



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Report



Today was the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday. This was a picture perfect day. Clear blue skies at sunrise with a temperature of 60°F, rising to 78°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 214-215, with the Collect first:

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity.

The Collect.

LORD, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ryan Hopkins read the Epistle for today, which came from Saint Paul's first letter to the



Corinthians beginning at the Fourth Verse of the First Chapter. Paul tells the people of Corinth he thanks God they have been the beneficiaries of His Grace, that through Jesus they might have salvation, that through Jesus their sins would in the end be forgiven. He also pointed out that if they would follow Christ in both their words and deeds, as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in them, through their actions, they would be "In every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge..." For by acting on Christ's words, we not only gain entry in to heaven, but are far more likely to prosper here on earth. This prosperity is not the mega wealth sometimes associated with "prospering", but rather the surplus of resources over our worldly

desires and the true happiness that comes from loving and helping others.

I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; that in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: so that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read today's Holy Gospel came from the Twenty-Second



Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew beginning at the Thirty-Fourth Verse. Pharisees who had heard how Jesus confounded the Sadducees, feeling they were superior to the Pharisees, came together to confound Him. An expert in the law, of which Pharisees were very fond, asked Him a question, trying to trick Him, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus answered, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Thus, He provided the Summary of the Law we hear every Sunday. The Pharisees made their earthly living by providing guidance on how to get around the 613 Mosaic Laws with as little inconvenience as possible. They were astounded when Jesus boiled the intent of those laws down to two sentences. They were much more comfortable getting around laws than complying with ones that might inconvenience them.

Apparently tiring of the game with the Pharisees and wishing to confound them instead, Jesus asked them, saying, "What think ye of Christ? Whose son is He?" They say unto him, "The son of David." For the scripture is clear that he should be of the House of David. As God, Jesus has been from the beginning, so he queried them, "How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?" Not grasping the concept that God was, is and always will be, they could not answer and "from that day forth" no one would "ask him any more questions."

When the Pharisees had heard that Jesus had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

Sermon – Time and Action

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



Paul thanks God for His Grace to us, that Jesus' sacrifice might account us as just in the last day. But, not everyone is content to take Jesus at His Word. There have always been and always will be people who want to pick nits with the intent of avoiding doing what should be done, thus making it seem acceptable to do what they want to do. You can see people every day who fill the shoes of the Pharisees, insisting on complying with arcane and useless rules and regulations while studiously avoiding doing what God so clearly asks, that is to be a Christian and do as Christ asks us to do. We are to be Christians, not "good", to do what God asks, not *Go with the Flow!* When you think about being a Christian, think a bit about these quotes

from GK Chesterton:

- "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried."
- "The word "good" has many meanings. For example, if a man were to shoot his grandmother at a range of five hundred yards, I should call him a good shot, but not necessarily a good man."
- "The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people."
- "Tolerance is the virtue of the man without convictions."
- "A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it."

G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

We are called to a new and different life, we ask the Lord to lead us and follow us, to keep us always. Our goal is to do the Lord's will, not to avoid 613 laws. To do what is right and be humble.

Bishop Ogles' Devotion

Bishop Jerry provided his devotional notes for yesterday. I thought them incredibly interesting, I always enjoy them, but there was something about this one that was more than usual. I am certain you will find them very enjoyable. As always, I cannot commend it to you enough.

Devotion for Saturday 22 October 2011 Anno Domini in 17th Week after Trinity Sunday

"31Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: 35That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world. (Matt 13:31-35) 44 Again, the



kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. 47Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: 48Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.51 Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old." (Matt 13:44-52)

We embark today on a study of truths that are denied by many who prefer to trust on the wisdom of religious men above and beyond that revealed in Scripture. If we are pre- or post-millennialists, we will try to search out evidence from Scripture that will fit snugly into one or the other of our preconceived notions of that particular eschatological theory. I will admit up front that I favor the postmillennial theory over that of the premillennialist; however, I have eyes to see, and ears to hear, and the truths revealed in the text today do not suggest to me that the Lord will find great faith upon the earth at His return. When I observe the gross moral sins in our society, and the brazen disrespect for the Word of God (even among churchmen), I am appalled and worry for future children who will be brought into this wilderness of sin. The first two parables in today's text, in my own humble opinion - and not that of many if not most fine

clergy, suggests that our pride has magnified the works of our own hands in religion and not the name of the God whose Hands created us, and the world itself.

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." This Parable is a continuing one of the Sower, but in this case, the seed is not wheat but mustard. Both kinds of seed represent the Word planted. But Christ has chosen to describe the Kingdom from a different perspective in the present case. This sowing is not a general broadcast of seed in all areas, but a specific seed sown in the field – one Seed. The fruit of this seed will reflect the coming Kingdom of Heaven. Since the Kingdom of Heaven is a single entity, there is only one seed needed to produce a fruit that will serve as an example of its presence among men. The fruit springing up from this *'least of all seeds'* represents the Church Catholic. Though the Seed is perfect, the Body is not necessarily so and, in fact, cannot be. Any institution on whose countenance the fingerprints of man appear will bear certain impurities despite men's best efforts to keep it pure and free of deformities. Nothing has life that does not grow from that tiny spark of life that is central to the Seed. There is no life eternal apart from that imparted by the WORD (Christ). The **kind** of Seed (wheat, tares, mustard) is important – it makes all the difference.

I remember a story my father told me of a monk who desired the use of a piece of land located nearby. The owner refused to sell the land, but after long efforts of persuasion, he consented to lease the land to the monk. The monk took the lease under the provision that he would use the land only long enough to raise a single crop. The contract was signed and binding on both parties. The monk then sowed the field with acorns – a crop that would take three hundred years to complete. So Satan, too, asks to get possession of our souls by asking us to permit some small sin to enter, some single wrong that seems of no real account. But when once he has entered and planted the seeds and beginnings of evil he holds his ground while sins and evils multiply.

The field of wheat bore hundreds or thousands of stalks of wheat, but in this present field, only one Seed was planted and one kind of fruit shall emerge. I have read, many times, the diverse arguments on the properties of mustard plants, and their capacity to grow very large. I observed many such plants while living in Iran for more than five years and never saw a mustard plant greater than a bush of four or five feet height. Christ tells us that this plant is the greatest among herbs, but why would he explain that it *"becometh a tree"*? He does not tell us that the wheat seed becometh wheat because that is normal for the seed and its fruit, but a mustard seed does not normally grow into a tree. The branches of the mustard plant are fibrous and easily broken, but THIS mustard plant becomes a tree. It does not develop according to the norm of nature. It becomes larger than it is intended to become. When I was a young boy, a product hit the market, Gibberillic Acid (GA), that was used to cause fruits and

vegetables to grow much larger than normal. The tomatoes and cucumbers were gigantic and beautiful, but those garden products had no flavor and were very porous inside. **"GA was first identified in Japan in 1935, as a metabolic byproduct of the plant pathogen *Gibberella fujikuroi* (thus the name), which afflicts rice plants; *fujikuroi*-infected plants develop bakanae ("foolish seedling"), which causes them to grow so much taller than normal that they die from no longer being sturdy enough to support their own weight."** (Wikipedia)

I believe the abnormal growth of the modern church in money, property, political prestige and power, are represented by the mustard seed becoming a tree. Pride and self predominate in the modern church. The obsession of many ministers and laity of the church today is GROWTH – not righteousness! But the church is One and not many. Very much like the tares planted among the wheat, this tree is comprised of both faithful people and the unrighteous. The modern church has become so large that ***"the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."*** Do you remember who these birds are, identified by Christ, in this same chapter? ***"Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up.*** (Matt 13:3-4) The fowl came and devoured the Seed (Word) that was planted. Jesus tells us who these fowl of the air are: ***"Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side."*** (Matt 13:18-19) Jesus clearly, in context, tells us that these fowl are the Wicked One. Likewise, if context and consistency are observed, these birds that nest in the branches of the modern church are DEMONS.

For many long centuries, Satan has leveled his shore batteries in bombardment of the Church to no avail. When the smoke has cleared the waters, the Ships of Truth were immensely greater in number than before. So, being a clever serpent, Satan has decided if his frontal assaults are unsuccessful, he will join the church and erode its moral properties from within. There is no greater threat to a city than a traitor within its walls, and that is the intense struggle that confronts the church today.

"Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened." If the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto leaven, in which respects is it so? In almost every case of prophecy, when a religious power is mentioned, it is presented as a woman. The Woman of Revelations 12 represents, commonly believed, Israel or the Church; and the woman (drunken with the blood of the saints) of Revelations 17 is thought by many to represent the false religion of the coming Babylonian system. (I say 'coming' though it is already here). Leaven in almost every place in Scripture, represents sin or false doctrine. Remember the words of Jesus in reference to the false ministers of His day? ***"Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."*** (Matt 16:6) ***"How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye***

should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." (Matt 16:11-12) We have demons of false doctrine residing in the high places (branches) of our churches today. There is evidence of this truth on every hand. Look at the view toward adultery and promiscuity, or the many churches that embrace homosexuality as legitimate. Or observe the lack of biblical discipline and moral character demonstrated in the modern church – even among the clergy. Friends, the days of play-acting (hypocrisy) are soon coming to an end! Where will you stand when the Lord comes – on that solid Rock, or upon the shifting sands of relative morality?

"All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world." The sadly amazing fact of these words of Christ is that they still remain a secret to the greater number of professing Christians in our time. It is understandable that the Christ-rejecting Pharisees of Christ's time could not see these mysteries of great value, but it is utterly disgraceful that Christians of today will not want to know them!

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." Treasures hidden long ago by conquerors as well as the conquered may be discovered in areas where great armies of the past concentrated their forces. Treasures buried by Philip of Macedon have been unearthed in the wheat fields of Syria – buried there more than two thousand years ago. Perhaps the discovery of the Book of the Law in the reign of Josiah was like unto the discovery of the greatest of all treasures found among the rubble of the Temple. Josiah commanded it to be read to all Israel, and it was done. I discover, in the strong testimony of martyrs and reformers, great and beautiful truths that seem beyond the grasp of modern students of theology. When we discover truths, through diligent study, in the Gospel proclaimed two thousand years ago, it is similar to finding a great treasure hidden in a field. This treasure is so great that we will give all of our worldly possessions to own it. This treasure was discovered during the normal course of life and not searched out intentionally. This is like a lost sinner, happening upon the Word quite by seeming chance, and believing!

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." This treasure of the Pearl is not discovered through accident, but determined and informed search. This man KNOWS pearls! He knows where to search for them, and he knows their value. Such a man is like a devout Christian layperson or minister who seeks, continually, the deeper mysteries of God.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat

down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away." Here is an example of the far-reaching effects of the Gospel. The net is a drag net, not a casting net. The dragnet is quite large and captures every living sea creature in its way. The net has captured every creature in its way of both good and bad. The net is not drawn to shore until the fullness of God's Elect are gathered, but there remains bad creatures among the good. Now the fishermen sit down with care to separate the good from the bad just as the Holy Angels will gather the tares from the wheat and cast into the fire. "*So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*" Once the door of the Ark had been closed by God, there was no longer hope for those without. In the same way, there comes a day when time will be no more. At that day, we shall either be in the Ark of Christ, or standing without in the wilderness of ruin. Where shall you be when, rather than seas of water, there shall be seas of fire?

Jesus asks His disciple a question – a question that He asked ALL of His disciples of which I hope all who read are of the company: "**Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things?**" "*They say unto him, Yea, Lord.*" Friend, can you answer `YES' to the Lord's question?

"Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old." The truth of God's Word is old – even from eternity past. The Word of God is not a new thing but an old thing. It is of great value and not to be sold but purchased. Christ gives us these dark (deeply hidden) mysteries hidden from the wise from the foundations of the world. These new things may be our understanding that has received new Light in Christ. We have heard the old Gospel, but now it has changed us into New Creatures in Christ. Though the Heavens are very old, we learn new truths every day in searching the heavens. My friend, are you still searching the heavens to find new points of light and truth?

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:



Grace to Follow Christ

1 Corinthians 1:4-7, Matthew 22:34-46
Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
23 October 2011

I think I can summarize the meaning of our Gospel reading in a couple of short sentences. First, the meaning and purpose of life is to love God fully and completely with every fiber of your being. Second, Jesus is God.

As every person knows, loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind, is not as easy as

it sounds. It is not easy because the true love of God is not an emotion. Much effort has been made over the centuries to turn loving God into emotional feelings for God. We see this in the music people choose to sing about God. Much of it is no different from the romantic love songs of pop music. Often, it even takes their beat and style, but worse than that is that it reduces loving Christ to sentiment and emotions similar to what is often called, "falling in love."

Of course, those of us who have been married for a while know love is much more than just being "in love." Really loving your spouse requires you to be as generous, as forgiving, as committed, and as self-giving when you are not feeling terribly good about him or her as when you are. In fact, it is in those unromantic times, when you are not feeling very much "in love" that your real love shows itself.

Loving Christ is the same way. It is not the way you feel when you're singing a happy chorus about how you love Jesus; it is what you do in those times of sorrow and trial, and it's the general direction of your heart soul and mind when you aren't feeling particularly spiritual or loving toward God. And, I think for most of us, that is our normal condition. I think most of us don't live in a continuous state of spiritual euphoria, with hearts bursting with feelings of love for Christ. This is a good thing, not a bad thing. Just as we could not function if we lived in a perpetual state of "falling in love" with another person, we also could not function if we lived in a perpetual condition of "falling in love" with Jesus. And the Bible never encourages us to be "in love" with Christ. Christ is not telling us to be "in love" with Him when He tells us to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds. Christ is asking for something much more solid. The love He calls for is the kind of love that keeps going when the feelings grow low and the flesh calls us to quit. That's why the Bible calls it crucifying ourselves. That's why Christ said those who love Him keep His commandments. That's why Christ said anyone who loves, (values) his own life above Christ is not worthy of Him, meaning, does not really love Him. So, we could say that to really love God is to value Him more than you value your own heart, your own soul, and your own mind.

I think most of you will agree with me if I say that the tendency of the world is to draw us away from God. Again, I am not talking about emotions. I am talking about the way the world imposes its values and ideas upon us; the way it tends to press us into its mold. The world does not like individual thought or personal initiative. It prefers people to march in lock step to its commands and collective goals, and usually, those goals are not those of Godliness. The goals are to perpetuate the same old systems and the same old evils until the end of the world.

There is another enemy that militates against our love for God. That enemy is us. In fact, as we go through life, we are often our own worst enemies. We make foolish decisions that have lasting consequences based on nothing more than passing whims. We choose fleeting pleasures over lasting good. This is what the Bible means when it talks about the "flesh." The desires of the flesh lead us away from God because they lead us to be preoccupied with our own pleasures and comforts and amusements instead of God. I am sure you know this by your own experience.

With the world and the flesh leading us away from God, we don't need another enemy, but there is another. We know him as Satan, the devil. He is the ultimate Anti-Christ, for he hates all that Christ loves. He is also the ultimate anti-man, for he hates all people. He laughs when bombs fall and cities burn and orphans cry in the streets.

Hunger and disease are his friends. Hell is what he wants for you and all people. Needless to say, he works diligently to lead us away from God. He tells us lies about God and ourselves. He teaches us that God is cheating us and oppressing us. He tells us the ways of God are slavery, and we must break away from God and indulge our whims and desires. Only then will we find happiness in life, because we will be free. We will be like God.

Thanks be to God we are not left to fight these enemies alone. The Epistle for today, 1 Corinthians 1:4-7, tells us of the grace of God that will confirm us to the end, "that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." The word, "confirm" means much more than to simply affirm or verify something. It means to make something firm and solid. In the realm of human relationships it means to promise or guarantee. So God, in His grace, is working in His people to make us firm and solid in Christ so we can be guaranteed that we will be accepted into Heaven and dwell with Him forever in the Day of the Lord. In other words, while the world, the flesh, and the devil tempt us away from God, God is working to draw us back to Himself and to keep us safely in Him until we reach that Day when the world, the flesh and the devil can't tempt us anymore.

One of the ways God keeps us in Himself is by giving us things that help us in our journey of faith. Our Epistle for this morning calls these things, "gifts." It is important for us to know these are not the same gifts that caused such controversy in Corinth. The tongues and prophecies named later in 1 Corinthians are specific gifts for a specific era in the Church prior to the giving of the New Testament. The gifts in today's readings are different from them. They are the things that grow faith in us, that strengthen us in Christ, and keep us in Christ. These gifts consist primarily of our good friends, the means of grace.

The Corinthians came behind in no gift (1 Cor. 1:7). The same is true of Christ's Church in every era, and we, here in Holy Trinity Church in Powhatan, Virginia, like the Corinthians, come behind in no Gift. We lack no gift from God that will keep us in the faith now and forever. We have the Scriptures. We have the New Testament and more than 2,000 years of history and tradition. We have prayer. We have the Church. We have The Lord's Supper, worship, the preaching and teaching of the Scriptures, and the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God. So, when we pray a prayer like the Collect for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity, asking God for grace to help us withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, so we can follow Him with pure hearts and minds, we are asking God to help us make diligent use of the means of grace.

Let us pray.

LORD, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God; 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. Today we had an after church party for the entire congregation and some guests as most of us will be on travel this week. Next week dog nuts!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
30 October 2011	Dru Arnold
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 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 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

Hap, Dru and Jack are on travel this week.

Tricia is on travel this week.

Hope and Ralph are on travel this week.

Paul is on travel this week.

Move

The Thomas Family is on a short tour assignment in Guam for the next two years. Please pray for the assignment to go well for Kurt and for Mary and the kids to make new friends and 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 44th 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.

Departed

Colonel Don Frisbee, USAF passed away on 12 October 2011, after bowel surgery, infection and pneumonia. Please pray for the repose of his soul and comfort for his wife Bev and their family.

Colonel Don Durbin, USAF passed away on 12 October 2011, after what appeared to be an abdominal problem. A visit to the hospital found that he had congestive heart failure and liver problems. Shortly thereafter, he developed multiple blood clots and dementia. Don passed away shortly thereafter with his family by his side. Please pray for the repose of his soul and comfort for his wife Lynn and their family.

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 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 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.

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), recurrence 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 and *Ryan* both ask you to pray that they might be able to trust God will help them make the right decisions at the right time and not to worry uselessly, to change those things they can change, accept those things they cannot change and that

they will open their hearts 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
30 October 2011	Ryan Hopkins
6 November 2011	Ryan Hopkins
13 November 2011	Ryan Hopkins
20 November 2011	Ryan Hopkins
27 November 2011	Ryan Hopkins
4 December 2011	Ryan Hopkins

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

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**

6 November 2011 – Twentieth 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**

13 November 2011 – Twenty-First 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**

20 November 2011 – Sunday next before Advent– 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**

27 November 2011 – First Sunday in Advent – 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**

4 December 2011 – Second Sunday in Advent – 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**

11 December 2011 – Second Sunday in Advent – 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**

18 December 2011 – Third Sunday in Advent – 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**

25 December 2011 – Christmas Day – 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**

