



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

# Fourth Sunday after Easter

Sunday Report



Today was the Fourth Sunday after Easter, the central event of the Christian year, the celebration of our Lord, "Christ the Lord is Risen!" Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a lovely 37°F under blue skies, which climbed to an almost perfect 73°F under clear calm blue skies. The lovely weather brought four to worship our Lord.

## *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* seems to be the parish favorite.

## *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 174-175, with the Collect first:

### The Fourth Sunday after Easter.

*The Collect.*

**O** ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ryan Hopkins read this morning's Epistle, which came from the First Chapter of the Epistle of Saint James beginning at the Seventeenth Verse. James tells us we are the pinnacle of God's creation, destined to be the stewards of His world, thus we should be considerate of what we do and let ourselves become open to His Word:

**E**VERY good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.



Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read today's Holy Gospel came from the Sixteenth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John beginning at the Fifth Verse:

**J**ESUS said unto his disciples, Now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.



### *Sermon – Time and Action*

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

We are in the Easter Season which consists of Easter and the following four Sundays, until we get to Rogation Sunday. This is a time we should work on centering our lives on the central figure in our religion, Jesus Christ.



Consider these words from the Collect:

... who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found...

The very first phrase is critical to understanding our relationship with the world. We want to follow our own hearts and they will lead us down the path to Donkey Island and eventually the pit. We have one hope, that is that we will listen to the instruction God freely offers us. If we will just do what He asks we will find true joy. Our life will be better when we follow His directions and if we will



allow God to rule us and desire His help, we will be able to attain the state of happiness we will then deserve.

All good comes from God, who is always with us; always the same; a true bearing in world in a constant state of flux. We need to listen to not only Him, but those around us, think before we speak, think more before we act in haste. We must put ourselves to good and separate ourselves from evil and superfluity of naughtiness so we can hear His Word, which will save our souls.

So, how can we hear? We need the Holy Ghost to enter in to us so that we can understand what is of God. It is that simple. Open your heart, pray for God to send Him into that open heart.

For with the Holy Ghost's help, you can hear, understand and act on The Word.

### *Bishop Ogles' Sermon*

We are off fortunate to get copies of Bishop Jerry's sermon notes. Today is one of those Sundays. Bishop Jerry almost always bases his sermon on the lectionary readings. Today is different, his sermon is based on one he did for a funeral this week. You might ask yourself, what does that have to do with the lectionary and the Easter season? Read it and find out, I personally guarantee it will be well worth your time!



### **Sermon Notes 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter 6 May 2012 Anno Domini**

#### **The Fourth Sunday after Easter.**

*The Collect.*

**O** ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**The Great I AM - not the I WAS, or the I SHALL BE, but I AM – a constant Presence**

*I AM the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die.* (John 11:25-26)

*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me* (John 14:6 (KJV))

*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)

*I am the bread of life* (John 6:35)

*I am the bread which came down from heaven.* (John 6:41)

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* (John 10:7-10)

Jesus Christ is our Constant Presence. He is always with us. He has said: *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* (Hebrews 13:5)

Perry's favorite Psalm was the 23<sup>rd</sup>: \*\*\*\**I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.* (John 10:14)

### 23<sup>rd</sup> PSALM

1. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Let us examine together this powerful Psalm beginning at the first verse:

***1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want***

Let there be no doubt about that lovely Person who is the subject of this Psalm – it is the Good Shepherd of John 10. The LORD is my Shepherd.

If the LORD is our Shepherd, we shall lack nothing of our needs.

In Philippians 4:19, we read – *But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ* (our Shepherd).

Our wants will become the Will and desire of the LORD if we love Him. The LORD is the subject of the Psalm and we are the Object or beneficiaries of it.

***2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*** It is true that often we do not know what is best for us and the LORD takes our hand and leads us, like a little child, to the place of comfort and safety.

The pastures of the Lord are not of weeds and briars, but bright and green. Healthful to our souls and bodies.

The STILL WATERS by which He leads us are not tumultuous and troubled, but calm and smooth. Deep Water is always calm water.

The nostrils of a lamb are very close to its mouth. If the water is disturbed, the lamb has difficulty drinking from it without choking on the water that enters its nostrils. So the Good Shepherd takes us to waters that are convenient for our use.

**3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

When we have been too long on the deserts of life, the Lord comes to us as a refreshing Fountain of Pure Waters. We drink from His Wells and are restored. He makes us alive anew.

He always prompts us, through His Holy Spirit, to walk in good paths. We are sons and daughters of God the great King. If, as princes and princesses, our behavior is shameful, we dishonor our Father the King. Because we love our Good Shepherd, we are dedicated to living a life that will not bring shame to His Name.

**4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Is a shadow real? It is not. It is only formed by the light that has been blocked by our bodies. Death casts a shadow before us. It is ever near to us. But it is not real to the Christian, but only a shadow.

We live in a Wilderness of Sin in this world. It is full of death and suffering, but such specters of death as we imagine are not real to us. We shall not die if we have hope in Christ – we shall only be changed at the moment of mortal death.

***I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die*** (John 11:25-26)

Christ is always nearby His Sheep. ***I will fear no evil: for thou art with me thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*** The Shepherd's staff is like a candy cane – straight on one end and hooked on the other. The straight end is sharp as used as a prod when we go out of the way of safety which the Shepherd has set for us. So He uses the sharp end to chastise us in life. The other hooked end is used to rescue us from rocks and crevices when we have separated ourselves from the Good Shepherd and His Flock.

**5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

The Lord often saves our best wine for last just as He did at the Wedding at Cana of Galilee. Beethoven's most notable achievement was the ninth symphony, 5<sup>th</sup> movement. So has He saved the best wine in MY OWN life for the Autumn days and coming Winter of my Soul. He has filled our tables with good things, and He has made our enemies jealous with His graciousness toward us.

He anoints us with the Oil of His Holy Ghost and prepares the way for our service to Him.

The true blessings in the life of a Christian are like a cup filled to overflowing with the Wine of Love, Mercy, and Grace.

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever**

That Mercy and Grace of God shall be constantly with us all the days of our lives – even that last moment of this mortal life.

## *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 a special sermon for the Fourth Sunday after Easter:



### **God Our Delight**

Psalm 116, James 1:17-21, John 16:5-14

Fourth Sunday after Easter

May 6, 2012

Our God is wonderful. To know Him is to find everlasting life. To become His servant is to find perfect freedom. To value Him above all else is to gain a treasure that no one can ever steal, cannot be devalued by depressions and recessions, and will never tarnish, wear out, break, or fall apart. In addition, you will never grow tired of Him. Unlike the treasures and pleasures and toys of earth, which quickly become boring, God becomes continuously more exciting and compelling. The more we learn about God, and the deeper we go into what the Bible calls, dwelling in Him, the more we want to learn and the deeper we want to dwell in Him. We find more and more that we can say, "My delight is in the Lord."

Thus, our Collect for this Fourth Sunday after Easter beseeches God to order, or, rule, our wills and affections in a way that enables us to love, or, delight in, the things He commands and desire the things He promises. James 1:17 reminds us that every good thing is a gift from God, and John 16 tells of the mind staggering gift of the Holy Spirit who comes to comfort our souls and guide us in all truth. Psalm 116 joins the praise of God with the words I quoted just moments ago, "My delight is in the Lord."

The Psalmist's words do not express the view of the conventional "wisdom" of today. The conventional "wisdom" teaches people to throw off the "oppressive yoke of Christianity, and free themselves from its outdated doctrines and morals." Those who accept its teaching view Christ as a myth and Christianity as tyranny. They are like the heathen of Psalm 2 who rage together and imagine vain things against God and His Church. Thus they follow the ideas of whatever is current and popular, and trendy, and politically correct, without thinking and without weighing the consequences.

The Bible pictures them as being tossed about by every wind of doctrine, like waves on the sea or dead leaves blowing in a storm. Thinking is not allowed in their system. Only mindless conformity is permitted. Pierce your tongue, get a tattoo, memorise the mantra and follow the crowd; this will bring happiness, they promise. But it doesn't work. Ask the people in prison. They were told right and wrong are nothing more than personal opinions; no one else can dictate what is right or wrong, or fun, for them. That was for them alone to decide. But when they acted on that principle they found their teachers very quick to condemn them. They may have cried, "It's not their fault. It is our culture that is guilty, not these people." But they still found them guilty in a court of law, and they still sent them to jail.

The life of self-indulgence, which is the essence of the conventional wisdom of every age, always leads to misery because the human heart is never satisfied. People with annual incomes in the millions of dollars complain of being broke and having too much

month left at the end of the money. Why? Because they are not satisfied with what they have; they want more, and they overspend to get it.

But there is another source of misery in this world. The world is fallen. It brings forth thorns where we plant crops and weeds where we plant flowers. I am not speaking here only of fields and gardens. I am speaking of life in general. It is not always the best qualified who get the promotions. It is not always the smartest who become rich. It is not always the fastest who win the races. You can give love, yet be rejected and hated. Just ask Jesus. You can do good, yet be called evil. Just ask Jesus. You can take a stand for God, yet be considered a devil. Just ask Jesus. The author of Psalm 116 understood this. I don't think we know who wrote this Psalm, for he is not identified in the Bible, but we do know he suffered terribly. He may have suffered a devastating illness. He may have been in grave danger from enemies. He may have been reaping the results of foolish decisions or wicked living. We don't know. But his suffering brought him very close to death. The snares of death surrounded him. The pains of hell "got hold" of him. This is deep, deep suffering. I tend to think his was suffering caused by sin. I think this man was similar to the Prodigal Son. He wasted his life, embraced wickedness, and neglected the gifts of God's guidance and love. And he woke up one day near death in sickness and depression, with the fires of hell reaching for him like hands trying to pull him in. And this pulled him down into the deepest misery of body and soul a person can face this side of hell.

I said a few minutes ago that life sometimes grows thorns where we plant crops. But, as though that were not bad enough, we actually help the thorns. We plant them in our own lives. No wonder they seem to dominate our lives. And it doesn't take much to bring forth a harvest of thorns. You don't have to commit the "big" sins. Years of small bad habits, of neglecting the means of grace, of failing to do your duty at work and home, of sarcasm and criticism instead of edification, and giving in to small self indulgences instead of doing your Godly duty in even the little things of life, is like planting small handfuls of thorn seeds in your life. Over the years, they just crowd out the crops and the flowers. As St Paul wrote, "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

"But God." Those are two of my favourite words in all of Scripture. They come from Ephesians 2:4, which, in full reads; "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He hath loved us." The next verses finish the sentence and go on to describe how God in mercy reverses the pattern of sowing and harvest in our lives. He causes us to reap fruits flowers and vegetables, rather than the thorns we have sown, and He teaches us how to sow crops and flowers rather than thorns so we can increase the harvest of good things. The point of the preceding verses in Ephesians is that we were dead toward God because of our sin. Our souls were dead toward Him and we neither loved nor wanted Him, except on rare occasions, and then only on our own terms. And we were unable to change this attitude in ourselves. We were unable to make ourselves love God, or desire God or delight in God. We preferred to eat the thorns of our sin rather than the fruit of His love. And we would have stayed in that condition for all of our lives and for all eternity, "But God." And the rest of the book of Ephesians is about the way God brings forth goodness in our lives. He gives us all good and perfect gifts, as we saw in our reading from James 2:17. Those who have tasted the goodness of God may rejoice with the Psalmist that the Lord has delivered their souls from death, their eyes from tears, and their feet from falling. For their delight is no longer in the rusting trinkets of this world, their delight is in the Lord.



Now what does the Lord ask of those who want to delight in Him? Two things. First, that you receive the cup of salvation. It is amazing that He wants to give and give us more and more and more. Not only does His Law teach us how to find a sense of happiness in life by avoiding the things that cause sorrow and suffering, but He also made a way to forgive your sins and draw you into His eternal peace. This Way, this Cup of Salvation, is Christ who went to the cross for you, in your place. So the first thing this generous God wants you to do is to receive the Cup of Salvation from Him as His gift to you, through Biblical faith in Christ.

Second, He asks that you pay your vows. When you receive the Cup of Salvation you are telling God you are turning away from the old patterns that made your soul dead unto Him. You are putting them behind you, and you are taking up His ways as the pattern and the purpose of your life. Let it be well understood that you are not "being good" to earn a place in Heaven. You are turning to God and delighting in Him because He has built a place for you in Heaven, free of charge to you. He has shown you the way of life and peace, and only asks that you walk in it. Making this vow is an integral part of receiving the Cup of Salvation. But even more, making, and devoting yourself to this vow is the way you delight in God, and it is the way you discover more and more how delightful God is.

Dearly beloved, baptized in the name of Christ and confirmed into communing membership of His Church, who claim to have received the Cup of Salvation and made your vows unto God, I beseech you to devote yourself to paying those vows. I beseech you to live for and in Christ every day of the week. I urge you to put away lesser things and delight yourself in God and His service. For your sake, for your good, as well as for the glory of God, I desire you to be able to proclaim with the Psalmist, "My delight is in the Lord."

### *New Nametags*

We had no new nametags today.

### *After Church Hospitality*

We had special after church snacks. Our Epistler Ryan Hopkins is leaving for Pennsylvania to study dressage for a year on 20 May 2012. We will miss him! To insure a good send off, we had a going away party for him after church. Two parties, actually. Weiner dogs, cake, beans, potato salad, ice cream, berries, whipped cream and more cake.

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
13 May 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Rogation Sunday</b>
20 May 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Sunday after the Ascension</b>
27 May 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Whitsunday or Pentecost – Memorial Day Weekend</b>
3 June 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Trinity Sunday</b>
10 June 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – First Sunday after Trinity</b>
17 June 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Second Sunday after Trinity</b>
24 June 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Third Sunday after Trinity</b>
1 July 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday after Trinity</b>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Each member of the team will pray for the desired outcome at 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](mailto:jack@faithfulcenturion.org) or Dru - [dru@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:dru@faithfulcenturion.org), or call the church office at (619) 659-3608 or fill out a prayer card at church.

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

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

### **Updating the Team**

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

Please note that on the yellow (maybe green or orange if you get an old one) cards at church, you can ask that those to be prayed for have their names disseminated to the prayer team. Those names will be said in church and appear here. Or, you can ask that their names and purpose be kept confidential, then only Hap will know to pray for them.

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

### **Travel**

Mona Mukerji traveled from England to Pakistan recently, in order to commemorate the opening of a church she and her extended family had built in the town of Stunzabad, Pakistan, a very volatile area. Also, Mona's brother was a very, very

renowned priest or bishop, in Lahore until he passed away. This family is heavily involved in uplifting Christians in Pakistan; as we know, they have their work cut out for them. God bless them and keep them safe.

### **Move**

*The Thomas Family* is on a short tour assignment in Guam for the next 18 months. Please pray for the assignment to continue to go well for Kurt and for Mary and the kids to make new friends. In particular pray that Kristyna and Mitchell will develop good friends and school mates there so as to further their development as both Christians and citizens. 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**

*Laurel Bessesen* celebrates her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on 26 April 2012.

### **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**

*Arthur Gregr*, father of Brett Gregr, passed away on 16 March 2012. Please give thanks for his life here and pray for peace of mind and trust in God for his family who remain behind, in particular his son Brett.

*Jackson Babcock*, father of Hope DeLong, passed away on 14 March 2012. Please give thanks for his life here and pray for peace of mind and trust in God for his family who remain behind, in particular his daughters Lisa, Faith and Hope.

*Claranell* passed away the morning of 16 February 2012, after a stroke on top of her pre-existing heart problems. Please give thanks for her life here and pray for peace of mind and trust in God for her family who remain behind.

*Larry Moison* passed away on 9 February 2012. Larry was a staunch American patriot and Christian. He was always willing to provide Bishop Ogles with excellent advice and counsel at any time the church faced challenges. He was to be ordained to the diaconate at Bishop Ogles' first opportunity to visit northern Virginia and always stood firm on faith even when those around him faltered. May God comfort and strengthen the family during this loss.

*Hal Campbell* (Lew and Dotty's Son In Law see below) passed away on 7 February 2012 at the Seattle Veteran's Hospital as the result of a head injury apparently sustained in a fall in his room there. Please pray for his wife Kathy and their two sons as they deal with the loss of their husband and father. Pray in particular for Kathy as she is having a very bad time dealing with the loss of her husband.

### **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**

*Sylvia Lee*, Sandra Lee's mother, has progressive lumbar stenosis and sciatica, which is causing increasing pain in her back and weakness in her legs. Sylvia has already had mobility issues because of the strokes she had almost 20 years ago. She uses a wheelchair and walker as it is. Various pain pills and injections have not helped, so now it is time for a consultation with a surgeon. If this continues and Sylvia gets to the point where she can't walk or even stand, they will have to face moving out of the house they've lived in for 45 years. Please pray for strength, healing and easing of pain for Sylvia and her family's continued faith and in God as the Great Physician. They pray for help to listen to God's voice and guidance through this journey together.

*Sara Simmons* sustained fractured right knee as the result of a fall on a slate patio. It was only a four inch drop, but it resulted in her being in a splint from hip to lower calf. Her knee will immobilized for 4-6 weeks with no weight bearing, though she has crutches. Please pray for patience for Sara and her husband Bill, as well as rapid and complete healing.

*Kristyna Thomas* sustained a cervical strain in a boating accident in Guam. Please pray for a quick and complete resolution.

*Kay Denton* (Mrs. Kay) got a blood clot, which affected two of her fingers. She underwent an angiogram which seemingly had the desired result and the Eveready Bunny rebounded once again. Please pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the positive outcome and pray for continued peace of mind for Mrs. Kay and her family. Give thanks for her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude

*Izaiah Urista* (4) has a brain tumor. He was playing with his older sister, Jade, at McDonald's when she noticed he wasn't using his right side to climb, etc. Jade took her brother to their mother after which they realized he couldn't lift his arm. They took him to the hospital where it was discovered he has a brain tumor. He will undergo about 18 months of chemo to see if the tumor will shrink. At this point they do not think they can do anything else for him. Please pray for strength and guidance for Izaiah and his entire family, as well as provide guidance for medical treatment team.

*James L. Cavanah* had surgery the afternoon of 10 February 2012, to remove two small but cancerous tumors. James is a minister with the AOC in Savannah, Georgia. Please pray for his recovery and remission from the cancer. Give thanks for the surgery and pray for both him and his family to allow God to carry their worries while he recovers.

*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 os out, along with a few lymph nodes and fatty tissue. The tumor is an intermediary (risk) sarcoma, but should not come back. 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.

*Gil Garcia* is back in the VA hospital trying to get a grip on his skin. Give him a call at (909) 499-3665. Please pray for peace of mind for Gil and his wife Mary.

*Dotty Valkenaar* had successful surgery for a shoulder ligament problem on 28 February 2012. Physical therapy seems to be working, but is painful. 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.



*Morris Martin, 91*, has had multiple bouts of pneumonia and lost his ability to swallow; he is still trying to regain his ability to swallow. Morris was back in the hospital over Easter as the result of an inadvertent aspiration. He is back in the nursing home and gaining strength. He has a great attitude and trust in God. Pray for continued gain of 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 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 just came back from his what is now every four month bone scan – CLEAN! Thanks be to God for the way things have gone. Thanks also for the great faith of Matt and his entire family. Their faith and trust is a wonderful example for each and every one of us. But, now is not the time to stop praying. Actually, it never is the time to stop praying!

*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, fell and cracked her hip. The surgeons were able to put a pin in the hip. She made it home after a week of rehabilitation, which is a good sign. She is now walking with the aid of a walker around the house and wheelchair when out side of house. Tim says she is tough and hanging in there, considering she will be 92 in June. Tim will be heading up to see her for a few days in April. Please pray for her rapid recovery and for a good attitude and most important for trust in God to keep her moving while she is here.

*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.

*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.

### **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.

*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), 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**

*Ruby June Hauf*, young daughter of Jerod and Amy (grandson of Lew and Dotty Valkenaar) had successful surgery for a large growth on her liver. All seems well. Please give thanks for the successful result and quick recovery.

### **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.

### *Point to Ponder – The Voice*

The start of this came to me from one of my very good friends, a lovely lady.

It is easy to underestimate the impact that our words, facial expressions, and body language have on others. Some men, for example, may not be fully aware of how deeply their words affect women. One sister said, "It frightens me when my husband angrily raises his voice at me." Strong words may exert greater force on a woman than on a man and may stay with her for a long time. This is especially true of words spoken by someone a woman loves and wants to respect. An experienced married brother illustrated why a husband should treat his wife gently, as "a weaker vessel." "When you hold a precious and delicate vase, you must not grasp it too firmly, or it may crack. Even if repaired, the crack may remain visible," he said. "If a husband uses words that are too strong with his wife, he may hurt her. This might cause a lasting crack in their relationship."

The relationship of husband and wife is complex in many respects and yet simple as the two become one.

God intended the husband to be the protector and provider, the wife to be the caregiving, home keeping, child raising one. He outfitted us well for those roles, with men having far more upper body strength and a mentality fitting one whose job is to provide and protect. God gave women far more insight, far more sensitivity and concern for others' welfare. The two work together very well to be a single unit with far more capability than the sum of the two.

On the other hand, as husbands, men need to understand their role, their limitations and how they can be more effective. As protectors and providers, we are necessarily less concerned with what people think and say than what they do. But, if we carry that attitude over to our homes and our wives, we can create huge problems where there should be great peace and harmony.

Wives are to view their husbands as their protectors, the ones who keep the evil of the world at bay. Can you imagine the effect on a wife when her protector attacks her? But, you say, I would never attack my wife. Consider the effect of what might be called sharp words. Jesus loves us. He is our ultimate protector. The church is spoken of as His bride. Do you hear him using sharp words? The answer is NO.

Your wife should be the woman you most respect in this world, your partner and best friend. If she is not, blame only yourself and change the way you think before it is too late. She must be treated with the respect due a person of that position. She must be accorded the honor due her.

Think before you speak, think longer before you act. If, after thinking you decide to use sharp words, or heaven forbid, yell; think again. Words can never be retracted. Once launched they are fire and forget<sup>1</sup>. Except your target likely will not forget.

These words are applicable to not only marriage but any interpersonal relationship between men and women. The two are different, as God intended. Do not consider one better than the other, all things considered. But, fully understand that in any one aspect they may have completely different approaches, outlooks, capabilities and views.

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<sup>1</sup> *Fire and Forget* is a term used for missiles that are self guiding once fired and require no more input from the aircraft or pilot. This concept does not work with harsh words.

### *Question that only you can ask*

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

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

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

### *Epistleers*

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>
13 May 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Rogation Sunday
17 May 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Ascension Day
20 May 2012	Dru Arnold – Sunday after the Ascension
27 May 2012	Dru Arnold – Whitsunday – Pentecost
3 June 2012	Dru Arnold – Trinity Sunday

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

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

6 May 2012 – **Going away party for Ryan Hopkins at 1400 (2:00pm) - Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

13 May 2012 – Rogation Sunday– 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**

17 May 2012 – Ascension Day– Evening Prayer - **Service start time 1830 (6:30 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

20 May 2012 – Sunday after the Ascension – 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**

27 May 2012 – Whitsunday - Pentecost – 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**

3 June 2012 – Trinity Sunday – 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**



10 June 2012 – First Sunday after Trinity – 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**

17 June 2012 – Second Sunday after Trinity – 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**

23 June 2012 – Third Sunday after Trinity – 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**

30 June 2012 – Fourth Sunday after Trinity – 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**