



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday Report



Today was the Second Sunday after the Epiphany. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a nice 48°F under high overcast skies, though it had gotten down to 34°F earlier in the night. By the time church was over, it was a blistering 54°F under those same overcast 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 111-112 with the Collect first:

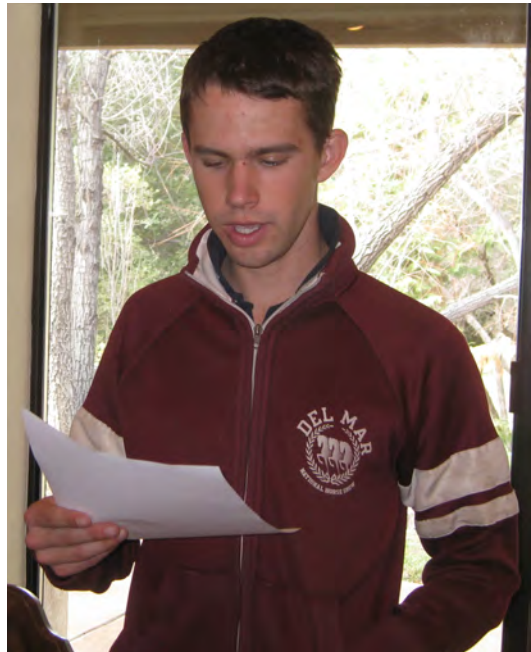
The Second Sunday after The Epiphany.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth; Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ryan Hopkins read the Epistle for today, which came from the Twelfth Chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans beginning at the Sixth Verse. As Paul often does, he gives guidance on what God would have us do. He notes that each of us have differing talents, skills and resources. What God wants us to do is use all of what He gave us to further His will and His way, so that we might be truly happy here on earth. To be gracious and hospitable to those around us, to remember each of us are equal in God's eye.

HAVING then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the



necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate.

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



beginning of the Gospel according to St. Mark, the First Chapter, beginning at the First Verse. This is the very first of the New Testament, a New Covenant or agreement with God. It tells the story of “the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” It talks of John the Baptist, who God sends as His “messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.” And the people came to John “and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.” But, as a harbinger the One to come, John told them of the One

coming “the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.” He told them of the Holy Ghost. When Jesus, in His submission as a man to God came to John for baptism, as he came out of the water, “the heavens opened, and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him: and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

THE beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; as it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judæa, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed with camel’s hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; and preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him: and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

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:

... hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace ...

In the Collect, we are asking God to listen to us and give us His peace in our hearts. God is perfect. He hears us when we pray, God hears us when we call Him. This Collect is really to remind us that when we pray to Him, we need to listen to Him. To often we ask Him what to do, when He tells us what He wants us to do, it is not what we want, so we don't hear. After all, there are none so deaf as those who will not hear. So, the question is not, Does God hear our supplication? Rather the question is, Do we hear His answer and abide by it? Do we listen when His answer is not what we want but what we need?

We all have some talent; each has something they do better than others. Paul reminds us for the church, on any organization for that matter, to succeed, we must do what needs to be done, working hard, honestly, cheerfully, looking for no public praise, being kind to all. Sometimes, we fail to remember that for the team to be successful, each person needs to do the job they do best to the best of their ability; not necessarily the one they like best the way they want to do it at the pace they enjoy. The reward of a job well done in and of itself should be sufficient. We should not be giving of ourselves to God, so that we can get praise and recognition. That is not giving, it is selling.

At the same time, though we should not look for praise for our work, we should look for reasons to praise. We need to recognize hard work, sacrifice, thoughtfulness and talent in others, remark on it and praise the use thereof! That which is rewarded is that which grows.

Even God Himself, looking on His Son's baptism remarked for all to hear, "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

How oft do we praise the actions of others? To often we are quick to criticize the failings of others. We must understand that while it is valuable to know when we fall short, people strive the most for praise of those whose opinion they value.

When you hear those words, "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," remember to use them yourself. Lead others to God, don't point the way.

Bishop Ogles' Sermon

We are off fortunate to get copies of Bishop Jerry's sermon notes. Today is one of those Sundays. Like Bishop Dennis, he is working on the psalms. In this case he is looking at Psalm 127.



Sermon Notes for 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 15 January 2012 Anno Domini

The One Hundred Twenty Seventh Psalm
Nisi Dominus.

EXCEPT the LORD build the house, * their labour is but lost that build it.

Except the LORD keep the city, * the watchman waketh but in vain.

It is but lost labour that ye haste to rise up early, and so late take rest, and eat the bread of carefulness; * for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Lo, children, and the fruit of the womb, * are an heritage and gift that cometh of the LORD.

Like as the arrows in the hand of the giant, * even so are the young children.

Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; * they shall not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

Today's Psalm is definitely one which is profitable to be read responsively as we do in Prayer Book Worship. It addresses, directly, the fit purpose of the House of the Lord and to whom it belongs. It also informs that our labors, without the blessing of the Lord thereon, are but a waste of time. Those whose lives are committed to Christ have rest from their labors for it is Christ who does the labors through the members of our bodies. All efforts, all profits, all planning – apart from those that result from an exclusive dependence upon the favor of the Lord – are not worth any lasting benefit. Regardless the care and diligence with which we labor, our efforts are wasted as is the fragrance of the flower in the desert winds. But the Lord gives His beloved rest. Christ has become, as our Passover, our Sabbath rest as well.

The Psalm also tells us that little children are a priceless gift of God with joys and benefits that are a heritage in the Lord. Not only do the parents take pleasure in children, but they are also of great value in the eyes of the Lord. God compares them with the arrows which are in the hand of a strong man. It is the arrows themselves that make the father a giant. What a blessing and what strength shall come from the blessing of many sons and daughters! The quiver represents arrows still in our possession. This is potent energy! The children of a good man will be ready to give an answer that will evoke respect even from the enemies at the gate.

One caution to parents implied in the Psalm: When the arrow is still in the hand, it represents strength and control. The holder holds potential in his hand. The parent who keeps a child in good learning and moral teaching keeps the arrow polished and straight. The parent retains control over the arrow (child) even when placed on the bow and pulled taut against the bowstring. The precision of the aim, and the sensitivity of

the release, will determine the destiny of the arrow. But, CAUTION: once the arrow leaves the bow, the Bowman has no more control over the arrow. It will now go in the direction of its aim. As parents, we must take care to keep our arrows polished and straight. We must exercise precise direction for them. If we do so, when we release the arrow, we will need no further control to ensure that it reaches its target. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov 22:6) Though the arrow may sometime fall from the quiver, if properly polished and made straight, it will nonetheless find its target when released from the bow. The Old Testament reading describes such an arrow in the quiver of God - Cyrus!

"Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things. Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the Lord have created it. Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands? Woe unto him that saith unto his father, What begetteth thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth? Thus saith the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of hosts. Thus saith the Lord, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God. Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour." (Isaiah 45:1-15)

These words of the Lord are astounding in their prescience. They were penned by Isaiah two hundred years before Cyrus saw the light of day! God knew Cyrus, just as He knows you and me, before he was conceived in his mother's womb. In fact, God knew Cyrus, just as he knows you and me, long before the worlds were made. If this does not shed light on the high esteem and value God places on each of His creatures of clay, nothing will!

In the ancient land of Persia (now Iran), the city of Susa (Shushan) lies in ruins. It was the capital of the Persian Empire and the place from which Cyrus, Darius, Xerxes (Ahasuerus), and Artaxerxes ruled the known world from the Mediterranean to the frontiers of India. The palace at Susa, and surrounding environs, was also the same from which Daniel uttered many of his prophecies, particularly in chapter 8. It was the city of Nehemiah, Esther and Mordecai. This was the place from which Cyrus sent forth his armies to conquer all within reach – even Babylon!

When an elementary school boy, Cyrus became one of my heroes (of almost the same stature as Robert E. Lee in my mind) for in those days, the textbooks had not been tampered with to the extent of the political correctness engineers of today. We read stories from my Appleton Reader such as "When Joseph Went Down to Egypt," "Daniel in the Lion's Den," and, yes, "How Cyrus Issued a Decree to Rebuild the Temple at Jerusalem." The text book account related that Cyrus was the first benevolent ruler allowing the conquered lands to keep their own rulers and overseers in power (under Cyrus). He struck an amazing image in my youthful mind. Later, when I lived in the same land as Cyrus, and visited his tomb and Elam, his old capital province, I was struck with awe at all he had accomplished. Time does not permit a detailed account in a sermon, but study his life for yourselves for enlightenment. At Persepolis, inscribed near the Gate of the Nations, and on a wall above the Stairway of the Apadana, are these works in Mesopotamian Cuneiform wedge writing: When I, well-disposed, entered Babylon, I established the seat of government in the royal palace amidst jubilation and rejoicing.....did not allow any to terrorize the land of Sumer and Akkad. I kept in view the needs of Babylon and all its sanctuaries to promote their wellbeing. The citizens of Babylon... I lifted their unbecoming yoke. Their dilapidated dwellings I restored. I put an end to their misfortunes.

It was this Cyrus that God had anointed by name centuries before his birth to come to Babylon and conquer the city in a miraculous and prophesied manner. He would set the Children of Israel free to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple – at the expense of CYRUS!

The armies of Cyrus, undefeated previously, approach Babylon from every direction. They surround the city completely. The city was large. Its walls were 15 miles by 15 miles. They were 80 feet high and 50 feet wide at the top so that chariots could race three abreast upon them. In case the first wall was penetrated, there was a second wall inside the first of the same dimensions. It was, in a word, unconquerable. After a two year siege in 539 B.C., the men atop the walls of Babylon laughed and made fun of Cyrus' Army below. The city was plenty large enough to grow their own food in the beautiful gardens of the city. Cyrus, disheartened, decided to abandon the effort to conquer Babylon. As his gigantic but humiliated Army withdrew toward Persia, he approached a large basin alongside the Euphrates River. Suddenly, Cyrus remembered the story told him in his youth of how the founder of Babylon, Queen Nicrotis, had routed the water of the Euphrates into the basin to make the riverbed dry. She did this so that her workmen could build the wall of the city below the surface of the river and allow tunnels under that surface to allow water to flow through the city. Then there were gates and walls along the course of the river through the city to prevent an enemy, if he somehow managed to enter the submerged tunnels of the river, from getting access to the city itself.

Cyrus rerouted the Euphrates into the large basin and waited till the river was dry. "I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in

pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron." There were two iron-leaved gates that were under the river surface to block entry, but these were left open. Additionally, rushes had grown up under the water and now lay bare before Cyrus' approaching army. Cyrus no longer had to follow the twist and turns of the Euphrates for the bed was dry (I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight). " the gates shall not be shut." You will remember in Daniel 5 that Belshazzar had a party and had the golden vessels taken from the Temple at Jerusalem brought to him for riotous drinking and a hand appeared and wrote his doom upon the wall. It was during this celebration that the entire city was drunk and partying. The guards had abandoned the gates along the river's course inside the city and had even left the gates open. Bear in mind, this prophecy is written two hundred years before the event. Once Cyrus had burned the rushes around the water tunnels, he was able to march straight into the city. Jeremiah provides more detail to the defeat of that great city: "And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the LORD shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant. The mighty men of Babylon have forborn to fight, they have remained in their holds: their might hath failed; they became as women: they have burned her dwelling places; her bars are broken. One post shall run to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to shew the king of Babylon that his city is taken at one end, And that the passages are stopped, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and the men of war are affrighted. (Jer 51:29-32)

It is likely that Daniel, having interpreted the writing on the wall the night of Babylon's fall to her king, confronted Cyrus with the prophecies written in Isaiah two hundred years before Cyrus advent. It would have made a lasting and mighty impression upon that great king. So much so that he even made this prayer of the God of Israel recorded in Ezra 1: "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, `Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.'" (Ezra 1:1-4) If you ever before wondered if nations and great men were beyond the grasp of God our Father, think again!

He knows you ever whit as well as He knew Cyrus. If you are His and you hear His voice, He will guide your steps as surely as He guided those of Cyrus the great King!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN.

Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sunday Sermon

As is oft the case, we are honored to present Bishop Dennis' Sunday sermon presented to his parish. Dennis has an excellent command of scripture and is able to present it in a manner which is completely understandable to the rest of us. This year's sermons are drawn from the book of Psalms, or, as it is known by Anglicans, "*The Psalter*" which begins on page 343 of the Book of Common Prayer.



A Call to Faith

Psalm 29

Second Sunday after Epiphany

15 January 2012

Psalm 29. Afferte Domino.

A SCRIBE unto the Lord, O ye mighty, * ascribe unto the Lord worship and strength.

2 Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name; * worship the Lord with holy worship.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; * it is the glorious God that maketh the thunder.

4 It is the Lord that ruleth the sea; the voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; * the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

5 The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedar trees; * yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.

6 He maketh them also to skip like a calf; * Lebanon also, and Sirion, like a young unicorn.

7 The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness; * yea, the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to bring forth young, and strippeth bare the forests: * in his temple doth every thing speak of his honour.

9 The Lord sitteth above the waterflood, *and the Lord remaineth a King for ever.

10 The Lord shall give strength unto his people; * the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Psalm 29 describes a powerful storm raging through the land of Israel. Lightning bolts flash, thunder shakes the earth, and damaging winds splinter stout and strong trees. To David the storm is a symbol of God's power and grace, and a demonstration of God's power and grace is always a call to come to God and enjoy His blessings. It is an invitation to:

"Ascribe... unto the Lord worship and strength. Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name; worship the Lord with holy worship."

To those who know Christ as Saviour, this Psalm is a reminder of grace received. Thanks be to God, He is the Father of all mercies whose essence is Love and whose property is always to have mercy. He is gracious to those who love Him, and He even defends His people from those who would harm them. Cedars and waters represent

enemies who oppose God and oppress His people. Breaking and ruling them signifies God protecting and blessing His people. They show God punishing enemies for their treatment of His Church. They mean God keeps our enemies in check; He keeps them from overcoming us. Cedars and waters also represent the temptations and burdens of "the world, the flesh, and the devil." In this world you will have tribulation. You will often be tried, tired, and oppressed, but these things are the fire that refines your soul. God will not allow them to destroy you.

Rather than allowing you to be overcome by enemies or sorrows, God promises to make you prosper like the hinds. I do not mean God is going to make you wealthy, as the world counts wealth. He never promises to make you monetarily rich, though the Biblical principles of hard (and smart) work, living below your means, and saving much will generally allow you to have the essentials of life. But the real prosperity God wants to give is the prosperity of your soul. He wants you to be what St. Paul describes in Ephesians 3;

"strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."

This kind of prosperity comes to you through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. There He bore the wrath of God for your sin. It is only by His life, death and resurrection that your sins are forgiven and you are pronounced righteous in the sight of God. Through the storm of the cross you are brought to peace of God.

It is because of this grace of God, the grace you have received by faith, the grace by which God overcomes your enemies and guides you safe at last to His Mansion of Mansions, that you are able to "ascribe to the Lord worship and strength" and to "worship the Lord with holy worship."

To those who are not Christians, Psalm 29 is an invitation to grace offered.

It is not unusual for busy and intelligent people to ask why they should even care about a God they can't see or hear or know in any way other than by faith; a God they have already written off as irrelevant. Why should they bother to worship Him with holy worship? The answer is simple; **because He is worthy**. In Revelation, among all the saints and angels, no one is found worthy to open the scroll until Jesus Christ, God the Son, the Lion of Judah, the Lamb that was slain steps forward. And when He comes forth all others kneel in worship before Him saying, "Thou art worthy, O Lord." It is the same God, the same Christ, the same Creator and Sustainer of Heaven and earth who reveals Himself in Psalm 29, and is found worthy. He speaks in the thunder. His voice is upon the waters (3). He ruleth the sea (4), breaketh the cedars of Lebanon, and shakes the wilderness (7). He can make the hinds to calve, that is, give prosperity and blessing; or He can strip bare the forest, meaning to send disaster and wrath (8). You exist in Him, and He has the choice of dealing with you in mercy or dealing with you in wrath.

A God of mercy is worthy of your worship.

There is a warning in this Psalm. It says to you that if you are not in Christ by faith, you are one of the cedars He will break and the water He will subdue. There is no peace for your soul. There is no hope for the eternal bliss of Heaven. As you have lived apart

from Him in this world, you will also live apart from Him in the next. Your good works will not cancel out your sins. Even outward forms and works of religion will not get you into Heaven. Many will attempt it. On Judgment Day, many will remind Christ that they have done good things, even good things in His name. But Christ will say, "I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity." They have done some good things, but the whole direction of their lives has been toward self-pleasure and self-exaltation rather than toward Christ. Like the cedars in the Psalm, their end is to be broken and cast into the fire. This is the warning of Psalm 29.

But, thanks be to God there is also an invitation here. Those who are His by faith, "who truly repent and unfeignedly believe His holy Gospel," are forgiven of their sin and have peace with God. "The Lord shall give strength unto his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace."

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth; Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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 a really great egg white omelet made by Dru and a promise to meet at the Tip Top Meat Market for a German dinner at 1630! Maybe next week the fatted dog nut!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
22 January 2012	Jack Arnold
29 January 2012	Opportunity Available
5 February 2012	Opportunity Available
12 February 2012	Opportunity Available
19 February 2012	Opportunity Available
26 February 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.

Tuck Arnold is on travel this week.

Shamim Gray 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.

Birthdays

Hap Arnold celebrated his 62nd birthday 27 December 2011.

Don Patton celebrated his 49th 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 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.

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

Ruby Hauf, 7 month old daughter of Jerod (grandson of Lew and Dotty Valkenaar) has a large growth on her liver. Surgery is planned the week of 16 January 2012. The doctors are pretty certain that it is malignant. From Lew, "Our God is the answer!" Please pray for guidance for the surgical team treating Ruby, a good result, quick recovery and peace of mind for her family.

Bashir Ahmed, father of Shamim Gray, fell whilst getting out of bed, and gashed his head badly. He has been admitted to the Mayday University Hospital, Croydon, UK. The CAT scan revealed no serious damage, however doctors diagnosed him as having pneumonia, and also a heart defect, which they only just found. I am beside myself. Please pray for the medical team treating Bashir and for trust in God and peace of mind for Bashir and his loving wife, who cares for him. Pray also for their two young nieces living with them who see no real need to help, that God might enter their hearts. Above all, pray for his entire family to open their hearts to accept all God's love will bring them.

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 89th 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.

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

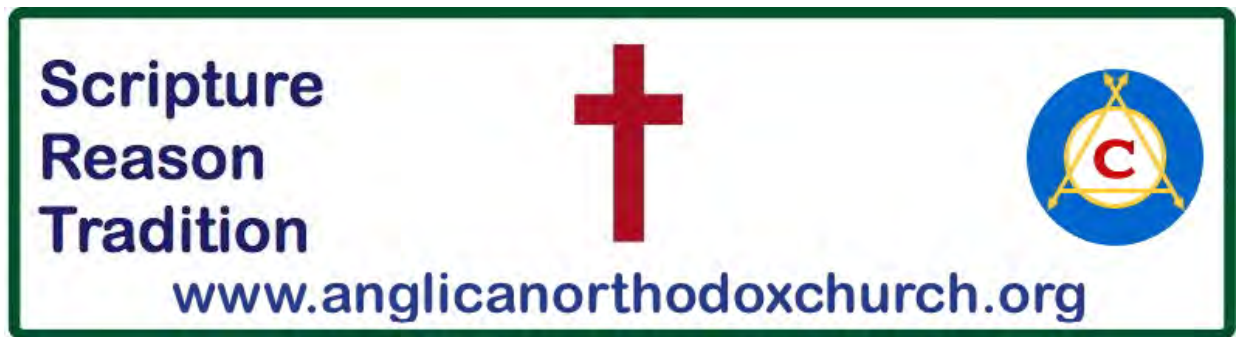
Hap gives thanks for safe and interesting travel this week.

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

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.

Letter from the Indian Christian Mission Church (AOC Affiliate)

We have received the below letter from Bishop John SDR Nakka, Primate of the ICM Church (an affiliate of the AOC) in India and the Diocese of Eluru.

Please join us in prayer for the future prosperity and Godly success of the new diocese and Bishop John Nibedan Reang :

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

We are indeed happy to inform you that we have bifurcated the Episcopal Missionary Diocese of Eluru of India Christian Mission Church by an unanimous resolution of the Governing Body dated 5th January 2012. The name of the new Diocese is : Diocese of North East India. This new Diocese is consisting of all the existing ICM Churches in the State of Tripura and it can be extended to all the other North East States of India in future.

The present Vicar General Very Rev. John Nibedan Reang was elected as Bishop for the New Diocese. This is the great occasion of appointment of a native Bishop belongs to the local tribe. Actually this should be a great celebration for each and every man and woman belongs to the tribal communities of the State of Tripura irrespective of their religion and Christian denomination. Many bishops might have ruled the Tripurians but the ICM Church is the pioneer in giving them a bishop who can lead them. THIS IS REALLY A GREAT OCCASION TO BE CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF TRIPURA.

We are making arrangements so that all Tripurians will participate, observe, enjoy the consecration of a Bishop of their own tribe and be blessed.

Kindly pray for our Brother in Christ -Bishop John Nibedan Reang for God's guidance and providence. Strengthen him by your prayer.

Yours in Christ,
+John, The Primate

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
22 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins
29 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins
5 February 2012	Ryan Hopkins
12 February 2012	Ryan Hopkins
19 February 2012	Ryan Hopkins
22 February 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Ash Wednesday
26 February 2012	Ryan Hopkins

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

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**

21 February 2012 – Pancake Breakfast – **0800 (8:00am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

22 February 2012 – Ash Wednesday - Service start time 1900 (7:00 pm); **Time 1900 (7:00 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

26 February 2012 – First Sunday in Lent – 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**