



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

# Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Report



Today was the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday. There had been some frontal rain earlier in the week, but last night was even more odd. The evening had a low of 42°F, but a warming trend brought 54°F at sunrise, rising to 73°F by the end of church under those same blue skies. Beautiful weather! The almost perfect weather brought 4 people to worship.

## *Gathering Song*

Jack Arnold played *Amazing Grace* for the gathering song.

## *Amazing Grace*

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.



We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. *Amazing Grace* is one of Hap's absolute favorites.

## *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 212-213, with the Collect first:

### The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity.

#### *The Collect.*

**O** LORD, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ryan Hopkins read today's Epistle, which came from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, the Third Chapter beginning at the Thirteenth Verse. Paul, writing to the church in Ephesus, prays that the people might "be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." More simply put, Paul asks that we open our hearts to God and to Christ, that they might work in our hearts the miracle of love.



**I** DESIRE that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth

knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

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



Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the Eleventh Verse. Jesus was going into the city of Nain with his disciples and many followers. "When he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her." In those days, a widow with only one son had little, a widow with no son was in deep trouble. Taking compassion on her and also the opportunity to make His power evident, He came to the bier, and touch it said, "Young man, I say unto thee, Arise." The young man arose and began to speak; whereupon Jesus brought him to his mother. Not surprisingly, news of this event was spread "forth throughout all Judæa, and throughout all the region round about." Like the young man, we are dead to eternity until we hear the command "...

Arise." If we hear and act on that command, we have eternal life, just like the young man, it starts right then!

**A**ND it came to pass the day after, that Jesus went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people. And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judæa, and throughout all the region round about.

### *Sermon – Time and Action*

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

If we will open our hearts to God, He will send the Holy Ghost to fill our hearts with Love, Courage, Inspiration, Tenacity and Confidence, to mention just a few helpful additions to our portfolio. If we will open our hearts to Him, our ears will hear the command "... Arise." When we rise, we rise with the confidence of immortals and can conquer any obstacle. But, without an open heart, our ears will never hear the command directed to our soul, "... Arise." We will be dead to eternity.

Open your heart to our Lord and arise. Arise; go forth with Love, Courage, Inspiration, Tenacity and Confidence to fight the battle our Lord leads us into.

All Jesus asks is that we follow Him. That is all follow Him. But, words mean something. The word follow is very important.

In the military fighter world the strongest acceptance and recognition of excellence that can be given is, "You lead; I'll follow." For to do so is to put your life in the other's hands. Literally, completely and without question. It is a matter of putting the light on the star and hanging in there. It is said by few to an even smaller number. When you break out of the cloud after an hour of GE-28Volt burning in your retina and see the runway or pop over the ridge after a half hour of dodging trees and triple A and the target is right there in the reticle, it is all okay. Sometimes in between, it does not seem like it will turn out that way. What makes you keep the light on the star is trust. I see this as another aspect of that truth. The numbers are different in the case of God. We all (unlikely to happen) need to put our lives in the hands of a small number (that would be ONE).

We need recognize who has the ability, the power, the perfection in leadership and have that trust to say, "You lead; I'll follow." I believe that is what Jesus expects from us in regard to our entire life. We may get out of position or even go lost wingman on the odd occasion, but he expects us to Our very best to follow His lead and stay in position. Hard to do if your eye is not padlocked on Him.

I might add, as ministers of our Lord, we have a similar responsibility to those who would follow us here on earth. And we have to work even harder, for created by a perfect God, we are imperfect creatures with free will. A problematic combination. We must strive for a correct attitude, heading, stability and predictability in our path so that we can be followed towards that final destination that marks a successful mission.

### *Bishop Ogles' Sermon*

Bishop Jerry provided his very interesting sermon notes for today. 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**

*"37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man*



*cometh.45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt 24:37-51)*

From the moment of the fall of our fleshly father, Adam, in the Garden at Eden, sins began to multiply among the children of man. The results of these sins also led to the increase of disease and pestilence where, in times past, there had been none. Roses grew thorns, and blood began to be shed abroad on the earth as a legacy of Cain's grievous murder of his brother Abel. As the decades rolled into centuries, and centuries into millennia, the heart of man became all the more wicked and full of evil. The pattern of growing wickedness was temporarily abated by the Flood, but not long after, it began anew in earnest. It continues even to this day of the modern era. Because the memory of Noah is raised by Christ, it should signal to us the importance of knowing and remembering the conditions on earth that led to the Deluge.

*"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." How were the days when the Ark was under construction? If the enormity of sin in the days preceding the Flood are heralds of the last days, we need to carefully examine those days and compare them with our own time to discover any signs of the Coming of the Lord of all Glory. "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Gen 6:5) "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." (Gen 6:11-12) When the heart of man is corrupt and full of sin, even the earth also becomes corrupt. After the sin of Adam, God said to him ".....cursed is the ground for thy sake....." (Gen 3:17)*

The Godly man, Noah, suffered the ridicule and rejection of all society as he labored at the Ark. Moreover, he preached righteousness to an unbelieving people for more than one hundred years. The scorners gathered about as Noah built the Ark under the Divine guidance of God. He warned them of God's wrath at their wickedness and how God would destroy the whole earth with water. This was unbelievable to these people of Noah's day for it had never before rained upon the earth from the Creation. Plants were watered by dew that arose at night and refreshed all life. A Flood! What was a Flood? They would soon find out. If God warns of impending judgment, we need not wonder how it can happen – we need only prepare for it! Faithful Noah walked with God. He heard His voice and responded in obedience. No matter how he may have been ridiculed by men, Noah knew that God would still sit on the Throne of Heaven even when these mortal sinners were suffering the flames of Hell.

***"For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."***

The point made here is that of the complete surprise of the coming destruction of the flood by all living (except Noah and his family). Men had been sinning with impunity since Adam. They continued to sin, to drink, to marry, to given in marriage, to rob, to murder, and to commit every evil imaginable. They felt immune to retribution. The greatest travesty and miscalculation was that these people did not take God seriously. He was too God to bring a devastating judgment against them, so they continued with all disregard to the Creator God who made them.

The presumption of security that these people demonstrated reminds me of the true account of the Captain of the Titanic of the White Star Line just a day prior to its weighing anchor for its fatal rendezvous with an iceberg in the North Atlantic. Captain Edward J. Smith was asked by a reporter if the ship was safe – if it could be sunk? Captain Smith responded with this awfully vain comment: "Sir, I tell you in complete confidence - God Himself could not sink the Titanic!" Do we of today believe that time shall go on indefinitely and that we may never face an end of it? Every reader of this devotion has a future place and time, determined by God alone, for dying. We know not the hour or circumstance, but we do know that we alone will not be the exception to dying. We may not know when or how, but we can certainly know and prepare for the condition in which we leave this world – either lost or safe in the arms of Christ. William Saroyan was an Armenian writer whose short stories I came to enjoy while abroad. He was at best a tepid believer. In the early 1980's, William Saroyan passed away in a Los Angeles hospital. Days earlier, he had sent a note to Walter Cronkite to read only after his demise. After his death, Mr. Cronkite read Saroyan's note on CBS Evening News: "I have always known that everyone has to die sooner or later but, I felt, in my case that there would be an exception – NOW WHAT?" If Mr. Saroyan felt the question one he needed to ask, I'm afraid the answer will not be pleasing. Do you know, friend, that you are called and chosen by God?

***"Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left."*** Though this prophecy may relate fully to the coming destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman Legions under Titus in 70 A.D., it has parallel bearing on the return of Christ at some point unknown to us. Many shall be employed in the same pursuit and action when Christ comes, yet one will be taken and the other left. Why? It is because our good works will not merit heaven for us, but that which is in our hearts.

***"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up."*** If we are fervent students of history, we will see the ugly head of tyranny being raised in our own government as well as abroad. Defending the liberties of our people is not a sometime consideration, but one requiring constant vigilance on the part of the people. We face an

even greater prospect with the Coming of the Kingdom of God. We must be on constant watch for our souls and those of our family and neighbors. Be a watchman is a serious business. It is a duty which weighs heavily on the shoulders of every clergyman, and every Christian layperson. We must be awake, we must be watching, and we must sound the alarm. Even in our contemporary times, sleeping on guard duty has ever been punishable with death, because on the carefulness of the watch may depend the safety of the army and the nation. In the Korean Army, our allies during the Vietnam War, a soldier found sleeping on guard would never wake up. He would be shot in his sleep. **"In the Temple, during the night, the captain of the Temple made his rounds, and the guards had to rise at his approach and salute him in a certain manner. Any guard found asleep on duty was beaten or his garments were set on fire."** M. R. Vincent ***"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."*** (Rev 16:14-15) Christ gives here His charge to be watching, for the same reason but even more importantly, for His coming and clothed in the garments of **justification and sanctification**, so as to be accepted.

If you knew that the End would come at noon today, would your manner of living suffer great change? Near the end of the eighteenth century, there was a day which came to be known in New England history as the Dark Day. On this day, April 19, 1780, the sun was suddenly and inexplicably obscured at the noon hour. The darkness descended on the land from the middle, to the New England, states. The Connecticut Legislature was in session, and some of the members, moved with fear, proposed an immediate adjournment. *"It is the day of Judgment,"* they said, *"and it is not fitting that we should be here."* But a Colonel named Davenport, one of the members, stood up and said, *"I do not know whether this is the day of judgment or not. But if it be the day of judgment it cannot overtake us at a better place than at the post of duty. Let us light the candles and go about the business of the house."* And then he made his speech regarding the use fish nets in Long Island Sound. Will you continue your good duty until the Lord finds you then?

***"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."*** There are, today, many knowledgeable theologians of whom the Lord may not have been aware for they claim to know the day and hour of His return. I have two small books in my library attesting to the Lord's return on September 22, 1988 and October 1, 1992 respectively. But wait! Something must be amiss with their reading since the Lord did not come as predicted. A more recent example is the prophecy of Mr. Harold Camping that Christ would return on May 21, 2011. Did we miss that gathering? Such false prophecies attract much attention (as well as money), but the price to be paid by those who speak falsely in the name of the Lord is a serious matter. No one knows the time of the Lord's return, so let us live every day as if that is the day. ***"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods."***

***"But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord"***

*of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* When I was a child, my parents would often leave me and my younger brother in the care of my older sister. My mother gave my chores to do, and my sister was to be obeyed. As soon as the dust cleared, I usually did whatever I pleased and was not obedient to my sister. Some few minutes before the expected return of my parents, I tried to get my act straight and appear diligent when they returned. Quite often, I completely failed at this object for my parents sometime surprised me by returning earlier than expected. I always paid a greater price for my loathsome failure than I would have paid by doing my duty in the first place. Are we putting off a right relation with God until we are convinced that our days are ending? Live every minute of every day unto the Lord. That way, we will pray with John the Revelator that He shall come quickly, and we shall be ready!

### *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:



#### **God Hath Visited His People**

Luke 7:11-17

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Before we begin to look at the Scriptures for today I ask you to turn to page 212 of the Prayer Book and look at the Collect for today, the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity. As Anglicans we follow an annual cycle of prayer, worship, and Scripture reading. This is a practice followed by God's people for many thousands of years, and it is part of our identity as Holy Trinity Anglican Church and as members of the Anglican Orthodox Church. This is a wonderful blessing, for in the cycle of prayer we are guided and instructed in the faith once delivered to the saints. We are not simply left to our own devices to learn the Bible's content and meaning. We are led into the Word in a way that helps us learn its content and its message, and, at the same time, makes it part of the way we think, and respond to life and God. The more you follow our cycle of worship and Scripture, the more you will understand the Bible, and, the more you understand the Bible, the more you will be filled with the fullness of God. This takes some effort and perseverance. Actually, it takes years of hard work and dedication. So, if you seem to be floundering a little, be patient and keep going. The rewards are worth the effort.

Each week of the cycle of prayer begins with Sunday, of course, and assumes that the people of God will not forsake the assembly, but will come together to worship God. Each Sunday is assigned Scripture readings and a Collect, which is a prayer that sets forth the doctrine, Scriptural event, or exhortation for that Sunday, and the week that follows. Sometimes the connection between the Collect and the Scriptures is plain and obvious. Sometimes it is less obvious, and today, I think, is one of those less obvious days. So let's look at the Collect for today.



Please read and listen thoughtfully as I read it aloud.

"O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The point of the Collect, and the Scriptures for this morning, is that God is able and willing to continually cleanse, defend, succour, and preserve His Church by His continual help and goodness. Let me show how this point is made.

First, we are shown that God is **able** to help us. This is shown first in the Epistle, Ephesians 3:13-21. The Apostle Paul, who was the human utensil through whom God gave the Book of Ephesians, tells us God is with him even in his tribulations. Paul's tribulations were many. He lost everything in the service of Christ; he was persecuted, stoned and beaten, shipwrecked, imprisoned, and finally executed for being a Christian. Yet he endured it all with a peaceful heart, writing in Romans 8:18 that the "sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." He does not promise that God will keep us from the pains and trials of life. He does tell us we can be strengthened by His Spirit in the inner man, that we can have Christ dwelling in our hearts by faith, that we can be rooted and grounded in love, that we can be enabled to understand the great things of the mysteries of God, that we can know the love of Christ, and that we, you and I, sinners that we are, unworthy as we are, can be **filled with all the fullness of God** (Eph. 3:16-19). These are powerful statements. These are staggering words. I think that if we ever felt their full impact it would be like being hit by a train, except the result would not be pain and death, it would be life and joy. Can these things be true? Yes, God is able to do them. He is able to do "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph 3:20).

Second, the ability of Christ to help us is shown in the raising of the dead man. There is such a tender encouragement to faith in these verses of Luke's Gospel. We see Christ's compassion on the man and his mother, just as He has compassion on us in our physical and spiritual needs. We see Christ move intentionally to the man, just as He intentionally comes to us in the Incarnation, in His Word, Spirit, and the means of grace. We see Him touch the bier, as He touches our lives with His love and healing. We hear Him speak, "Arise," just as He calls us to arise from our spiritual death in trespasses and sins. And He delivers him to His mother, just as He delivers all who believe and trust in Him to His Father in Heaven forever.

The man had been dead for three days. His flesh was showing signs that he was not sleeping or in a coma. He was dead. Only God can restore life to such a corpse. Thus the people were correct who said, "God hath visited His people" (Lk. 7:16). Surely such a One as this is able to succour and help His people no matter what trials we may face. "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver" (Dan. 3:17).

To be **able** to do something is one thing; to be **willing** is something else. Indeed to be able is almost meaningless if one is unwilling. But our Lord is both able and willing to help us. Our reading from Luke's Gospel today was chosen carefully because it shows that Christ is willing. Most people, hearing me say that, will think I am referring to the Lord's compassion and raising of the dead man. Indeed there is great willingness to help seen here. Our Lord was not asked to help this man. No one came to Him to seek

His aid. The people probably thought He couldn't help, for, though He had healed many sick, He had not raised anyone from the dead at this point in His ministry. So the people probably never thought of asking Him to raise this man. Jesus took the initiative. Jesus went to the funeral bier. Jesus touched the man. Jesus gave life to the body. He was the initiator. He was proactive. He acted on the basis of His compassion. He is willing.

But something else in the passage also shows the willingness of Christ, and it is what I really want to emphasise today. It is found in the words of the witnesses, "God hath visited His people." To "visit," in this case, means to come with the intention of caring for someone or something. It is to come with the intention of making things right, of helping. It means that Christ came into this world to help us. He came primarily to help us spiritually. He came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost. He came to save sinners. He came to give His life as the ransom for our sins. He came to take us back to God. Indeed, God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. But He also came to help us in this world, in all our troubles and needs and sorrows, and joys. "Come unto me... and I will give you rest" is a promise for both this world and the next, and when He exhorted us to consider the lilies wasn't He promising to be with us and care for us in this world?

And so we come to the conclusion, which is simply, seek Him, and trust Him. Seek Him in time of trouble. Ask Him to help you bear your burdens. Ask Him to help you bear your sorrows and problems. Ask Him to make you strong to bear your cross. Ask Him to help you be content in whatever circumstances He places you. Ask Him to help you believe that all things work together for good to those who love Him. Run to Him and seek His help. "Seek and ye shall find."

And then, trust Him. I think trust is the real message I am trying to get across today. It is the message of the Scripture texts and it is the message of the Collect. Why would we pray that God would help and succour us if we do not trust Him to actually do it? Why would the Bible tell us of a willing and able Saviour if it does not mean for us to trust in Him? Dearly beloved, I beseech you, seek and trust His help. Truly pray with me,

**O** LORD, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### *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 Manañas Restaurant for Mexican food. Next week dog nuts!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
16 October 2011	Dru Arnold
23 October 2011	<b>Opportunity Available</b>
30 October 2011	<b>Opportunity Available</b>
6 November 2011	<b>Opportunity Available</b>

*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 least 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](mailto:jack@faithfulcenturion.org) or Dru - [dru@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto: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 Kristyna 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 44<sup>th</sup> birthday 4 September 2011.

*Sandra Lee* celebrated her birthday 14 August 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 should take a week, but we are 10 days out with no news so far. Bill is pale, gray and is sleeping a lot. The next surgery is scheduled for 10 November 2011. We still just have the preliminary diagnosis of 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 is 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 was home, but developed what appeared to be a minor skin problem. The skin problem escalated and he ended up with a serious infection, then a colostomy. Not only is this getting to Gil, but his wife Mary is very tired from all this. Please pray for guidance for the team treating Gil. Pray also for peace of mind for Gil and his wife Mary.

*Dotty Valkenaar* has been diagnosed with a recurrence 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 is 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 62<sup>nd</sup> 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 89<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>
16 October 2011	Ryan Hopkins
23 October 2011	Ryan Hopkins
30 October 2011	Ryan Hopkins
6 November 2011	Ryan Hopkins
13 November 2011	Ryan Hopkins

### *The near future, as well as Next Sunday*

#### **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**

