



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Second Sunday in Advent



Sunday Report

Today was the Second Sunday in Advent. Sunrise temperature was a fairly cool 29°F on Mount Olympus with bright blue skies and calm winds. The start of church brought a lovely 47°F, which warmed to a lovely 53°F under those same blue skies with no clouds at all. The superb weather brought out 4 people for the service:

Gathering Song

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

Lord I lift your name on high

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

Chorus

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

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,

Chorus

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger,

Chorus

We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. This is a great song, written by Saint Patrick himself once he was done driving the snakes out of Ireland¹. But one that I have taken about four Sundays to get printed correctly. This Sunday I finally got it right!



¹ Not really, of course, but it makes a great story! He did write the song, but did not really drive the snakes out of Ireland. They did not have cars back then. SMILE

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 are found on Page 92-93, with the Collect first:

The Second Sunday in Advent

The Collect.

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The propers for the First Sunday in Advent can be found on Page 90-92:

The First Sunday in Advent

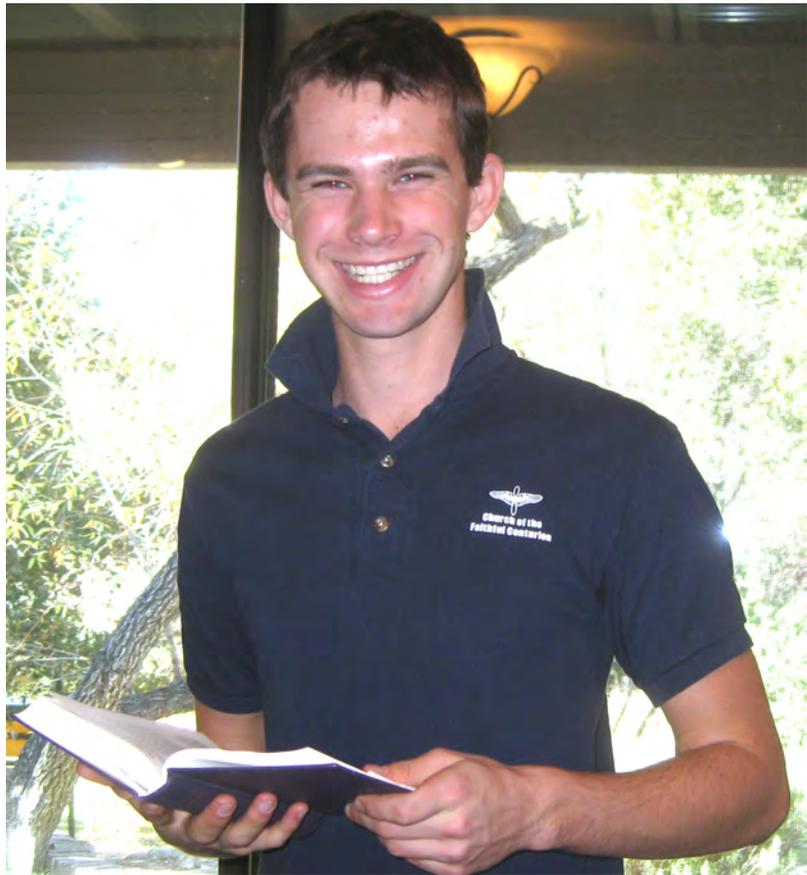
The Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

¶ This Collect is to be repeated every day, after the other Collects in Advent, until Christmas Day.

Ryan Hopkins read the Epistle for today, which came from Paul's letter to the Romans, starting at the Fourth Verse of the Fifteenth Chapter.

Paul tells us the scriptures up to that time were written that we might have hope. He now reminds us to treat each other the way Jesus treated those about him, to open our hearts to each other as Jesus opened His. The promise of Jesus was not to Jews only, but to all people (Gentiles). Paul tells us Jesus Christ was a minister of ... the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people."



He reminds us of the writing of Esaias, "There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust." Paul leaves with the blessing, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God. Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read the Gospel for today which came from the Gospel



according to Saint Luke, the Twenty-First Chapter, beginning at the Twenty-Fifth Verse. In preparation for our recollection of the First Coming, the Nativity, we read St. Luke's description of the Second Coming, "and there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand."

As clear as the Second Coming will be, so was the First Coming to those who would see and hear it. Once again, we are reminded that there are none so blind as those who will not see and none so deaf as those who will not hear.

Can you see Him? Will you hear Him?

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Sermon – Time and Action

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



As is oft the case, today's propers are all tied together. Rather than the usual call for action external to us, they call us to act in our selves for our selves. The Collect asks God to give us Grace or motivation, if you will, to study Scripture and be guided by it. For, as the Epistle tells us, in Scripture there is hope, there is guidance, there is comfort. Above all in Scripture is the Word of our Lord, the giver of our Life eternal.

If we are to form a single body of Christ, it must vbe from a single set of rules, a common background and a common heritage. That common ground is Scripture. Look to

Scripture for guidance, look to Scripture for rules to live by. If we are to make common cause, it must be from common ground. It is nice and convenient to have preachers, but that does not substitute for the study and understanding of Scripture. As we remember the First Coming, we find in Scripture is the instruction on what to look for when we look for His second coming, as is very clear in the Gospel.

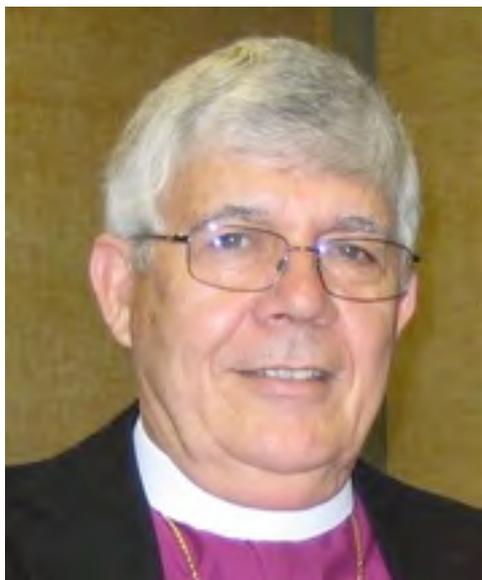
Scripture, the Bible, the Word. You need to understand it. It is the only true guidance we have. My writings, Bishops Jerry and Dennis and so many others are nice, they can be interesting, enlightening, even entertaining, but they are only our writings. They may help you understand Scripture, but you must never let them replace Scripture. Read a bit every day.

Which translation? There is but one Authorized Version, that is the King James Version, the KJV. Some would tell you it is antiquated, others that it is too hard to read, others that it is old fashioned. Frankly it is none of those. It is the easiest of all versions to read and the most accurate. There are words in it that have been long out of use. Probably two hundred or so. Get a dictionary! A specialized dictionary such as *The Bible Word Book*, available for free for your iPad or Kindle and not all that much more in paper from Amazon. If you still want to know why the KJV, email Deacon Striker Jack Arnold at jack@faithfulcenturion.org. He will be happy to discuss it further with you.

Bishop Ogles' Sermon

Bishop Jerry provided his sermon notes for today. 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.

Sermon Notes for 2nd Sunday in Advent 4 December 2011 Anno Domini



"30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. 31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. 32 There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. 33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. 34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. 35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. 36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. 37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. 38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom

he hath sent, him ye believe not. 39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. 40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (John 5:30-40)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be always acceptable in thy sight, O lord my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Our Gospel text today directs our attention to more than a single truth.

First, we learn that the only just judgment is that judgment that issues from the will of God. And how do we know that will? By reading the Word of God and making that Word the judge of all things in our purview. Christ Himself is that Word Incarnate. (John 1). He is the ensign and plumb line in our midst for it was Christ who came down and dwelt among us suffering every temptation as we, yet being pure and sinless throughout. If we judge with righteous judgment, our judgment will be based on the Word of God and proceeding from love. "*I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*"

The Godhead, comprised of Three Persons in One, has no nature to operate independent of one another. By its very nature, these Three Persons are completely of One Mind and One Purpose. Every thought of God is mutually held and mutually advocated. Christ came not to establish His Church on His own behalf and apart from the oversight of His Father, but He came in the whole will of the Father and executes all that the Father wills. Christ was with the Father in the beginning – He was the Word, and He was God. (John 1:1)

Second, we learn that Christ bears not His witness and testimony in isolation. In fact,

that would be impossible for there can be no division between the testimony of the Father, Son, or Holy Ghost. It would, as well, be impossible for either to hold a will that in any way is contrary to that of the whole. How is God, realized in Three Persons, One God? It is only possible because the Godhead is a union of One in purpose and will. If we are IN Christ, we, too, are one with Him the Father, and the Holy Ghost. The only means by which our Nation can be One Nation, under God, is that our national will is in subordination to the perfect Will of God. Then, though we be many citizens, we may also be One Nation, under God. But is this true of modern America? I think not. The moral decadence and spiritual depravity of our country does not issue from the influences of an alien enemy, but from within the hearts of our people, and ultimately the laxity of America's churches in nurturing the love of God and His Holy Word. ***"If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true."*** America today is by no means one in purpose. We do not have a perfect union. Our population is comprised of those few who fervently love the Lord and try by all means to obey Him. A larger group are those nominal Christians whose patchwork garments are mixed with the fabric of the law and also of grace. Grace cannot exist with the curse of the law. Others simply reject God outright and attempt to remove every vestige of His presence from their own, and our, daily conversation.

No single citizen, acting on his own behalf, can bear the full power and authority of the National government. We cannot be a one-man army of the United States. It is the collective will of the people that will reflect the legitimate boundaries of authority and purpose so that we are a Union of citizens, of counties, of states, and finally realized at the head as a federal government in one united nation. But governments can never fully reflect the Oneness of God for His Triune nature is a perfect One and bound without seam to one Will and Purpose. Human government may emulate, but can never achieve, such perfect union. Even as individuals, our Oneness with Christ, the Father, and the Holy Ghost is not a perfect one from the standpoint of deeds and works of the law, but made spiritually possible by that loving characteristic of God called unmerited Grace.

The witness of Christ is not His alone, for whatsoever the Son does or says is equivalent to the same action and Word of the father and Holy Ghost. Christ never speaks independently of the father, nor can He do so. ***"There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true."*** The Word of God stands immutable and without need of support. It stands alone, but is witnessed in every rose, every green leaf, every creature's heart, and in the miracle of birth of a child. If you doubt miracles are ongoing for our day, look into the pure eyes of a little child whose spirit has so recently been imparted by God while yet in the mother's womb! The tides are given limits of progress, and the seasons still hear and obey His beckon. How can you doubt?

We do need ministers and pastors who will teach us from a better knowledge of God's Word, but God needs no teacher. If a priest, bishop, or deacon has been given responsibility in the Kingdom of Heaven, he must exercise that responsibility under the authority of the great Bishop of our Souls, the Lord Jesus Christ else his authority is of no force. ***"Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth."*** Well did John know that it was only the truth that has force and not the imaginations and devices of any man! When we hear a biblical exposition, delivered with earnestness and faith, we recognize a strong authority in its delivery. From whence cometh this authority? Since it is God's Word, it comes from God and not the source of delivery.

It is true that John inquired, in his moment of doubt, to know from Christ; but Christ

never inquired of John. Christ, possessing all truth, needs no man's testimony to support His claim. The Sun needs no lesser light to testify of its life-giving energy. As Confucius has said, "Does God exist? Does one light a candle to see the Sun?" Is the Sun itself blind to its own light. I doubt it! Does Christ need a man's witness of His divine will and purpose? ***"But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved."*** We may live in such oppressive darkness that we need some man to come to us bearing the precious Word of God, but that man is only messenger. The Message belongs to God. Christ owns the Message. What a privilege if He allows us the opportunity to be a messenger for Him!

"He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light." The Light John bore was not truly his own light, but it was the Light of Christ. John was a mirror only to reflect the Light and was not the generator of it. The moon is merely the reflector of that great light of the Sun and is not the generator thereof for it cannot be. You and I, too, may be those lower lights referred to in that old hymn, *Brightly Beams our Father's Mercy*. God Himself is the great Searchlight sent out from the Lighthouse across the stormy waves and shoals. Men, at their wits end in fighting the sails and helm, look with salty eyes into the gloom and, "Look! A Lighthouse" beams its hope from secure harbor to their frightful and foundering vessel. They bear toward it for it is their only hope. Coming near to harbor, there remains to be navigated among the salient bars and hidden rocks of the harbor. But God has provided Lower Lights (His people) to guide the vessel to safe port and anchorage beneath that great Light that saved them. Have you lately been a Lower Light for Christ? If so, your light is not your own, but the reflected Light of the Light of the World. Like the Moon in eclipse, if the world gets between you and that great Light, your light will be darkness.

We know God because we have seen Christ! All that Christ did reflected a perfect likeness of the Father. And all that we do as Christians, though imperfect as we are reflects the will of our father in heaven. ***"But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."*** The Father is witness of His son and His Son is witness of the Father. The very works of Christ in restoring life to the dead and healing every diverse disease is witness of that nature only of God. God is Life! ***"And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape."*** Christ, dwelling always from eternity past with the Father, beheld His face every day in Paradise. He has heard every Word ever uttered by the Father, and He is like Him in every respect just as the child is the image and likeness of the parent though Christ is perfectly like His Father. ***"And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not."*** Christ is castigating the false professors and ministers of the Jews. They may know the Law of Moses but they do not have the Living Word of God abiding in their breasts else they would be able of salvation in Christ.

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." These words would seem to be directed toward the Pharisees who believed in the resurrection, but not the One by whom resurrection was made possible. They had a head-knowledge of the scriptures, but there was no evidence of it in their hearts. They were bent on murder of the very instrument by which they might have that hoped for resurrection. Christ, being the Word Incarnate, is the completeness of the whole Counsel of God. How can men accept apostate and `doctored bible versions that cast doubts on the divinity of Christ and omit whole passages of scripture? If they love Christ, how could they allow, or even be participants, in the wounding of His Holiness, and do so with assumed impunity?

"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." It is noteworthy that Christ already knew the hearts of these brigands. In His omniscient foreknowledge, He knew they would not now, nor ever, come to Him. He saw their snarled faces before the cross at Golgotha, there insults and treason against God Almighty, and He knew no amount of persuasion would move them. These so-called ministers of the Jews were more reprobate than the people whom they deceived. Let no man preach to you out of his own opinion or imagination, but Scripture truth only!

Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sermon

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



For Our Learning
Romans 15:4
Second Sunday of Advent
4 December 2011

"Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."
Romans 15:4

What do we learn from the Scriptures? We learn about ourselves. We learn who we are. We learn our place and purpose in this world and cosmos. We were created for great things. We were created to rule the earth. God Himself gave us dominion over it, including the animals; not to consume it upon our own lusts, but to honour Him in the way we keep it and enjoy it. We learn that we are created to know Him and to enjoy and bask in His love forever. We learn that we were created for goodness, for righteousness, and that it is only as we follow Him in the paths of righteousness that we find happiness in this life.

But we also learn what we have always known, that we have fallen far short of the purpose for which we were created. We learn that we have erred and strayed from His ways like lost sheep. We learn that we have offended against His holy laws, done what we should not have done, and left undone what we ought to have done. In short, we learn that we are sinners.

I fear that we usually take this knowledge far too lightly. We think of it only in terms of finding forgiveness in Christ. And it is true that such knowledge should drive us to our knees before the God of holiness in fear and trembling to beg forgiveness. Yet there is more, for such knowledge should also drive us to change. It should cause us to seek to be different; not just in what we do, but in who we are. It is this part of the Gospel, the transformed and holy person, that we seem to forget, or just overlook.

In the Bible we learn about God. It tells us of One who holds the universe in His hand, yet knows the hairs on each of our heads. And it tells of One who is good. His nature is goodness in perfection. There is no variation in His goodness. He is light without darkness. As bright as the sun appears to us, there are dark spots on it, and whatever chemical reactions are taking place on it are not happening with equal intensity in all areas of it. But the righteousness of God is brighter than an infinite number of suns, and there is no variation in His righteousness, ever.

In the Bible we learn that this Great Righteous Being loved sinners so much He came to earth as a Man to reconcile us to Himself by way of the cross. And in the Bible we learn the way home. More than simply showing us, more than simply pointing the way, in the Scriptures our Lord Christ Himself comes to us as the Great Shepherd, and carries us back to the fold, carries us back to God.

This is the message of the Bible. There is more, of course, for I have only looked at the message from man's perspective, which makes it appear that God has done all of this for us. In reality He has created us, endured our sin, and even saved us for His own purpose, His own glory, to bring together all things under Christ. That is the ultimate goal of God. As St. Paul states in Ephesians 1:12, we are to exist, or, to "be to the praise of His glory."

This is the teaching of Scripture. This is what the things written aforetime tell us. This is what we learn from them. But this knowledge is given for a purpose. It is not given to add to our store of facts; it is given to make us wise unto salvation. It is given that we might have hope, hope that we can be better, can overcome at least some of our sin, can be more humble, more holy, more forgiving, more forbearing. And, most of all hope that we can be forgiven by God, hope that we will one day dwell in a place where there is no more sin, or doubt, or fear, or suffering or death. Hope that we will dwell forever in perfect peace and harmony with man and God, and all the petty little things we let divide us will be behind us forever.

And this is the way we gain this hope; embrace and ever hold fast to the promises of God declared unto mankind in Jesus Christ our Lord. I'm not talking about walking an aisle and making an intellectual decision to believe in Jesus. I'm not talking about having an emotional experience and calling it "conversion." I'm talking about coming to Him in such a way that He becomes the foundation of who you are. I'm talking about embracing Him in such a way that He dwells in you, and you dwell in Him. I am talking about the very thing expressed so well in the Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent:

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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+R. Dennis Campbell
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www.lifeinthescrptures.blogspot.com

New Nametags

We had no new nametags today.

After Church Hospitality

Once again, Ryan Hopkins found the fatted dog nut and killed it. This was a big surprise as we were prepared for an empty table. Then! The fatted dog nut!



After the fine repast, the congregation went out to the Italian restaurant in the next valley. Hopefully, we will have a dog nut again, perhaps a gigantic one once more!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
11 December 2011	Dru Arnold
18 December 2011	Opportunity Available
25 December 2011	Opportunity Available
1 January 2012	Jack Arnold
8 January 2012	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 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

Don Patton celebrated his 49th birthday 13 November 2011.

Jack Arnold celebrated his 19th birthday with us 26 October 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

William F. Dean a great Christian disciple of Rawalpindi, Pakistan, passed away. Mr. Dean was father-in-law to Eileen Jacob, wife of Bishop Ernest Jacob of the AOC of Peshawar, Pakistan. Until recent circumstances of age, he was a regular and active member of UP Church, Raja Baazar, Rawalpindi. Mr. Dean served as Librarian for Gordon College for a period of thirty years. Mr. Dean's funeral service was 25 November 2011 Anno Domini.

Colonel Don Frisbee, USAF passed away on 12 October 2011, after bowel surgery, infection and pneumonia. Please pray for 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 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 a third abdominal surgery on 22 November 2011. This time the tumor was removed. The surgeon said pathology indicates the tumor with all margins out, along with a few lymph nodes and fatty tissue. The tumor is an intermediary (risk) sarcoma, but should not come back. There is a new chemotherapy pill Bill can take for extra precaution; he recommends Bill see an oncologist. Bill has an appointment on 13 December 2011, with the surgeon for follow-up and recommendations going forward. Please give thanks for the surgical team doing their very best, a successful surgery and pray for a good end result. Please pray that Bill might live a long and healthy life to the honor and glory of God. Pray also for peace of mind for Bill and his wife Sara.

Ed Malcomb, Bishop in the Church of England had a major heart attack Thanksgiving week, fell, hit his head on the floor. He seems to be past major coronary issues for the present. However, there are apparent memory issues associated with the head trauma. Please pray for the medical team treating him and for his recovery.

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 was back in the hospital for a re-do of his colostomy and a couple of relatively minor skin surgeries. He has not been able to get out on schedule. 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. Hap visited Gil at the hospital on 3 December 2011. Gil is in good spirits and appears to be progressing well. He has lost some weight and looks forward to going home.

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 a torn muscle has surfaced in her shoulder, perhaps as a result of positioning during surgery. There is concern over a reoccurrence of the cancer and some question as to whether to do chemotherapy or not. Dotty is also having problems with fluid building in her upper body area. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for her to make the correct decisions regarding treatment 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 due to a blood clot. The blood clot taken care of he is on Cumadin for six months and wearing a cool compression stocking on one leg, kind of a Michael Jackson thing.

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!

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), 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 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

Hap gives thanks for safe and interesting travel this week.

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	
4 December 2011	Ryan Hopkins	
11 December 2011	Ryan Hopkins	
18 December 2011	Ryan Hopkins	
25 December 2011	Ryan Hopkins	Christmas Day
1 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins	
6 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins	Epiphany
8 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins	
15 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins	
22 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins	
29 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins	

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

11 December 2011 – Third 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 – Fourth 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**

1 January 2012 – First Sunday after Christmas – 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 January 2012 – Epiphany Day – Evening Prayer - Service start time **1900 (7:00 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

8 January 2012 – First Sunday after Epiphany – 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**