



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Septuagesima

Sunday Report



Today was Septuagesima, the Third Sunday before Lent. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a nice 42°F under the very clear blue skies of a mild Santa Ana wind. By the time church was over, it was a blistering 62°F under those same clear and bright skies. With Ryan Hopkins thankfully healed of his neck problem, we had 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.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
and Grace will lead me home.

When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

Propers

Each Sunday there are Propers: special prayers and readings from the Bible. There is a Collect for the Day; that is a single thought prayer, most written either before the re-founding of the Church of England in the 1540s or written by Bishop Thomas Cranmer, the first Archbishop of Canterbury after the re-founding.

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. The Epistle is normally a



reading from one of the various Epistles, or letters, in the New Testament. The Gospel is a reading from one of the Holy Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Collect is said by the minister as a prayer, the Epistle can be read by either a designated reader (as we do in our church) or by one of the ministers and the Holy Gospel, which during the service in our church is read by an ordained minister or our Deacon Striker.

The propers are the same each year, except if a Red Letter Feast, that is one with propers in the prayerbook, falls on a Sunday, then those propers are to be read instead, except in a White Season, where it is put off. Red Letter Feasts, so called because in the Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

The Propers for today are found on Page 118-120, with the Collect first:

**The Sunday called Septuagesima, or the
third Sunday before Lent.**

The Collect.

O LORD, we beseech thee favourably to hear the prayers of thy people; that we, who are justly punished for our offences, may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness, for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

Ryan Hopkins read the Epistle for today, which came from the Ninth Chapter of the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians beginning at the Twenty-Fourth Verse:

KNOW ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.



Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read the Holy Gospel for today



which came from the Twentieth Chapter of the Gospel of Saint Matthew beginning at the First Verse. Often quoted, this is the very important parable of the vineyard. While it appears to be principally directed towards Christians wanting to be “first” in importance and the like, it has a more direct meaning. It is a fine lesson in “buyer’s remorse” or coveting of jobs or similar concepts. If you got a good deal, it does not change because someone else got a “better” deal. Take what you got, go forth and be happy. Other meanings abound. For a very direct application, what this means is “cradle” Christians are no more likely to go to heaven than this morning’s convert.

They just get to enjoy the Christian experience longer. One note, if you wait until the

last minute to join the gang, your time here might end before you get around to it.

Sometimes people act like being a Christian is an unpleasant experience that they will do when they get a round tuit. It is not. Christians aren't perfect, they just have more fun being imperfect and imperfectly trying to improve! Anyway, here is the Gospel according to Saint Matthew:

THE kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

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:

... who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright; Grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations ...

In the Collect, we ask God who knows we should be "...justly punished for our offences, may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness, for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour ..."

Eternal salvation is the delivery we are promised by Jesus. This is the reward of the race we run here on earth. Our race is for that eternal prize, not just, as they say, filthy lucre. So how do we run the race? With our eye on the finish line, not on our competitors. And, remember this is a Team Effort. We want the Christian Team to win. If an outsider joins, they join the team fully from then on. A death bed conversion gains the same prize in the end as a life long Christian. The life long Christian will have had the more rewarding life, but eternity is a long time after

that.

We are all so far from perfect that Holier than Thou is pretty damning praise. Don't even go there. The best you can really do is not to be as evil as another, even that is pretty doubtful.

The Gospel for today, the very important parable of the vineyard, also gives us very good advice on the conduct of our daily lives and contains a crucial key to happiness

It is a fine lesson in "buyer's remorse" or coveting of jobs or similar concepts. If you got a good deal, it does not change because someone else got a "better" deal. Take what you got, go forth and be happy. Other meanings abound. For a very direct application, what this means is "cradle" Christians are no more likely to go to heaven than this morning's convert. They just get to enjoy the Christian experience longer. One note, if you wait until the last minute to join the gang, your time here might end before you get around to it.

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Bishop Ogles' Sermon

We are off fortunate to get copies of Bishop Jerry's sermon notes. Today is one of those Sundays. Today we get a brilliant analysis of a portion of the Gospel according to Matthew for this week:

Septuagesima Sunday
5 February 2012 Anno Domini
St Andrews Anglican Church

**The Sunday called Septuagesima, or the
third Sunday before Lent.**

The Collect.

O LORD, we beseech thee favourably to hear the prayers of thy people; that we, who are justly punished for our offences, may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness, for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. Amen.



This Collect prepares our hearts for Grace and disavows any personal merit we may consider that we have. First, we pray that our prayer, offered out of a contrite heart, may be heard by the Lord. Secondly, our punishments regardless the severity are all deserved for we have all come short of the righteousness of God. Thirdly, not claiming any righteousness now on our own behalf, but that righteousness of Jesus Christ, we ask only for His mercy and His Glory.

Matthew 5:1-16

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3 *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* 4 *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.* 5 *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.* 6 *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.* 7 *Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.* 8 *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.* 9 *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.* 10 *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* 11 *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.* 12 *Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

13 *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.* 14 *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.* 15 *Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.* 16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

The multitudes always flocked to Christ but only for their own benefit. "*And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him.*" That is true today as well. The multitudes that flock to churches on Sunday are not truly seeking Christ, but social, political and financial advantage. Those who come truly seeking Him are the smaller remnant of the people – the true disciples.

Jesus, when wearied, often went up to the mountain. It is a place where the world is less and heaven is nearer. There He may find solitude.

"...*when he was set*" Unlike many moderns who love to make a show of jumping about in the pulpit, Jesus often sat down (as one having authority) to preach and teach. Wild gesticulations will not nurture faith, but Jesus spoke in calm and even words.

The multitudes will come readily on easy terrain, but they are less likely to go so far as to climb a mountain.

We see now a division between the reward of those who are blessed (and who they are) and the nature of those who are truly blessed of the Lord.

"*And he opened his mouth, and taught them,*" In the military we would call this an Alert Order – Christ is about to speak words of surpassing importance:

³ Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

There is one common thread running through all of the Blessed – they are humble and lacking undue pride. If they have pride, it is in Christ and not themselves.

¹¹ Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before

you. Here we have a perfect example of the kind of persecution that takes place from the world, and often regrettably, the people of the Church itself. The prophets of old times were not persecuted by the world as much as by the rulers of Israel. The same is true today. If you question their extravagant spending plans, you will find yourself outside the gate, beaten and tortured by the tongues of men.

Who are the blessed of God in the final equation? Have you ever heard an honest and good man or woman described in this way: "*That man is the salt of the earth!*"?

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

What is the nature of salt and who made salt?

All things were made by God. He made salt for our good. What are some benefits of salt?

1. Makes food taste better. The Christian makes those about him enjoy his company.
2. Preserves meats and vegetables so that they can be stored for long periods. The witness of a Christian nation will preserve it in liberty and safety for long periods.
3. Valuable – salt was used to pay Roman soldiers at the time of Christ. The Roman name for salt is salarius – this is the origin of our term 'salary.'
4. Salt is not found every place. It must be mined at hard labor and then transported to the source of need. God's Word must be studied (mined) and transported to the source of need – a perishing world.
5. Salt creates thirst just as salty popcorn in a theater (to entice us to buy soft drinks). The Christian example of the Church should make people thirsty to come and know of our joy.
6. Salt is stored in shakers. If it is kept too long without being shaken, it will harden and not able to be used on food. The Christian is the same way. If we stay apart from the lives of others, we will get hardened and of no benefit to our fellow man.
7. Salt is necessary for life.

Salt is a Compound comprised of two atoms – which are they? Remember your junior high chemistry class? **NaCl**

Na = Sodium, a soft, yellowish, poisonous metal never found in pure form in nature. It will always be combined with some other element such as carbon, sulphur, or hydrogen.

Chlorine is an odorless, colorless gas which cannot be seen, but is so deadly that it was the first chemical used in chemical warfare in WWI.

It kills without the victim being aware of its presence. The lost sinner dies not being aware of the presence of God.

But when these two poisons are combined, they create a compound essential for life!

If we allow sodium to represent man (a soft yellow medal) we see that man is lost in his natural state, always joined to the elements of the world.

If we allow chlorine to represent God as an invisible Spirit, we find that He is deadly

to man if man is not joined to Him as in the case of NaCl. But when combined, the result is something essential for life.

If we place salt in a bag on the ground and leave it alone for a long while, it will begin to separate from the Chlorine and join with other elements of the world. How like a Christian who is overly close to the things of the world.

If we view common table salt under a microscope, we will find that the invisible chlorine gas, and soft yellow metal have formed perfect cubes of white. These cubes maintain a structural integrity that maintains their form even when beaten into small pieces. Should not the Christian maintain his integrity and form as well when subjected to persecution?

**We are, if we are committed to Christ, the salt of the earth.
Now let us turn to light. What is light?**

Nobody knows, not even our NASA scientists.

Science can only describe the behavior and characteristics of Light, but cannot define exactly what Light is.

Light is invisible. Strange to you? You can only see light in the manner in which it reveals reality to us. We can see each other today because light has revealed our visage to each other. God is like Light – we cannot see Him, but we can see the Truth and Promise He has revealed to us. We know Him too because we know His Son, Jesus.

According to Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity, there is only one absolute known to man – the speed of Light. Christ tells us that He is the Light of the World! He is absolute and His Truth is unassailable!

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The Sun is our great physical light without which there could be no life on earth. Christ, to us, is like the Sun. We must be blessed by His warm, life-giving rays daily.

If there is a lunar eclipse, we have allowed some physical object to come between us and our Sun of Righteousness. *"But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."* (Mal 4:2)

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Wait! Jesus says that WE are the Light of the World, and here He says HE is the Light of the World. How may we reconcile these seemingly conflicting statements?

Have you ever basked in the light of the moon on a warm summer evening? The moon is the brightest light in the sky at night, but it does not own its light, it borrows it from the Sun and reflects it down to us. We, too, are the only light in a darkened night of the world, but our light, too, is borrowed and reflected. We get our Light from the

Sun of Righteousness and it is not ours – but His.

A hidden light is not light at all. We must be openly burning for Christ. If we are bright lights for Christ, our lights shall be seen at great distances across the Wilderness of the World. Are you a shining light for Christ, or is your light darkened?

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.



God Our Help
Psalm 121
Septuagesima Sunday
5 February 2012

Psalm 121. *Levavi oculos.*

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills; * from whence cometh my help?
2 My help cometh even from the Lord, * who hath made heaven and earth.
3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; * and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel * shall neither slumber nor sleep.
5 The Lord himself is thy keeper; * the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
6 So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, * neither the moon by night.
7 The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; * yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
8 The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in, * from this time forth for evermore.

"From whence cometh my help." These words, like many in literature and music, have a double meaning. So to say, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help" is first a statement of confidence that the hills are a help to Jerusalem. Ancient Jerusalem was set on the famous hill known as Mount Zion. Like most cities of its time, it was enclosed by a thick wall upon which soldiers could walk and fight to defend the city. The walls were surrounded by the small valleys of Tyropoeon and Kidron, which, in turn, were surrounded by another wall, a natural wall of rugged hills of which the Mount of Olives is the most famous. This made Jerusalem a natural fortress. An attacking army would have to scale the surrounding hills, cross the Tyropoeon and Kidron, under fire from archers on the wall, scale the wall of the valleys, advance further up the hill, still under attack by defending archers, and, finally, climb the wall of Jerusalem itself before it could even begin to fight the Jerusalem soldiers. So the hills around the city were a natural defense, and it is to these hills that Psalm 121 says in confidence; "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; from whence cometh my help."

Yet, "from whence cometh my help?" is also a question. Wonderful as the hills are, they cannot do everything. They cannot comfort those who sorrow. They cannot heal the sick, or give meaning or hope to life. Only God can do these things; "From whence cometh my help? My help cometh even from the Lord."

One of the points made by the Psalm is that God is able to help. It is hard to describe

the help a hill gave to soldiers in days past. It gave those on the hill a commanding view of the enemy's movements, but it also enabled them to fight better. An arrow fired downhill had more range than an arrow fired uphill. A large stone rolled downhill was a danger to all in its path; a large stone rolled uphill was more dangerous to the soldiers rolling it than it was to the enemy. So, the high ground was always an advantage, always a help. And Psalm 121 is making a comparison; it is saying, as the hills are a help to the physical city of Jerusalem, God is the help of the spiritual Jerusalem, His people. He made heaven and earth. He made the universe. He created the stars and the galaxies. "He telleth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by their names." "Great is our Lord, and of great power." "In the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." If God has the power and wisdom to do all these things, then it must be true that, as 2 Chronicles 25:8 says, "God hath power to help." This God of power and strength is like the hills around Jerusalem. He surrounds and protects us. He is a wall of defense. Can any enemy harm us if God is our defense? "If God be for us, who can be against us?" asks St. Paul. It is God who justifies us, and it is God who makes us to be more than conquerors so that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:31-39). Daniel 3:17 sums this up very well. Faced with death in the fiery furnace, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego say plainly, "our God whom we serve is able to deliver us."

But what good is power to help if it is not used? What good is the ability to do good without the will to do it? Therefore it is important that our God is able and willing to deliver us. "He will not suffer thy foot to be moved" according to verse 3. When you live in a city set on a hill, there is always someone who wants to knock you off. The city of Jerusalem had many enemies who would have gladly destroyed it. But God would not let Jerusalem's "foot" be moved. Secure footing is essential to making the high ground an effective help in battle. You can't fight if you can't stand, and you can't stand if the footing is not secure. The Psalm pictures Jerusalem standing secure and firm on Zion, because God upholds the city. God holds the feet of the city, so that instead of standing on loose sand and rocks that can slide out from under it, Jerusalem stands on the unmoving and powerful hand of God.

It is easy to see the spiritual meaning here. God's Church is always surrounded by enemies. They attack in wave after wave, and we see their numbers and power, and our faith almost fails us because we know we are no match for them. It is true, as Martin Luther wrote;

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing.
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He
Lord Sabaoth His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

God is on our side. More importantly, we are on God's side, and He will not allow His church to be vanquished. And He won't allow you to be either. If you truly are in Christ through Biblical faith, He has promised you that He will keep you by His power in this world and in the next. He does not say you will not have to fight. He does not say you will not grow weary or weak. He does not even say you won't be wounded in the battle. He does promise that "He will not suffer thy foot to be moved." In other words, after all the battles are over, by His power, the Heavenly Jerusalem will still stand, and so will you if you are a citizen of that city.

Verse 5 tells you, "The Lord Himself is thy keeper; the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand." The Psalm imagines the hills around Jerusalem as soldiers standing guard. They are always there in the burning sun and deepest night. On a moonlit night you can see them standing there, but even in the darkest night you know they are there protecting you. They never take a vacation. They never sleep. What a wonderful symbol of God watching over His people. He is there in the heat of the day and the cold of the night. The sun shall not burn thee by day because God is on guard so you can rest in the shadow of His wings. The moonlit winter night will not harm you because God is on duty, allowing you to rest in the warmth of His love. You can sleep and take your rest because He never does. He never sleeps on duty, never deserts His post. He never quits. He never takes a day off, or a vacation or a rest. He is always on duty, ever vigilant.

The Psalm does not mean to say you will never experience hardship or trials in this life. It does not teach that you will always prosper, always enjoy good health, or always have things and people go the way you want. It is not so much a promise of good things for the flesh as it is a promise of good things for the soul. This is brought out in verse 7, "The Lord shall preserve thee from evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul."

It is often very difficult to remember that God is more concerned about the health of your soul than the comfort of your body. You, if you are like the rest of us mortals, are busy with the things that contribute to your physical comforts. You work and plan and play and rest, and, even pray to God to increase your comfort in this world. There is a sense in which this is right and good. I believe God wants you to enjoy life, and that He gives good things to be enjoyed. There was a time in the history of the Church when many people thought God wanted them to be miserable. So they joined monasteries and convents where they starved themselves, slept in the snow, and even beat themselves with whips while rejecting even the most basic comforts of the flesh. Many died of their self inflicted sufferings; others were perpetually worn and sick. Thanks be to God we now understand the Bible better and do not murder ourselves thinking we are pleasing God. But, I wonder, have we gone too far in the other direction? Today you rarely hear a call to perseverance, self-discipline, or self-restraint. You hear instead that God is going to give you health and wealth and indulge all your wants, like Santa Clause, only better. Both of these views are heresies. You need to remember that God is investing in you for the long term. His concern is about fitting you for Heaven rather than giving you luxury and ease on earth. It is your soul that concerns Him most, and He is not afraid to prune a few branches to make your soul produce fruit.

We close today's message remembering that it is to the grace of God in Christ that we ultimately look for our help. He is the hill that surrounds and protects us. He is the one who makes our feet to stand firm upon the mount. He is the one who overcomes our foes and delivers us safe to the Mansion of Heaven. Everything promised in the 121st Psalm is accomplished by Christ for us on the cross. We only receive it by faith as His gift to us. It is through Him that you can say, "My help cometh from the Lord."

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New Nametags

We had no new nametags today.

After Church Hospitality

Today we had no snacks as once again no one notified Jack, so he is on the list for next week! Anyway, we went right from the service to hamburgers at Fred's in the next village. Maybe next week the fatted dog nut!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
12 February 2012	Jack Arnold
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 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 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

No 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

Dru Arnold celebrated her 57th birthday 2 February 2012. It should be noted while it was sunny, when she went outside first thing in the morning, she did not see her shadow; thus there will not be six more weeks of winter.

Homebound or Infirm

Sara's mother is in a state of deteriorating health, both physically and mentally. On 30 January 2012, she broke her hip and had a partial hip replacement. Please pray for a rapid recovery for her, as well as 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

Hal Campbell (Lew and Dotty's Son In Law see below) is in the Seattle Veteran's Hospital in ICU in critical condition. He went there for Botox Treatment for his throat scarring from last March's surgery to remove tumor, saliva gland and lymph nodes, as he couldn't swallow anything, even milk shakes. While there somehow he fell and hit his head and has been in induced coma, brain waves etc. and many tests.... His family Kathy, Trevor and Ty were with him for several

days. Ty came back today. Dotty and Lew have remained at home to care for the house, dogs and business. Please pray guidance for the medical team treating Hal, for a positive recovery, trust in our Lord and peace of mind for Hal's family.

Ron Bergman is undergoing cataract surgery on 6 February 2012. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating him, a good result and rapid recovery and good spirits for Ron.

Ruby Hauf, 7 month old daughter of Jerod and Amy (grandson of Lew and Dotty Valkenaar) had a large growth on her liver. Surgery on 16 January 2012 resulted in the removal of a large tumor surrounding the one kidney, the kidney, adrenal gland & urethra tube. Born 3 June 2011, she is now recovering at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane, WA. Either her mother or her father will be holding her during most of her waking hours. Test results will determine whether chemotherapy is going to be needed. Lew and Dotty ask that you continue to pray for God's help in healing and appreciate all who have done so. Lew will report again once the decision on further treatment is made. Please give thanks for the apparently successful result, a 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 clear, 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.

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

Sara asks that you pray for guidance for her as she deals with the stresses of her family and life. Pray that she can separate those things which she can affect from those things which she cannot and give her grace to accept that she cannot do everything and can only change those things within her control.

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

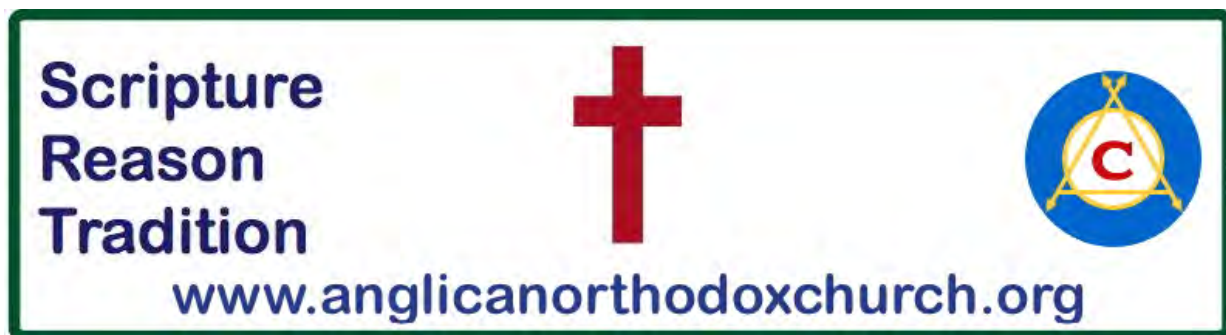
Ryan Hopkins gives thanks for recovery from his pinched neck nerve.

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.

What is Septuagesima?

Septuagesima Sunday is the name given to the third Sunday before Lent. The term is sometimes applied to the period of the liturgical year which begins on this day and lasts through Shrove Tuesday (with the following day being Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins). This period is also known as the Pre-Lenten season or Shrovetide. The next two Sundays are labelled Sexagesima and Quinquagesima, the latter sometimes also called Shrove Sunday. The earliest Septuagesima Sunday can occur is January 18 (Easter falling on March 22 in nonleap year) and the latest is February 22 (Easter falling on April 25 in leap year).

Septuagesima comes from the Latin word for "seventieth," with Sexagesima and Quinquagesima equalling "sixtieth" and "fiftieth" respectively. They are patterned after the Latin word for the season of Lent, Quadragesima, which means "fortieth" because Lent is forty days long (not counting the Sundays, which are all considered little Easters). Because a week is only seven days long, not ten, and since even then only six of those days might be counted if the pattern of Quadragesima is followed, Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima, don't literally correspond to the periods of time they imply. It is interesting, however, that just about 70 days (68 actually) is the minimum number of days between the octave day of the Epiphany on January 14 and Easter, implying that a season just about 70 days long can always fit between the two.

The 17-day period beginning on Septuagesima Sunday was intended to be observed as a preparation for the season of Lent, which is itself a period of spiritual preparation (for Easter). In many countries, however, Septuagesima Sunday still marks the start of the carnival season, culminating on Shrove Tuesday, more commonly known as Mardi Gras. The Gospel reading for Septuagesima week is the parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16).

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

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

Epistleers

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

Date	Reader
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

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**

4 March 2012 – Second 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**

11 March 2012 – Third 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**

18 March 2012 – Fourth Sunday in Lent – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

25 March 2012 – Fifth 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**

1 April 2012 – Palm Sunday – 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**

8 April 2012 – Easter Sunday – 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**