



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Report



Today was the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday. The weather was once again picture perfect, clear, semi-dry and pretty warm; 57°F at sunrise, rising to 81°F by the end of church under those same blue skies. The almost perfect weather brought 4 people to worship.

Gathering Song

Jack Arnold played *Ode to Joy / Joyful, Joyful* for the gathering song.

Ode to Joy – Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.



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 or our Deacon Striker.

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 210-211, with the Collect first:

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity.

The Collect.

KEEP, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ryan Hopkins read the Epistle, which came from Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, the Sixth Chapter, beginning at the Eleventh Verse. Paul continues to warn us of the conflict in our lives between the things valued here on earth and those valued by the forces of heaven (God). Writing to the Gentiles in Galatia, using to the rite of circumcision as a symbol for all of The Law, he warns, "As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh." Those who are every eager to have you follow "The Law" themselves fail to follow it. He goes on to say that Jesus' new covenant transcends The Law and The Law no longer has hold over man. For in



Jesus there is salvation, may “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.”

YE see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand. As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read today’s Holy Gospel which was written in the Sixth



Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the Twenty-Fourth Verse. Jesus tells us, “No man can serve two masters ...Ye cannot serve God and mammon¹.” There is only one first place, only one can be in that place. We either place God in first place or we put something else there. If we wish riches in this world as the most important thing in our life, we place the things of this world in first place. If we follow our Lord Jesus and His instruction, we place God in that first place. But, what of this world? “Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment? Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than

they?” Jesus tells us not to worry, for worry is of no positive value. When faced with a problem, we must do our best, not merely claim to do our best, and trust in God. For, “which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life?” God knows we have need of the things of this world while we are in it, he knows we worry about, “What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?” If we first seek “His kingdom, and His righteousness” He will take care of all our necessities. But we must do as He asks, not merely say we are doing so. If you follow God’s directions, you will be wealthy beyond description. While you will never be “Bill Gates” rich, you will never lack what you need on this earth or in the world to come.

¹ Mammon - a Chaldee or Syriac word meaning "wealth" or "riches" (Luke 16:9-11); also, by personification, the god of riches (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:9-11).

1: wealth regarded as an evil influence

2: (New Testament) a personification of wealth and avarice as an evil spirit.

Jesus tells us, “Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” We are not to worry, but to our best and let the morrow come as it will. We are to do our best, not merely say we are doing our best. For if we truly do our best, then that is all that can be done and there is no point in worrying.

Using an earlier phrase, *Trust in God and Dread Naught*.

NO man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment? Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life? And why are ye anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God doth so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Sermon – Time and Action

Today’s sermon tied the Epistle and Gospel together and is partly contained in the forewords above.



Just like the Jewish based Christians of Paul’s time, it often seems like everyone has secret rituals, handshakes or hoops they want you to jump through to be IN. Paul reminds us that all fall short, all who will find that real salvation comes only by the Grace of God through our Lord Jesus. Our salvation is not based on the ritual, the handshake or even the slice of the circumcision scalpel.

Our salvation comes one way, by the Grace of God through our Lord Jesus. Yet one cannot serve two masters. We must choose who we will serve, God or the world. If we chose God, that does not mean that we turn our back on the world around us, but rather that we interface with the world using the Rules of Engagement given to us by our Lord. We prioritize our actions with Him first. Our family motto; **God • Honor • Country • Family** is an example of this prioritization. First things first. Build from the inside out and the bottom up. Do not mistake this motto for perfection, we have erred and strayed from our ways like every lost sheep, probably farther than most. But we know which way is The Way and keep

correcting back on course.

Prioritization can be as simple as coming home early on Saturday night so that you get a good night's sleep and are ready for the Sunday church service. It can be as complex as leaving a job that interferes with your honoring God, Country or Family. First things first.

Through out the Bible we are exhorted to respect God, be honorable, work hard and take care of our families. If we do these things, following God's Will, our fiscal standing here on earth will be sound. Follow these precepts, you will never be lacking, but you will never be inordinately wealthy, "Bill Gates rich" so to speak. For to do that requires reprioritization to wealth in the first place. Replacing allegiance to God with allegiance to wealth is a one way ticket to a destination you don't want.

God wants you to be happy, He knows what will make you happy. God does not mind if you have fun along the way, but never pursue fun confusing it with happiness. In the end, you won't find either.

Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sermon

Bishop Dennis is a brilliant speaker. He is able to take biblical precepts and make them perfectly understandable, even to me. Oft he provides the text of his sermons and I take the utmost pleasure in passing them on:



Profitable Things

Matthew 6:24-34

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

2 October 2011

Those who preach from Matthew 6:24-34 often go straight to verse 33, "seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." There is good reason for this, for the verse is the heart of this passage. It is the conclusion towards which our Lord has been leading us in this part of the Sermon on the Mount. The logic of the passage goes like this; you cannot serve two gods, God, and mammon. Therefore, seek first the Kingdom of God, and trust Him so supply mammon as He sees fit. But I am going to do something a little different today. We have prayed in this morning's Collect that God will keep us in His perpetual mercy and lead us into all things profitable. Then we read in Galatians 6 that our glory is in Christ, "by whom the world is crucified to me, and I unto the world," and we read in Matthew 6 that we cannot serve both God and mammon. "Mammon is often thought to mean "money," but it really includes the whole range of the world's goods. So, it is easy to grasp what it means to become the servant of mammon. It is easy to grasp, but, I'm going to talk about it anyway.

Serving Mammon

To serve mammon is to find your meaning in life in things rather than God. What identifies you to yourself? Is it your car, your house, your clothes your job your hobbies? What defines who and what you are? What says to you, "this is who I am?"

To serve mammon is to find your comfort in life in the things of this world, rather than in God. Where do you turn in time of trouble? What comforts your soul in time of

stress and trial? Some turn to the television set. Some turn to drugs and alcohol. Some turn to the refrigerator (that's one of my own personal favourites). Some turn to the mall. Some turn to sports and amusements. And some turn to God.

To serve mammon is to devote your life to gaining things. It is important to know that the Bible does not teach us to expect God to drop money out of the sky like manna in the wilderness. The Bible teaches us to work for a living. So, we should expect to labour for our wages. Labour isn't always fun. In our industrial society, most of us work for someone else, and bosses aren't always nice and jobs aren't always fun. The Bible addresses this in other places, such as Ephesians 6:5-9. The point today is not our relations with people on the job, but that God expects us to work. The Bible even says those who are able to work, and have jobs available to them, but won't work, don't have a right to the goods and property of those who do work.

Seeking God First

As I said, I think we all know what it means to serve mammon, so I want to turn to the other side of this which is seeking God first. And seeking God first means to trust God rather than be overly concerned about the things of the world. When our Lord said in Matthew 6:31, "take no thought saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" He didn't mean we should not work or try to improve our situation in life. He didn't mean we should not plan and work and prepare for the future. All of these things are commended in other parts of Scripture, and they are just as much the word of God as these words of Christ. Our Lord meant we are not to spend our time and energy worrying about the future. He meant we are to do our best, and trust God with the rest. Trust the One who feeds the birds and cares for the lilies. You are more valuable to God than the birds, and if He cares for the flowers, "shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" So we make it a priority to trust Him to provide for us as He deems best. Today He may deem it best that we enjoy prosperity and health. Tomorrow He may give us poverty and sickness. In either and all situations we will strive to trust in Him and be content.

To seek God first is to see the world's goods, "mammon," as tools by which we do good and serve God rather than as toys for our amusement. I think this is part of what St. Paul was teaching in the eighth and ninth chapters of Second Corinthians, which we have been reading together over the past couple of days. The Corinthians' abundance can supply the needs of the people in Jerusalem, according to 2 Corinthians 8:14. Their gift will cause many to give thanks unto God according to 2 Corinthians 9:12. In so doing, mammon becomes a tool for serving God. But giving also helps the giver. Giving develops Godliness in the giver. That is part of what St Paul meant in 2 Corinthians 8:12 when he wrote, "their abundance" meaning, the faith and steadfast Godliness of the Church in Jerusalem, "also may be a supply for your want." In giving the gift, the Corinthians supplied a need in the Church in Jerusalem, and they supplied a need in their own lives, the need to grow in their faith and obedience to Christ. This is one way that mammon can become a tool in our hands. Robert Crouse, preaching on this passage expressed this well when he said:

"We are so easily seduced into regarding [the world's goods] as ends in themselves. That is what it means to serve Mammon. Today's Gospel would remind us that the things of this world, however good, are not ends--but means: means towards an end which is spiritual and eternal--the knowledge and love of God, God's kingdom and his righteousness."

Finally, to seek God first is to... seek God first. The things of earth are not our first priority. We realise that life is more than meat and raiment. Therefore, we go first for the higher things of life. We go first for God. He is our priority. Pleasing Him is our first goal. Knowing that our souls are safe and clean in Christ is more important to us than gold. His will is more valuable to us than silver. Living quiet holy lives is more valuable to us than riches, and sweeter to us than honey. In short, we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and we trust that perpetual mercy we prayed for a while ago to lead us into all things profitable.

Let us pray.

KEEP, we beseech thee O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us into all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Bishop Ogles' message for today

Bishop Jerry provided his very interesting devotion notes for yestday. I am certain you will find them very enjoyable. As always, I cannot commend it to you enough.

Saturday 1 October 2011 Anno Domini in 14th Week after Trinity Sunday

"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. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the

life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field,

how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (Matt 6:19-34)

We continue with that most sublime of all sermons, the Sermon on the Mount.

"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."

Some men place their cherished friends and families in their hearts alongside every abominable and sinful thought, for the heart is the repository of a man's treasure. We may find lust stored there alongside pride and prejudice. Even among these gods of vanity we may find a sacrificial love for a wife or child, but such love cannot attain the same degree of blessing as that which is stored in a pure heart. Our thoughts, too, are the treasures of our hearts and if we allow our minds to wander in sinful pleasures or imaginations, there will be no place found for the Holy Spirit. Even the associations we keep may share their heart treasures with us and cause them to be stored in our own hearts: ***"Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he"*** (Prov 23:6-7)

The following illustration by Richard Chenevix Trench, should give us clear knowledge of how our treasures will benefit if placed in the right depository: In his book, "The Banished Kings, 1882" he tells the ancient story of a king who, learning that at some future point in time, he would be banished to a distant island over the sea, sent over to that land treasures, prepared houses and gardens for his future life, until he looked with greater joy to that land where his treasures were than to the kingdom which he then enjoyed. So may we lay up treasures in heaven.

How blessed we would be if we had all of our treasures safely deposited in the First Bank of Heaven instead of the bankrupt banks of earth!

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light." This counsels against a wondering eye, but one fixed on the straight and narrow Way that leads up and not down.

"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." (Prov 4:25-27) and the

wicked: *"He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor."* (Psalms 10:8) If our focus is solely on the Lord, our steps will be straight in the paths wherein He has chosen for us to walk. If we have double vision, we will not stay on that path. Since God is Light and the Father of Lights, if our vision is single toward Him and His Word, our whole being will be permeated by, and full of, Light! (James 1:17)

"But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness." If we are blind to God's Word and Commandments, we are altogether blind. If we have light from the Dark Side, it is indeed a dark ray which will not benefit us in our walk. If either walk in the Light, or we walk in the darkness – there is no twilight with God for He is all of Light.

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." There is an old axiom in Korea that one cannot have two close friends – that three people cannot remain close friends because each will always prefer one or the other and jealousy will eventually cause enmity toward one of the friends. I have observed this to be true in Asia. A garden of inviting flowers or vegetables must be constantly labored at to keep the weeds from choking out the good plants. The weeds, on the other hand, need no cultivation at all. They grow unobserved. If we attempt to grow weeds and flowers together, the weeds will always predominate. If we try to serve God, with a back door open to sin, the sin will proliferate and take over our unguarded hearts. We read of Mammon in Milton's "Paradise Lost":

*"Mammon led them on:
Mammon, the least erected spirit that fell
From heaven: for e'en in heaven his looks and thoughts
Were always downward bent, admiring more
The riches of heaven's pavement, trodden gold,
Than aught divine or holy, else enjoyed
In vision beatific."*

"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on." John Newton once said that if Nebuchadnezzar's image was of solid gold, and every worshipper was to have a piece of it, he feared that his own nation, as well as the great kings, would be ready to fall down before it. Wealth and social prominence can become a hard and cruel master. Far more suicides occur among the rich and famous than among the poor of the world. When the want of fashion and social prestige take the upper hand in life, we are made to serve with greed and hate the master who owns us. This master has an insatiable appetite which can never be satisfied until it consumes its servant.

"Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" None of these

considerations are of any worth without life. Why do we allow worries of fashion and feast to dominate our minds and render our lives of less value? But the question rises to an even higher level when faced with the prospects of an eternal life with God.

"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" God feeds the fowl of the air – "Not in idleness, not by putting food in their mouths while they sit still in the trees and sing and wait; but by providing the food which they can obtain, and providing them with the means of seeing and obtaining food. Not idleness, but industry, is taught us by God's care of the birds. They build nests, they migrate to warmer climes when food fails them in the North, and they are up early seeking food." (*Suggestive Illustrations from the Gospel of St Matthew, Peloubet, 1894*)

"Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." An old legend says: The corn once criticized the Lily, saying, "One cannot earn a living just being sweet;" but the Lily only returned a smile, and waited until Jesus passed; then they both heard Him say to His disciples, "Children, the life is more than meat, consider the Lilies, how beautiful they grow." God has a place for vessels and flowers of every variety and each are especially fashioned for their purpose. Man cannot make a Lily or a butterfly in spite of all of his scientific knowledge and presumed prowess. Only God can make a tree! If the richest and wisest man who ever lived cannot have apparel as beautiful as a simple Lily, then man must admit that only God can create beauty and life.

"Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?_(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:)_ for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." Imagine the Mighty God that flung the stars and planets, moon and Sun, into orbit at the beginning of Creation, and who created the tiny squirrel and the elephant, the horse and the eagle, and the flowers and fruits of every variety. He created these for our benefit and pleasure and He made us to have a loving dominion over these resources. All for His Children! How special is man that God created him to have dominion over sky and sea, land and mountain, and all the creatures that had life in them. God loves the little sparrow and His eye is always on the sparrow. How much more does He watch after man!

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." If the Kingdom of God and His righteousness is the sole object of our seeking, we cannot fail of joy and success in the search. Truly, all the joys of life are made available to him who seeks God in all things. Even

the great Reformers died in the fires of martyrdom with an inner joy unseen by the dark spirits who built the fires.

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." When a child knows that his father is at home, he has no worries of insecurity. Why should we have when we know that our Father rules the heavens? There is enough evil today to occupy our thoughts without worrying about a hypothetical tomorrow! If we lack total control of the moment, how do we expect to alter the future months or years? **Do you worry, or do you allow your Father to do so?**

New Nametags

We had no new nametags today.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

We had no birthdays or anniversaries today.

After Church Hospitality

No dog nuts AGAIN today. After church we took the entire congregation to lunch at Daniel's Chinese Restaurant for Chinese food. Next week dog nuts!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
9 October 2011	Dru Arnold
16 October 2011	Opportunity Available
23 October 2011	Opportunity Available
30 October 2011	Opportunity Available
6 November 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

No 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 Khristyna and Mitchell in particular to develop good friends and school mates there so as to further their development.

Birthday

Lauralee Meade celebrated her birthday 25 September 2011.

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, both physically and mentally. 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

Bill Aitken had abdominal surgery on 29 September 2011 to see what the mass is in his abdomen. The biopsy results will take a week, although they asked for it to be

expedited, which means they will receive the report in a week. The preliminary diagnosis is a gastrointestinal stromal tumor [GIST] neoplasm mass, which the surgeon feels is pre-cancerous and must come out promptly, as these masses are "moody" and may move, erupt, metastasize or change. Surgical options will depend on the biopsy report. Bill is in good spirits for now. Being a direct action fan, he looking forward to the removal surgery. 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.

Walt Dexter had a stroke the week of 12 September 2011 and is still mostly half paralyzed. Please pray for a full and complete recovery for Walt and for peace of mind for him and his wife Fran.

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 were complications in the recovery, but she is home now. 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. The blood clot taken care of he and Dotty are both on Cumadin now.

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. The third surgery worked. Please pray for her to maintain 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-C6 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.

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 – Whidbey Island, EF-18 Pilot), 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
9 October 2011	Ryan Hopkins
16 October 2011	Ryan Hopkins
23 October 2011	Ryan Hopkins
30 October 2011	Ryan Hopkins

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

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**

