



Christmas Eve Christmas Day

Sunday Report



Christmas Eve

The weather for the Christmas Eve service was textbook Southern California, mid 60°Fs, clear and calm. It does not get any better than this. Particularly since the past week was cold and blustery. All this and the coming of the Lord! What more could you ask? With the almost perfect weather, we ended up with 4 people for the service.

Propers

Because one of our congregation would be out of town on Christmas Day, we used the propers for the first service of Christmas Day for our Christmas Eve service which are found on Page 96-98, with the Collect first:

The Collect.

O GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine only Son Jesus Christ; Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Ryan Hopkins read the Epistle, which came from Paul's letter to Titus beginning in the Eleventh Verse of the Second Chapter. Paul tells Titus that it is only God's grace that gives us salvation. If we are going to accept that grace, we need to live the life to which God has called us. Regardless of cost, we need to live the life God has purchased for us.



We need to trust in God and in this world live cleanly, conservatively, thoughtfully, looking towards God for our salvation. We need to encourage and exhort other Christians to do likewise.

To live in harmony with others.

To be, to the extent we are able, paragons of virtue. Serving as good examples, not bad. Paul tells Titus to do what is right, trust in God and worry not. Quoting a later author, "Trust in

God and Dread Naught."

THE grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Tonight's Gospel is the narrative of the Nativity from the Gospel according to Saint Luke, the Second Chapter, beginning at the First Verse.

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the



inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

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Sermon – Time and Action

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

Today we remember and celebrate the coming of our Lord, the first time; we look to the coming of our Lord, the second time. The Jews were looking to God to send the Messiah, the one who they determined would free them from the brutal yoke of the Romans and put them on top again. The veritable Top Dogs. They wanted a Champion to lead them to victory over the Romans and throw them off Israel. What God sent was a baby. Well, The Baby, but nonetheless a baby. Shepherds came to worship Him, but Herod was looking to kill Him. No good in having a Champion putting Herod out of the petty quisling dictator job.

What God sent the Jews was His Son. In point of fact, He sent Him to the Jews first, but not only. The "Wise Men" showed up to worship Him and regardless of who they might have been, they certainly were not Jews. This Son was to free the Jews from the Prince of Darkness and the finality of death. That really did not fit the Jew's plan.¹ They were still looking for Expulsor, he who would toss the Romans out on their heads.

Some guy coming to save their souls, without the need for slaughtering the profitable sacrificial animals did not really fit their plan. They had The Law, what more did they need?

The Jews concentrated on their wants and ignored their needs. Need, Want – both four letter words, oft used interchangeably. Sadly, they don't mean the same thing.

So, that is where the Jews were on Christmas Eve; Christmas Day for that matter. God intended to fulfill their needs, they looked to have their wants fulfilled.

How about us on this Christmas Eve; or Christmas Day for that matter? Are we looking for someone to make us rich, thin or cool? Or are we looking for someone who will save our souls? Do what God asks, you will not only gain eternal life, but eternal happiness and as a plus you will be happy. You may think you can have more fun, but He guarantees you will be happy.

As we come upon this midnight clear, the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ waits for us. Will we accept it? Follow Him, accept His Grace and all will be good forever.

He comes!

¹ By the way, it has been said if you really want to make God laugh, tell Him your plan. I don't take credit for the thought, but sadly I do not know where I first heard it.

Christmas Day

The weather for the Christmas Day service was absolutely beautiful. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was 48°F, warming to 63°F by church time. The horses were all enthralled with the Christmas hats. They would have been even happier if they had all gotten Christmas mash! Maybe tonight. The lovely weather brought 3 people to worship the Lord on the day of his birth.

Gathering Song

Because it is Christmas, Jack Arnold chose to move out of our traditional gathering songs and picked *What Child is this* for the gathering song with a slightly different chorus than that in Hymn 36 in the Hymnal. It is a beautiful song and truly representative of the complete meaning of Christ's coming.

What Child is this...?

1. What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

3. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

This special Christmas gathering song is a truly wonderful work. Read it carefully and think the meaning through.



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. 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 96-98, with the Collect first:

The Nativity of our Lord, or the Birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day.

[December 25.]

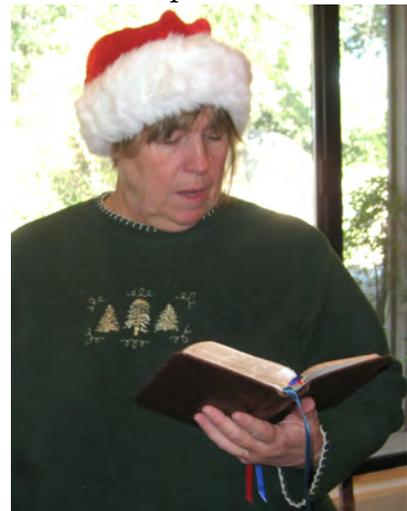
The Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ This Collect is to be said daily throughout the Octave.

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for Christmas Day, which came from the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews, beginning at the First Verse of the First Chapter.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be



to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: they shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read the Gospel for Christmas Day which came from the Gospel according to Saint John, the First Chapter, beginning at the First Verse. This particular Gospel is known as the Last Gospel as it comes from the last Gospel to be written, that of St. John, and it brings the final Word of Jesus to us.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.



Sermon – Time and Action

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



Today we recall the birth of our Lord and Savior, the only means by which we, imperfect creatures with free will, might be accounted as perfect before God when our day of judgment comes. Born, not in a palace, but in a stable, He is all that we have been promised. Taking the substance of Man, all Man and all God, He knows our temptations, He knows our failures, He knows our failings, He knows our sorrow; He also knows our happiness, our small triumphs, our hopes and our dreams. He is the only one in this

world who will never fail us in the slightest. He gives us His example to follow. If we will but follow Him, we will draw closer to God. He made the world, He knows the world. He defeated the Prince of this World, thus with His Help, so will we. This is a day of joy, foreshadowing a day of sorrow, leading to the greatest joy of all.

Let this be a blessed and happy Christmas. He has come to us!

Bishop Ogles' Christmas Message

Bishop Jerry sent his annual Christmas message. This is not your typical meaningless gibbering. I think you will really enjoy his letter. As always, I cannot commend it to you enough.



Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the East of Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his STAR in the east, and are come to worship him. (Matt2:1-2)

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

When we think of Christmas and the birth of Christ, what one element distinguishes that day from all other 'Holy-Days,' or holidays? I believe the greatest distinction is the light that characterizes the charity and brightness of Christmas. When I was a lad, there was a small mountain overlooking our town. Atop the mountain was a great star that was lighted the Friday after Thanksgiving. When we saw the Star, we knew Christmas was not faraway. I can still see that star as vividly in my imagination now as then with my naked eyes as a child. The brightly adorned gifts of Christmas reminded me of the Magi who came with those prophetic gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. And the Christmas Tree, so harshly maligned in contemporary society, made me to remember back to that Beautiful Tree of Life (foreshadowing Christ) that stood in the midst of Eden and was neglected by our ancient parents to the detriment of their (and our) souls and, sadly, neglected by today's society.

From the early dawn of Creation when the chaotic vapors drifted upon a sea of formless matter and darkness, the world has languished in a spiritual darkness that smothers the soul and stifles the spirit, except for that brief time when God walked among the man and woman He had Created after His own likeness and image in the Garden. It was not the people of Israel only that suffered blindness and deprivation of light, but, indeed, the whole mass of humanity. They groped upon the earth as men in stupor. They found time to mock Noah and his sons during the 100+ years that the Ark was being built but, when God closed the door of the Ark, the reality of their misery and hopelessness arose suddenly in their breasts as they sought refuge on the mountains and treetops with the wild beast clawing at their heels.

The darkness was not total in antiquity past, for there was the bright torch, held aloft by

Abraham and his descendants, that represented hope of that future Light that would light the whole world. Abraham would not be required to sacrifice his own son (whom he loved), but God would "provide Himself a Lamb (His own only Begotten Son) for the offering." (Gen22:8)

Wise men of the East – perhaps the Persian Zoroastrians for their priest were called Magi - found the promises of pagan religion unfulfilling and empty of promise. Being wise, they studied the ancient writings of the prophets of God and searched the heavens for the promise of His Coming...and they saw it! Though lacking the privilege of daily instruction in Holy Scripture, these men gained more wisdom in the little that they read than all the scribes and rulers of Israel at the time. How natural that the Coming of the Light of the World would be heralded by a brilliant and night-piercing STAR. Being the Morning/Evening Star, Christ gives His promise of fellowship and company with us through the long night and shadow of death of our earthly walk. But no night last forever, and He shall soon be that Day Star referenced by Peter (2 Pet 1:9) and that "Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings" referenced in Malachi (Mal 4:2)

In the cold, dark winter of our souls, God sent Light and warmth to us in the Person of His Beloved Son, Jesus, knowing full well that His Son would be murdered by the keepers of the vineyard. How could God send His Beloved a ransom for the miserable and stubborn creatures that rebelled time and again against His Sovereignty. There is only one explanation – unmerited Love and Grace! At His first Coming, Christ bowed the canopy of heaven to earth to touch us. He did not come in a fine horse drawn chariot with flowing robes of royalty (though He was King); but as an innocent and helpless little child needing His mother's love and nourishment. He came to be like us, and to suffer like unto us, in every way – except sin. He was ever pure and sinless though living among the common beasts of the stall.

This Advent and Christmas, let us remember and love the Child that came to us in our depravity. Let us also love and fear Him who shall just as surely come again with power and great glory, for His Light is made ready for all who are not blind to see.

Merry Christmas to all our beloved friends and family this Christmastide and every day of the coming years left before He comes!

Jerry L. Ogles

+Jerry L. Ogles, DD
Presiding Bishop, Anglican Orthodox Communion Worldwide
Chancellor, Faith Theological Seminary

Bishop Dennis Campbell's Christmas Message

Taking a break from his customary brilliant analysis, Bishop Dennis steps in to Bishop Jerry's realm of poetry and song sending us this Christmas piece:



Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

Where charity and love are, God is there.
As we are gathered into one body,
Beware, lest we be divided in mind.
Let evil impulses stop, let controversy cease,
And may Christ our God be in our midst.

Where charity and love are, God is there.
And may we with the saints also,
See Thy face in glory, O Christ our God:
The joy that is immense and good,
Unto the ages through infinite ages. Amen.

(from the hymn "Ubi Caritas", which can be heard online at youtube.com)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwR_dM-1MIU

Merry Christmas

+Dennis

Greetings from the AOC Bishop of Pakistan

Bishop Jerry Ogles & AOC family around the world:

On behalf of AOC Pakistan and Faith Theological Seminary I extend greetings to all brothers and sisters of USA and around the world. Next week we will be celebrating the Birthday of Jesus. We should remember seven things on this Christmas.

1. His Pre-existence. He was in the beginning with God: John 1:1,2

2. His birth was prophesied. The Angel Gabriel prophesied His birth: Luke 1:26,33

3. His place of birth. He was born in Bethlelem and was laid in a manger.: Luke 2:4,7

4. The announcement concerning His birth. The Angel announced Christ as Saviour: Luke 2:11

5. His Father's love. The Father's love is a life-giving love: 1 John 4:9

6. His compassion toward mankind. His compassion toward the scattered multitudes: Matt.9:36

7. His mission to the earth. He came to preach (Mark 1:38), to fulfill the law (Matt. 5:17), and to save sinners. 1 Tim. 1:15

May your Christmas and coming year be filled with happiness.

+The Rt. Rev. Dr. Ernest Jacob
Bishop of AOC in Pakistan



Greetings from the AOC Bishop of Latin Missions based in Canada

Dear Bishop Ogles,

On behalf of the Latin Missions of the AOC, and especially of the clergy, Brian +, Antonio +, Renato +, Eric E.G. +, Eric M.B. +, Eric M.S.+ , Fabio +, and Eduardo Andrés +, I would like to extend my best wishes to all the clergy and people of the AOC at Christmastide. Our prayer is that every heart will truly be a manger. Warmest greetings also from the Rev. Doug Richardson +, Deacon, and the members of Ascension AO Mission in Kendal, SK. and Gladstone MB., in Canada.

In Christ,
+ Garth Neel

Bishop, AOC Latin Missions, Ascension AO Mission, Canada.



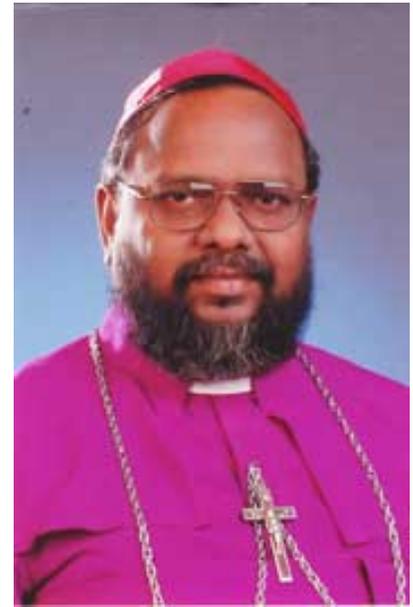
Greetings from the AOC Bishop of India

Dear All,

I have attended and preached at a Semi-Christmas program conducted by the United Christian Chapel, Eluru on 22nd December 2011 night and at Semi-Christmas cum Church Anniversary of ICM Church at Chavalipadu Village. Please find the pictures. The semi-Christmas programs were finished for this year and preparing for the Christmas service.

+John, India

The Most Rev. Dr. John SDR Nakka,
The Primate :
India Christian Mission Church (1897)-at-large,
Bishop : Diocese of Krishna Godavary,
Bishop's House, Railway Station Road,
ELURU-534005, A.P., South India.



New Nametags

We had no new nametags today.

After Church Hospitality

Today we had no snacks as we participated with another parish in a Christmas Dinner for those with no home for Christmas. Maybe next week the fatted dog nut!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
1 January 2012	Jack Arnold
8 January 2012	Opportunity Available
15 January 2012	Opportunity Available
22 January 2012	Opportunity Available
29 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

Sara and *Bill* are 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. Things seem to be going well where the sun rises on the United States, so keep praying! Give thanks and ask for continued good developments.

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. Kaiser transferred him to the Community Extended Care Hospital of Montclair, supposedly because they had two doctors on staff there. In just over a month, Gil saw them once after he was admitted. After a formal written complaint, he was transferred back to Kaiser Hospital in Fontana. They were able to get him stabilized and moved to Reche Canyon Rehabilitation, an excellent facility. He can be reached at (909) 370-4411. Gil is hopeful he will be treated and released shortly. He has lost some weight and looks forward to going home. Please pray 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 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 and lost his ability to swallow; he is still trying to regain his ability to swallow. He is in excellent spirits and is looking forward to cooking a prime rib roast for his family for Christmas. All is pretty well. 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 is set up for bone scans at the end of December. Please pray for a good outcome. 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.

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 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, sleep well to be able to do the correct things with a clear head and that they will open their hearts to the Holy Ghost.

Armed Forces & Contractors

Airman Donny Patton (Kadena AB, Japan), Jordan (USMC – 29 Palms), 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.

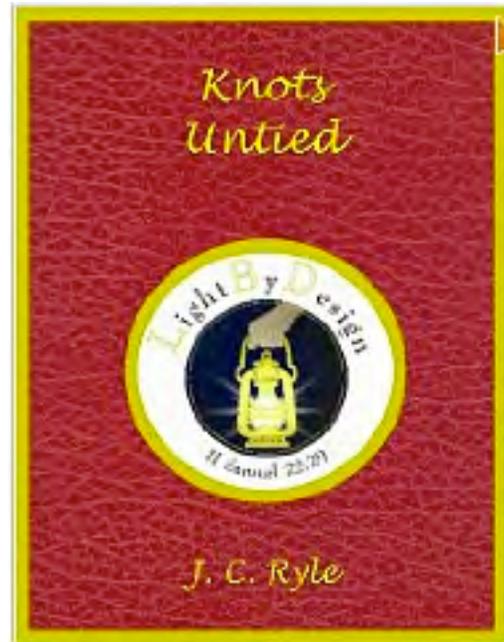
I'd like a good book to read

Would you like a book that will help you think through your view of religious practice and help you reason out how we should worship, dress and act? "Knots Untied" is the first book in a four volume series written by J.C. Ryle; the other titles being "Practical Religion," "Old Paths," and "Holiness." "Knots" went through ten editions in its first eleven years, and to this day many consider it to be J.C. Ryle's magnum opus!

"Knots" is a systematic defense of confessional Christianity, as opposed to the chaos marking the modern church. Perhaps it could be its fall in popularity is simply a reflection of contemporary people's desire for things to be their way, not God's and the desire to have the Bible say what they desire, not what it clearly says.

One thing is certain: "Knots Untied" is a remarkable witness for the evangelical faith—a witness that if heeded could only benefit the Church.

So, how much? At Amazon.com, the print version is somewhere under \$25.00, depending on the source, the eBook or Kindle version (read by Kindles, iPad and most others) is only \$0.99! Too much for you? Google Books has it for FREE!



http://books.google.com/ebooks?id=fkVDAAYAAJ&dq=Knots%20Untied&as_brr=5&ei=oH72Tq-pE4zsyQTPsOSzCw&source=webstore_bookcard

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
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

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**

15 January 2012 – Second Sunday after Epiphany – 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**

22 January 2012 – Third 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**

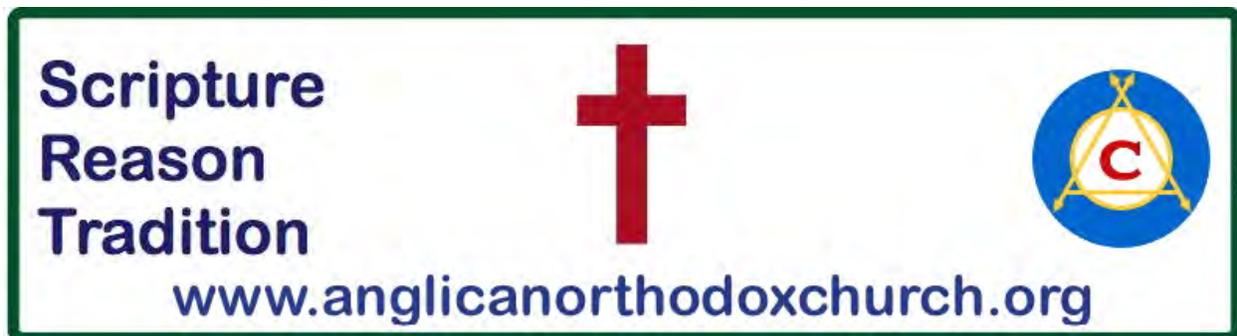
29 January 2012 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany - Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

5 February 2012 – Septuagesima – 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**

12 February 2012 – Sexagesima – 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**

19 February 2012 – Quinquagesima – 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**

Need a Bumper Sticker?



The church has some very nice Bumper Stickers. If you would like one, email Hap at hap@faithfulcenturion.org



**Merry Christmas from all of us at our Lord's
Church of the Faithful Centurion**