

Guidance

Steve asks that you pray for difficulties he is having with his family. Please pray that the Holy Ghost will enter into his heart and provide him with the heaven sent inspiration that he needs to see clearly and deal with problems and the courage to do what needs to be done in the manner it should be done.

Jacquie to open her heart to God and accept His Love and Grace.

Hap asks you to pray that he might be able to trust God will help him make the right decisions at the right time and not to worry uselessly, to change those things he can change, accept those things he cannot change and that he will open his heart to the Holy Ghost.

Armed Forces & Contractors

Airman Donny Patton (RAF Mildenhall, UK), Jordan (USMC – AIT), Neal (USN-Afghanistan), Trevor (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator), Trevor (USN – Pilot Training), Kurt Thomas (USN – Guam),

Persecuted

Around the world, Christians are under attack, not only in the Muslim world, but from Hindus and others in India. Also, they are under continual attack in the name of "Separation of Church and State" in the western world, as it becomes actively atheist or pro-devil buddy. Please pray for God's guidance and protection for all persecuted Christians and those around them.

Thanksgiving

The Thomas Family gives thanks for safe travel last week to their new assignment in Guam.

Various Special Requests

We ask that you pray, please ask God that the Holy Ghost might give you insight into

how you might make the lives of your friends and family better. Remember helping others is not just those who you don't know!

Please join us in praying that the *Free Teen Guitar Class* will be continue to be an opportunity for God to work in the lives of the kids and their families. Please ask God to guide the class to new opportunities to make Him known to others. Help us to let the love of our Lord shine through us into their lives, putting Him first, so that He might enter in to their hearts and lives.

Question that only you can ask

What would you like to know about our history, what we believe, what we do or how we operate? Hap is looking for material for the continuing education class and *Thought for the Day* material. Help us help you. Please send your question to Hap so we all can get an answer. Just because you don't know the answer to your question doesn't mean you are the only one who doesn't know. But, if you don't ask, no one will know.

I'd like to get a different point across or announce something

If you have a different point of view, I would be happy to give you room to get your point across. While this publication is my perspective on events, I recognize not everyone may agree and that some people would like to express their own opinion. If you want to write something, please forward your item to Hap (with a note as to whether or not you would like editing help) to: hap@faithfulcenturion.org.

Epistleers

We post the list of Epistle Readers in the Sunday Report each week so you can either plan your attendance or your pre-reading as the spirit so moves you.

Date	Reader
11 September 2011	Dru Arnold
18 September 2011	Ryan Hopkins
25 September 2011	Dru Arnold

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

Sunday

11 September 2011 – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

Sunday

18 September 2011 – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

Sunday

25 September 2011 – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

Sunday

2 October 2011 – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

Sunday

9 October 2011 – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

Sunday

16 October 2011 – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

Sunday

23 October 2011 – Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

Sunday

30 October 2011 – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**