



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

# The Epiphany

or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles

## The First Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday Report



## The Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles

What a long title for a simple thought. The Epiphany is the title of the feast recalling the arrival of the Magi to pay homage to the Lord Jesus. Epiphany means revealing or becoming aware. Our Lord was revealed first to the Hebrews through the shepherds. The first gentiles (non-Hebrews) to whom He was first revealed were the Magi or Wise Men who came from afar to pay Him honor.

Tonight we had a normal Evening Prayer service at 2030 (8:30 pm) with 3 members present. You might think that is a small number. Consider the prayer of Saint John Chrysotom<sup>1</sup> that God doth “promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests.” Seems like we had enough. Those of you who were there know how wonderful it felt to celebrate the coming of the Lord to us gentiles.

### *Propers*

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, with the Collect for the actual Sunday read also. Some days are particularly special, such as the Epiphany, and the Collect is read for eight days (the legendary Octave) The Propers for the Epiphany are found on Page 107-109 with the Collect first:

### The Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

[January 6.]

*The Collect.*

**O** GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; Mercifully grant that we, who know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ This Collect is to be said daily throughout the Octave

<sup>1</sup>

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom. (BCP Page 34)*

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for the evening, which came from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians beginning at the First Verse of the Third Chapter:

**F**OR this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God, which is given me to you-ward: how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: in whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read the Gospel for the evening which came from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, the Second Chapter beginning at the First Verse:

**W**HEN Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa, in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to 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. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

### *Thought for the Day*

The Epiphany service was not much different than that first Epiphany. Except this time there was one wise woman and two wise guys! Most important, Jesus was there! We had a great time worshipping. Join us some time, it is a lot of fun. It seems as if there is always plenty of room in the inn when there is church service going on. Cold outside, though!



### *Bishop Ogles' Comment on the Gospel for The Epiphany*

The one quality that has defined the Coming of Christ into the world, both at Christmas and beyond, is the coming Light into a world of darkness – and the Lord



Jesus Christ is that Light of the World and of Heaven itself. There were men of the East who sat in the darkness of superstition and ignorance for the generations of their lives, but they were men, also, whose minds were open to the evidence of Nature and Reason that there MUST be a God who spanned the Heavens and created all the beauty of the earth. So they studied, perhaps, many diverse religious notions and fell upon the one God described in the Hebrew prophets. They did not read these prophets with a casual demeanor, but with intense and diligent study. I have read a number of scholarly written theories concerning from when these Wise Men came, but the Bible does not say. While living in Esfahan, Iran, I became familiar with the Zoroastrian religion which was still practiced, alongside Islam, in that

city. It was the religion of Cyrus (at one point), of Darius, of Xerxes (Ahasuerus of Esther's fame), and Artaxerxes. These people believed in a duality in God – good (AhuraMazda) and evil (Ahriman). They also maintain a perpetual fire of AhuraMazda which they venerated as light. Their priests, even in the contemporary era, are called "magi." It seems possible to me that these were the Wise Men who studied the lights of heaven, compared them with the prophetic writings of Scripture, and settled on the prophecy of the Coming Light of Christ. Perhaps these scholars took particular note of the prophecy: *"I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel....."* (Num 24:17) They searched the heavens and constellations for a sign of His Coming, and they SAW it! I do not believe this Star was some sort of natural alignment of heavenly bodies to produce an explainable phenomenon, but a special Star (or Heavenly body) of God's own special creation to answer the need for this great occasion. Why would it not be when God created all heavenly bodies at the beginning and is still able to create as He pleases?

*"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem."* Please bear in mind that these men saw His Star in the East and followed it to Judea but, as they have drawn near to Jerusalem, they stopped following the Star and began to follow their own wisdom. The Star did not lead them to Jerusalem for that was not where the child, Jesus, was to be found. It might be supposed as they drew near to Jerusalem (Bethlehem is only six miles away), they probably began to reason that the Coming King would not be born in a rural village but in capital city of Jerusalem, and most likely in the palace of the King Herod. They were wrong, for man's thoughts are not God's thoughts. God places no stock by glitter and glamour, but in the simple things of beauty and truth.

*"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"* There seems to be no question at all in the hearts of the Wise Men regarding the identity of the Child to be born. They possessed strength of faith that exceeded that of the Scribes and Priests of Israel. Their faith had been confirmed by Light – the Light of the Star – and they had come to WORSHIP Him.

"When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." The leadership of a nation, whether good or bad, has a critical effect on the direction of the hearts of the people. If our leader is Godly, he will pursue measures to strengthen the faith of the people. If he is corrupt, the thoughts of the people will be easily inclined to corruption. Note in our present verse how the King (Herod) was troubled at the news of the birth of Christ. It should not have troubled him for he was aware that the coming King of the Jews was a prophecy reinforced by all of the prophets. The amazing fact is that ALL of Jerusalem was troubled with him. See how blindly men will follow the example of a devious leader? The Scribes and Priests knew well the [prophecies, yet they were troubled along with the King and all of his subjects. How sad!

"And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born." That old snake, Herod, knew well of the prophecy and he demonstrates the same by summoning the scribes and chief priests together to inquire of the details of the Lord's birth. He desired to know the EXACT place of His birth for the sake of taking action to destroy the Son of God. What a vile creature he was, and blight upon the face of the earth!

"And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel." Notice that these scribes and chief priests, who were alike troubled at the news of Christ's birth, knew well the prophecies of His Coming birth and accurately related them to Herod. It is this attitude that seems to prevail among the religious leaders of Israel, not only at this time, but throughout the ministry of Christ, that convinces me that their evil hearts always knew who Christ was and rejected Him out of that knowledge and not out of ignorance as is proffered today by many preachers. These culprits quoted the prophecy well. They also believed the prophecy for they told Herod that the Child would be born in Bethlehem "for thus it is written." The last phrase of the prophecy is that which troubled Herod beyond all measure: "for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel." Herod was concerned for his own power and rule by this last phrase.

"Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared." We can deduce the motive of Herod here in asking, privately, when the Star appeared. He obviously wished to know the age of the Child and considered Him to have been born at the appearing of the Star. Bear in mind that the Wise Men traveled many months, if not a year or two, in traversing the desolate deserts of Arabia in following the Star. Moreover the rivers of the Tigris and Euphrates had to be crossed. So Herod inquired 'diligently' for he believed he had a personal stake in the answer.

"And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also." I must confess that Herod is worse than a serpent for a snake will not chase us down to murder us, but Herod asks cunningly about the age of the Child and requested the Wise Men to report back His exact whereabouts when they have found Him. He adds that he would like this information that he might come and worship Christ as well. As you will recall, Herod sent soldiers to Bethlehem later and slew every male child two years of age and younger.

"When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." I am amazed at the concise manner in which much meaning is conveyed in Holy Scripture. Observe, not only that which is spoken, but that which is implied in this verse. When the Wise Men departed from the false, man-made lights of the city, they again saw the Star which they had stopped following when they entered Jerusalem. The Light will always lead us to Christ for all Light knows its source. Christ is the Light of the World and, like the Sun, generates Light and IS the Light. The Star led them to Bethlehem and stood over where the young Child was. The child was no longer a newborn baby but a young child.

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." That is, when they saw that the Star stopped and stood over the place they knew would mark the place of the young Child. They have traversed desert, plain, mountain, and great waters for this very moment. Now their expectations will be fully satisfied! "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him." The Great Lighthouse casts its beams across the tempestuous Seas and billows to herald all ships at sea who will respond to its beckon that here is the harbor of calm and safety. "Come hither for rest and security." The Wise Men have followed the warm and radiant beams of a Star Light to Christ. When a sinner comes near to Christ, he must not stop at the threshold, but enter in to the company of Christ. The Wise Men enter into the house without delay. Immediately upon seeing Christ with His mother Mary, they fell down and worshipped Him. These were no beggars, but men of renown and fortune who were honored in their homeland. But they fall down and worship a little Baby Jesus immediately upon seeing Him. The battered ship, having weathered the storm to come to safe harbor must "let go anchor." We have found a place of constant abiding in Him.

".....and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." These men were Wise because they employed their faculties in coming to Christ. They went to a great deal of trouble to find Him. How much effort have we expended to come to Him? They remembered to bring their treasures. Today, we bring our talents, our souls, and bodies. The gifts of the Wise men are particularly prophetic: the Gold signified His royalty, the Frankincense His Deity (as the smoke of the incense rises over the altar, it represents our prayers being raised to God), and the Myrrh represents His death. It was perhaps these precious gifts that provided support for Mary, Joseph and Jesus during their repose in Egypt.

"And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way." God has taken precaution against that Old Fox – Herod, and warned the Wise Men to return home on another route than that which they had traveled in coming. There is a coming terror to the mothers and male children of Bethlehem. That dire prophecy, uttered by Jeremiah the prophet, is about to transpire: "Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah (Bethlehem), lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not." (Jer 31:15) These precious children, ruthlessly murdered by a power-mad ruler, became the first martyrs in the cause of Christ. We acknowledged their Day of Holy Innocents three days following Christmas Day. Their precious little souls were also perhaps first to rest in the bosom of another Child, the Lord Jesus Himself!

# The First Sunday after the Epiphany

Today was the first Sunday after the Epiphany and Second Sunday of the New Year 2011. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a coolish 34°F under bright clear blue skies. By the time church was over, it was a blistering 68°F under those same very clear skies. The weather apparently agreed with all as we had our customary four in attendance.

## *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. 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 109-111 with the Collect first:

### The First Sunday after The Epiphany.

*The Collect.*

**O** LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### The Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

[January 6.]

*The Collect.*

**O** GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; Mercifully grant that we, who know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ This Collect is to be said daily throughout the Octave

Ryan Hopkins read the Epistle for today, which came from the Twelfth Chapter of



Paul's letter to the Romans beginning at the First Verse. Paul asks not only those long gone Romans, but us, as well, to "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." He tells us our home is in heaven. Life here is not the end, rather the stepping off point, either to heaven or hell. Thus were are "not conformed to this world: but to be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that we ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Some of us may be better than others, but all fall short of the minimum standard. Through Christ we attain eternal life. In the meantime, each of us should not "think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Each of us has a place in

the church, a reason to be and job to do. "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

**I** BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read the Gospel for today which came from the Second Chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke beginning at the Forty-First Verse. It tells the story of when



Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem after the Passover Feast in his twelfth year. When they were done, the family group, for they likely traveled with their extended family for safety, left together. After the first day's travel they stopped for the night and could not find Jesus. So, fearing the worst, they headed back at night for Jerusalem. Braving robbers and worse, they made their way back. After looking for three days, they went to the temple, where lo, they found him. He was among the learned men "both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers." His parents were amazed and confounded. He asked them why they worried and why they did not understand

that he was about his Father's business. It is interesting to see that Jesus at twelve was able to "hold his own" with the learned scholars of Judah. He was able to out reason those who lived to dissect the Law. "A little child shall lead them," Isaiah 11:1-10

**N**OW his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

## *Sermon – Time and Action*

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



Consider these words from the Collect:

...grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same...

We are asking God to help us know what we should do and then help us to do it right. Seems pretty simple. That is the root of almost all our problems. First, even if we ask God what He wants us to do, "There are none so deaf as those who will not hear." Then, if we hear what He wants us to do, and hear it

correctly, we often find it "too hard." Do you recall this quote from GK Chesterton:

- "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried."

So once we find out what God wants, we often rationalize our way around it. Think about the 613 Mosaic laws and the Pharisees who made a good living telling people how to comply with them to the letter and still do just what they wanted to do. So, then even if we find out what God wants and decide to actually do it instead of avoid it, we are faced with the often huge problem of where do we get the strength to accomplish this task. The answer is circular, from God. He asks us to do anything we cannot do good enough for Him if we rely on Him. Never. End of that discussion.

Now, once you have managed to get this far, you can become one of Paul's New Men, a person who has accepted God's Grace, turning to God and relying on Him for guidance, strength, courage and perseverance. One of the tools God gives us to get things done is a Team, that Team is fellow Christians. So, we need to work together as a Team. Think not of your glory, but that of God. President Reagan had a sign on his desk which read:

"There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit."

Paul tells us not to concentrate on our status, position or grandeur, but to see what we can do to help. Just like our body would not function if all parts were brains, neither will Christ's Team function if everyone is concerned about their position.

When we look at the Gospel today, aside from the historical function telling us that Jesus was in the temple bringing the light of the gospel to the rabbis, I am reminded there are other lessons. It is not that we want to micromanage your life, but keep your friends and family informed of what you are doing and where you are going. Jesus' earthly parents risked life and limb going back up the road to Jerusalem at night. But, that was their duty as parents. A duty which must have been done, no matter the cost.

Duty –

**God • Honor • Country • Family**

## *New Nametags*

We had no new nametags today.

## *After Church Hospitality*

Today we had no snacks as no one notified Jack, so he is on the list for next week! Anyway, we went right from the service to lunch at a Mexican restaurant at the next village down the hill. Maybe next week the fatted dog nut!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
15 January 2012	Jack Arnold
22 January 2012	<b>Opportunity Available</b>
29 January 2012	<b>Opportunity Available</b>

*People in our Prayers* - <http://faithfulcenturionprayerteam.blogspot.com/>

### **Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.**

It is not that God knows not our needs, for He surely does. Yet, Jesus commanded us to ask God for those same needs. In addition to the obvious of asking God for help, offering thanksgiving and the like, prayer helps us focus our thoughts on how we might do God's work.

The Prayer Team of the Church of the Faithful Centurion was established to help our members and fellow Christians pray for those in need and to give thanks as well for the blessings we have been granted.

### **Who can be on the list? Do I have to be a member of the Church of the Faithful Centurion to be prayed for?**

No! The only qualification to be on the list is that you want our prayer team to pray for you. We are Christians and are happy to pray for you, no matter who you are. If you want help from God, you are our kind of people.

### **What is the commitment from the prayer team?**

Each member of the team will pray for the desired outcome at last once per day.

### **How do I get myself or someone else on the prayer list?**

You can email one of the prayer team leaders: Jack - [jack@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:jack@faithfulcenturion.org) or Dru - [dru@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:dru@faithfulcenturion.org), or call the church office at (619) 659-3608 or fill out a prayer card at church.

### **What should I ask for?**

Depends on what you want. Some people merely want God to be asked to heal their ills and be mentioned by their first name, others want a specific outcome and / or have more of their personal information known to the team. Ask for what you want. It is your desire and need for prayer the team is attempting to meet. For typical examples, see the list below.

### **Updating the Team**

If you are on our prayer list, or if you have submitted a person that you have asked us to pray for, please update one of the team members or Hap in person, by telephone or email. It helps to be able to pray specifically for these individuals including their specific needs; plus if they get better, it is nice to give thanks!

Please note that on the yellow (maybe green or orange if you get an old one) cards at church, you can ask that those to be prayed for have their names disseminated to the

prayer team. Those names will be said in church and appear here. Or, you can ask that their names and purpose be kept confidential, then only Hap will know to pray for them.

***Prayer List Notice – If you have someone on the prayer list and their needs have changed, please let us know. We'd like to update our prayers to reflect the need and most important to give thanks!***

### ***Travel***

Sara and Bill are on travel this week.

Tuck Arnold 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. 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***

Hap Arnold celebrated his 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday 27 December 2011.

Don Patton celebrated his 49<sup>th</sup> birthday 13 November 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 Bazaar, 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.

### ***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***

Jim Thornell was hospitalized on 6 January 2012 for expected gall bladder surgery on 10 January 2012. Please pray for guidance for the surgical team treating Jimmy, a good result, quick recovery and peace of mind for him and his wife Mary. Give thanks for his trust in God.

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 has his phone and can be reached at (909) 499-3665. 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. There were complications in the recovery, but she is home. She has a shoulder problem that must be dealt with; but for now she is doing well. Please pray for continued recovery and 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.

*Hal Campbell* (Lew and Dotty's Son In Law ) is still battling complications from his Oral Cancer Surgery with possible nerve damage in neck so going thru more tests and evaluations, but latest Cat Scan showed no sign of Cancer - PRAISE THE LORD.

*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 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Vince (age 15)*, reoccurrence of Osteosarcoma, 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.

## Need a Bumper Sticker?



**The church has some very nice Bumper Stickers. If you would like one, email Hap at [hap@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:hap@faithfulcenturion.org)**

### *Question that only you can ask*

What would you like to know about our history, what we believe, what we do or how we operate? Hap is looking for material for the continuing education class and *Thought for the Day* material. Help us help you. Please send your question to Hap so we all can get an answer. Just because you don't know the answer to your question doesn't mean you are the only one who doesn't know. But, if you don't ask, no one will know.

### *I'd like to get a different point across or announce something*

If you have a different point of view, I would be happy to give you room to get your point across. While this publication is my perspective on events, I recognize not everyone may agree and that some people would like to express their own opinion. If you want to write something, please forward your item to Hap (with a note as to whether or not you would like editing help) to: [hap@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:hap@faithfulcenturion.org).

### *Epistleers*

We post the list of Epistle Readers in the Sunday Report each week so you can either plan your attendance or your pre-reading as the spirit so moves you.

Date	Reader
15 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins
22 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins
29 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins

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

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**

**Just in case you think YOU photograph poorly!**

