



Trinity Sunday

Sunday Report



Today was Trinity Sunday, the beginning of the Endless Green Season, the liturgical color is white, thus the green outlined white letters of the title! We were slightly cooler than usual for this time of year. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was 50°F, by the time church ended the mercury had climbed to 79°F, all under bright blue and clear skies. We ended up with 3 people present for the service.

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.



Trinity Joke¹

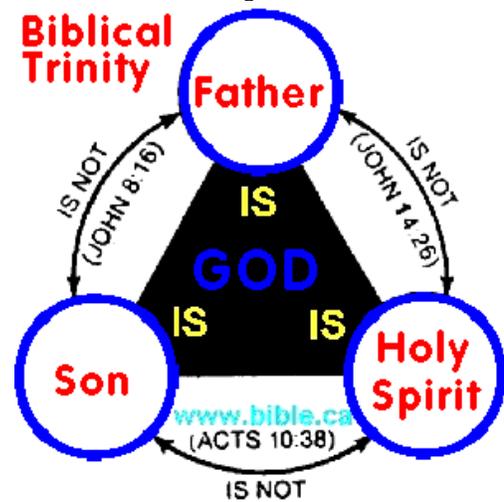
Jesus said, "Whom do men say that I am?"

And his disciples answered and said, "Some say you are John the Baptist returned from the dead; others say Elias or other of the old prophets."

And Jesus answered and said, "But whom do you say that I am?"

Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Logos², existing in the Father as His rationality and then, by an act of His will, being generated, in consideration of the various functions by which God is related to his creation, but only on the fact that Scripture speaks of a Father, and a Son, and a Holy Spirit, each member of the Trinity being coequal with every other member, and each acting inseparably with and interpenetrating every other member, with only an economic subordination within God, but causing no division which would make the substance no longer simple."

And Jesus answering, said, "Say what?"³



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-

¹ Courtesy of the Rev. Munachi Ezeogu

² The Gospel of John identifies the Logos, through which all things are made, as divine (theos), and further identifies Jesus as the incarnation of the Logos. As the Logos, Jesus Christ is God in self-revelation (Light) and redemption (Life). He is God to the extent that he can be present to man and knowable to man. The Logos is God, [Jn 1:1] ... Yet the Logos is in some sense distinguishable from God, for "the Logos was with God." [Jn 1:1] God and the Logos are not two beings, and yet they are also not simply identical. ... The Logos is God active in creation, revelation, and redemption. – Frank Stagg

³ Did you ever wonder what difference the translation makes? Consider while "the Word was God" is by far the most common English translation, non-Trinitarian groups such as the Jehovah's Witnesses (in the *New World Translation* and their edition of the *Emphatic Diaglott* and Unitarians (in Thomas Belsham's modification of William Newcome's version) translate "the Word was a god."

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 186-188, with the Collect first:

Trinity Sunday.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Dru Arnold read this morning's Epistle, which was written in the Fourth Chapter of the Revelation of Saint John the Divine beginning at the First Verse. John attempts to show us the majesty and glory of heaven using words. The picture he paints is intended to be awe inspiring and seems to meet that goal handily:

AFTER this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed



in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. And the first was like a lion, and the second like a calf, and the third had a face as a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, the four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created.

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read today's Gospel which came from the Third Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John beginning at the First Verse:

THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.



Sermon – Time and Action

Today's sermon was on the basic concept of the Triune God, that is the Father, Son and Holy Ghost and how they were introduced to us through time and the Bible in particular. Today's sermon brought the Collect, Epistle and Gospel together and is partly contained in the forewords above.



Consider these words from the Collect:

... acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity ...

In the Collect, we acknowledge that there is a Triune God, that is three aspects of God; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. A Triune God, that is Three in One, not three separate Gods or godlets, but a single being with three aspects. How does this work?

The honest answer is – WE DON'T KNOW. We just have been told there are three and They are ONE. We know how parts of the thing work, but not all. Like secrets, we don't really have a need to know, so we have not been told. We know that God the Father sent The Son to be our Savior. We know that the Holy Ghost breathed life into the world, and brings comfort and understanding. We know that God is I AM. We know They all have always been and always will be. A lot we don't know, but we can certainly be kept busy with what we do know. That must be enough for the here and now.

But, what of later? If we have eternal life, we have it now and later. What comes later? Heaven. What is heaven? John attempts to tell us. He attempts to show us the majesty and glory of heaven using words. The picture he paints is intended to be awe inspiring and seems to meet that goal handily. The main thing we can be certain of is that we will not be disappointed. We speculate as to will this or that be in heaven? When we get there the answer will manifest itself and you will have no regrets. In heaven there is no disappointment. Heaven is the real world, where things are bright, not dull and dark as though looking through a glass.

So, how do we get to the real world from these Shadowlands? There is but one way, the Einbahnstraße.

Jesus Christ.

We must be born of the spirit? What spirit?

The Holy Ghost. We must accept that we in and of ourselves will never be perfect. No one gets in to heaven unless they are accounted as perfect. We will never be perfect in and of ourselves. Should we quit trying? Not, we are commanded to follow our Christ. Will we fail? Without



question. What is the solution? To believe and follow the Christ. To open our hearts to the Holy Ghost that we might believe in full and accept the help from the Christ that our imperfection needs to be His followers.

To follow God, we need Christ as our leader and the Holy Ghost as our compass.

There is but one way to heaven.

That easy to find, easy to follow, easy to hike path does not lead to the summit where eternal life in the real world awaits. Open your heart to the Holy Ghost, use His Power to follow our Lord to God who awaits in heaven.

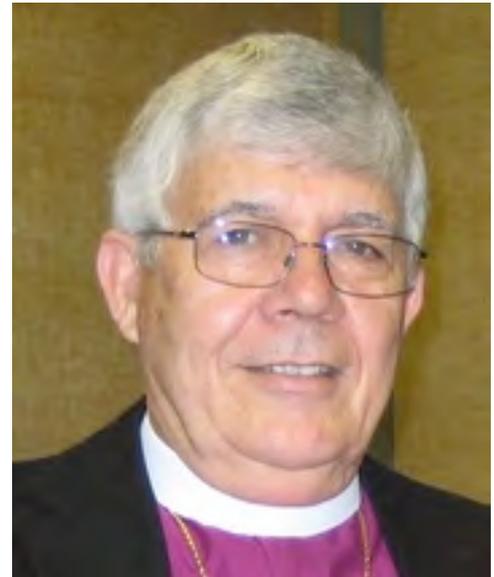
Bishop Ogles' Sermon

We are off fortunate to get copies of Bishop Jerry's sermon notes. Today is one of those Sundays. Today's sermon starts off with the collect. It will give you a lot to consider in your heart.

Sermon Notes Trinity Sunday 3 June 2012 Anno Domini

Trinity Sunday. *The Collect.*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. *Amen.*



1. There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. 9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? 10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? 11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. 12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? 13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have

everlasting life. (John 3:1-16)

Today's text is about the change of the heart that we call *regeneration*.

Precisely what IS regeneration and how does it occur?

Regeneration is not merely an IMPROVEMENT of character brought about through effort and study of classical philosophy, or even of the study of God's Word. Regeneration is that complete change of character that occurs through the process of being born anew in Christ. Anything that is born is a new creature. Anything that is born anew is also a new creature whose former character and habits have disappeared. – or even died with the old self (which was also dead before coming to Christ). It is not an improvement of disposition, but a fundamental change in nature.

There was once a drop of water that found itself puddle in a dirty and unsavory gutter drain. It was constantly subject to being spat upon and frequented by mosquitoes laying their larvae in the water. The little drop of water looked everyday up to the beautiful blue skies above and yearned, for once, to be clean and pure, and separated from the filth of the gutter. The yearning of its heart was heard in heaven, and the warmth of the sun began to draw the small droplet up, up, and away from the filth it had always known. Being drawn higher and higher, the air around the droplet was no longer foul and smelly, but clear and pristine. Yet, it was drawn still higher by the force of the sun to levels of colder and colder air. The winds took up the droplet of water and carried it far away where it became a beautiful, white snowflake. It was deposited on the heights of Mt. Everest where its beauty could be seen, mingled with other snowflakes, for many miles around. The droplet of water, transformed by the power of Heaven, had moved from the lowest and dirtiest place, to the highest and most beautiful on earth. That is regeneration, and that is the power of God to make new the soul of man.

1. *There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night*

We see a contrast being drawn in the text between a man of great power, wealth, and learning; and the Lord Jesus Christ who did not have a place to lay His head. Nicodemus was an influential member of the ruling Sanhedrin. He was a Pharisee who truly sought more knowledge. But Nicodemus was also keen to the politics of the day and did not wish to be exposed as someone who would be an admirer of Christ – at least not until he had come to know Him for the Lord that He was. So Nicodemus came under cover of darkness.

Earlier in the day, Nicodemus had seen Christ drive out the money changers and those who made merchandise of the House of God. He had heard, that day, His strange but refreshing counsel: *Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.* (John 2:16) He had heard the profound and beautiful teachings of Christ and seen His miracles. His logical mind could not deny that Jesus had strange powers that could only come from God, unlike those political posers who sat with him of the Sanhedrin.

If we desire to know a man better, we must find out where He is and talk with him.

Nicodemus obviously had scouted out Christ to know where He was sleeping in Jerusalem that first Passover of Christ's ministry.

..... *and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him*

Nicodemus has the least seed of faith in his heart, but it was enough to drive him to Christ. He recognized the power of God in Christ and he must settle the issue before the dawning of another day. Though he comes here at night, he later publicly defends Christ in the Sanhedrin (John 7:50-52) and even publicly goes with Joseph of Arimethaea to claim the body of Christ for burial even under threat of retribution from Rome and the Jewish rulers (John 19:39). The one who came by night later became one who feared no one but God. John considers the change in Nicodemus so significant that he always makes reference to Nicodemus in later references as "he who came to Jesus by night."

Jesus is frank in His approach to Nicodemus. He knows the heart of Nicodemus, and He knows that complete transparency and blunt truth is the very thing Nicodemus desires.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Jesus tells Nicodemus what he desperately NEEDS to know, not that which his ears would have been comforted to hear. Nicodemus is considered himself to be a great teacher, yet he calls Christ RABBI., or Teacher. Nicodemus is not too proud to accept the role of student before superior knowledge of a better Teacher. But these words of Christ are simply too amazing for Nicodemus to grasp.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? This is not a frivolous response by Nicodemus. He does not ask *WHY*, but *HOW*. If Jesus were making reference to the Gentiles, Nicodemus could have understood somewhat, but Jesus is speaking to a ruler of the Jews – the presumed people of God! To Nicodemus, it does not make sense, but he trusts in the superior wisdom of Christ to shed light on the matter. Our first longings of faith must be satisfied through deeper inquiry even if we risk ridicule by the world.

5. *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again* Nicodemus belonged to a religion that based salvation upon a complete obedience to the Law written on Tables of Stone. It was a difficult concept to receive that his entire previous training had been lacking. Christ points to a change that is alien to Nicodemus' thinking. There is the story of an owner of a clothing store that decided to clean his main display window. He gathered his cleaning materials and went outside to clean. After working diligently, the window appeared immaculate with the exception of a single troubling blemish high up on the glass. Regardless the efforts and elbow grease used to clean the spot; it remained a glaring flaw in an otherwise clear glass. At last he discovered that the dirty blemish was not on the outside, but the *INSIDE* of the glass. Regardless our efforts to dress and beautify our persons, we cannot cleanse the heart by dressing the outward appearance with good works. *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.* (Psalms 51:7) God cleans us inside first with the purgative of the Holy Spirit ere making our appearance clean on the outside. If the heart is full of filth, it matters not the outward *APPEARANCE*.

When we lay down this life, we lay down the body of flesh before our parents who gave us our traits and hereditary and features of flesh. We then are drawn in the spirit back to the Father who gave us the Spirit of Life. *Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.* (Eccl 12:6-7)

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Does any man have the key to the gate of the wind, to open and close as he deems fit? The Wind is no different in certain aspects than the Holy Spirit. We do not know the source of the wind, but we KNOW it has a source. We can hear the wind if we are quiet and attentive. It literally whispers as that still, small voice of God. (1 Kings 19:12) We cannot say its direction or where it is going. The Wind is unseen just as the Holy Spirit is unseen. We see its effects, but not its essence. Those who are born of God have been touched by that Wind of the Holy Spirit. Their change is complete and not prideful in display.

Can you imagine Nicodemus' eyes squinting in effort to understand this strange new doctrine? *9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? 10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things* Nicodemus is very much like many who are educated in theology and who press a point of an olive until it becomes a watermelon. He is well educated but, unfortunately, in things that are not real. Jesus points out his ignorance to him. Many prominent theologians of our day lack the simple wisdom of a poor farmer who knows the Lord. This was Nicodemus' problem, but he is open to amendment in understanding. I wish we all were.

11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. 12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? Jesus places His evidence before the bar. He taught often in parables so that the simple farmer or fisherman could grasp greater spiritual truth when illustrated by earthly logic. But those educated too much in 'theological error' may not be able to grasp the simplicity of the Gospel which a child can easily grasp. It is not faith and knowledge that saves us, but 'faith in Christ' and right knowledge of Him. We may know the print in a thousand theological works, but if we lack the nature of a little child in faith, we are lost

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. Despite the delusional dreams and copyrighted commercial works of many today, no one has ascended to heaven or come down but Christ.

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. God sent fiery serpents among the Children of Israel in the Wilderness for their sins. When they pleaded for relief, God told Moses to erect a brass serpent on a pole for all to look unto when bitten that they might live. The serpent represented our sins that are crucified on the cross with Christ. Looking to the sacrifice of Christ, for our own sins, we are saved from eternal death. (Numbers 21:6-9) We have the same symbolized in the

medical kadusa today.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life Do not be deceived by modern versions of the Bible such as the NIV. Jesus Christ is the literal ISSUE of the Father. He is God because He is of the same substance with God. Not a son or daughter through the adoption that we are, but the true and issuing Son of the Father – the only Begotten, not One and Only!

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 Trinity Sunday:



The Holy Trinity Trinity Sunday June 3, 2012

Today marks one the high points in our Anglican cycle of prayer. In a sense, today is the destination toward which we have been moving through all the seasons of the cycle of prayer. Today is the day we commemorate the full revelation of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thus, we have called this day Trinity Sunday.

The Trinity is the foundational doctrine of the Bible and the Christian faith. It is so central that to misunderstand or deny the Trinity is to misunderstand or deny every other doctrine of Christianity. The Trinity is a deep and mysterious truth, but it is well stated for us in many places. The Nicene Creed is almost entirely about the Trinity, and it has become the foundation for many of the later statements about Him. The first five of our Anglican "Articles of Religion" are about the Holy Trinity, and we could even say Articles II through V explain the first Article, which says;

There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there be three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

We are not going to do a doctrinal study of the Trinity today. We need to do that some time, because, as I said a few moments ago, the Trinity is the foundation of all Christian doctrine, and of the entire Bible. But today I want to look back over the recent weeks of our cycle of prayer, looking at the way the Trinity, in other words, the way God Himself, is the answer to all our needs and prayers.

The first half of our cycle of prayer deals with the major doctrines of the Bible. But it does not deal with them in an academic way; it takes us into them devotionally. One of the major, and very valid, complaints people have about the study of doctrine is that it often seems too ivory towerish and unrelated to life. But our cycle of prayer is doctrinally devotional. It takes us through the preparation for the Messiah, the ministry of Christ, and the advent of the Holy Spirit. It leads us into the deep things of God; things like the nature and ministry of Christ, the nature and being of God, and the full

revelation of God as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. But we are not led into these things simply to gain intellectual knowledge of propositional truth. We are led into the deep things of God that we may love and worship Him. We learn about God in order to adore the wonderful being and works of God.

We begin in Advent. Praying for grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, we are led to worship the grace of God, who, perfect in every way, invites imperfect sinners into His presence and love. In the Collect for the second Sunday of Advent we are led to look for God in the Holy Bible. We pray that we may hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest Scripture so by its teachings we may embrace the blessed hope of everlasting life in Christ. In Christmas we adore a helpless infant, who, though without the external trappings of wealth and station in life, is none other than God with us. Through Christmas, Epiphany, and Lent, we follow the life and ministry of that infant through manhood and death. Passion Sunday recalls the terrible price God paid to reconcile us unto Himself. What wonderful love it was when God the Creator died for man the creature's sin. But Easter celebrates His victory over sin and death. What power lies in the hand of God that even death itself is easily conquered by Him in the Resurrection.

In the Sundays of Easter Season we begin to look to the Holy Spirit and the Trinity. The Trinity is the foundation of all. He is the basis of everything we have been praying for. All of the teachings of the Scriptures we have been looking at all through the year have been leading us to know and adore God, the Holy Trinity. The first Sunday after Easter we asked God to help us put away malice and wickedness, so we might serve Him in purity and truth. At that time we had just completed Scripture readings that followed Christ to the cross and the resurrection. Knowing that it was for us that He went to the cross, we prayed that we might turn from sin and serve Him. On the second Sunday of Easter we prayed that we would follow the example of Christ in holiness of life. On the third Sunday we prayed that we would be enabled to avoid things contrary to Christ, and to "follow all such things as are agreeable" to Him.

All of our prayers during this time were the proper responses of faith by those who saw afresh the mighty love of God in the sacrificial death of Christ. But on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we added a different emphasis to our cycle of prayer. It was not easy to see at first glance. We continued to ask for holiness. But in the Collect for that Sunday we affirmed that God alone can order our unruly wills and affections. And we asked God to enable us to love the things He commands and desire the things He promises. The new emphasis was on God as the only power to bring our sinfulness under control and to love and desire the things of God. We began there an increasing emphasis on the power of God as the only hope "that among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely be there fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

We began to shift our attention to the Holy Spirit. In Easter we emphasized that it was impossible that we sinners could ever have peace with God, unless God Himself did something to pay the price of our sin. He did this in Christ, on the cross. In the following Sundays we emphasized that it is also impossible for us to live the life of faith and holiness unless God Himself supernaturally enables us. He did this by sending the Holy Spirit. All of the prayers and emphasis of our cycle of prayer through the Easter Season have been about holiness. In all of them we have sought to put God first. But this is a task too great for us. As we have attempted to be holy, we have known the

truth of our Lord's words to the sleeping disciples, "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." We must have a power greater than our own. We must have power only God can give. He alone can order our unruly wills and affections. He alone can enable our actions to match our desire for holiness.

On Rogation Sunday we took this one step further, praying "that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same." Inspiration means to instill life and power. In this case it is to put life and power into our desire to think and do the things of God. We are utterly dependent on God for this ability. He must inspire us, or we will be unable to accomplish this holy intention.

On Ascension Day we recalled that Christ rose bodily into the presence of God, and we asked that we might dwell there with Him by faith. But look at the way God is described in the Collect for Ascension Day. He is Christ, the Father, and the Holy Ghost, one God. We were being reminded that God has made a way for us to live a holy and Godly life. It is not by our own power, but by His. The Holy Spirit is our inspiration and our power.

On the Sunday after Ascension this doctrine was brought out much more fully. "Leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost," we prayed. It is no accident that this prayer accompanied the reading from John 14:26 and following, which tells us of the comfort and help the Holy Spirit brings to His people.

Thus we were brought to Pentecost, or, "Whitsuntide." The meaning of Pentecost is that the full presence and power of God is come to His people. Christ is God with us; the Spirit is God in us. The Spirit is unity with God that is deeper and fuller than we can ever imagine. The ability to think and do the things of holiness is ours through the Spirit of God Himself. It is true we could never accomplish holiness by ourselves. If God will not keep us by His power we will fall rapidly and finally back into sin and hell. If God will not dwell within us and empower us to do His will, we can never hope to live a holy life any more than we could hope to save ourselves apart from Christ. But God has come to us. He has not left us orphaned. He has not left us in despair. He has come to dwell in us. In Whitsun Week we have rejoiced that He has sent unto us His Holy Spirit to enlighten and strengthen us to His service, to direct and rule us according to His will, to comfort us in affliction, to lead us into all truth, and to bring us together that we may manifest His power among all peoples. Today, Trinity Sunday, we have met to worship the Unity and to rejoice in the knowledge of our God.

Let us pray."

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

+Dennis Campbell

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New Nametags

We had no new nametags today.

After Church Hospitality

Sadly, no after church snacks. With no fatted dog nut in sight, we set straight off to work after church. Fatted dog nuts next week!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
3 June 2012	Opportunity Available – Trinity Sunday
10 June 2012	Opportunity Available – First Sunday after Trinity
17 June 2012	Opportunity Available – Second Sunday after Trinity
24 June 2012	Opportunity Available – Third Sunday after Trinity
1 July 2012	Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday after Trinity

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

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

Ryan Hopkins has moved to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, to study Dressage Riding through June 2013. Please pray for God's guidance in his life as he works and studies.

The Thomas Family is on a short tour assignment in Guam through August 2013. 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 celebrated her 89th 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. She is not doing well. Please pray for peace of mind for her and the ability for both Sara and her mother to put their cares and worries on God's shoulders so they can deal with the many problems involved.

Departed

Alice Berry passed away 24 May 2012, after a hard fought battle with cancer. Please give thanks for her life here and pray for comfort for her husband Larry and their family who remain behind, pray that they can look to the Lord for comfort during this very hard time.

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

- Gil Garcia* had surgery at the VA hospital in Long Beach. The surgery was successful, they are predicting a 12 week recovery time. Please pray for a rapid recovery for Gil, as well as peace of mind for Gil, his wife Mary and their family.
- 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 a fractured right knee as the result of a fall on a slate patio. She is now in a leg brace, but is still challenged for mobility. Please pray for patience for Sara and her husband Bill, as well as rapid and complete healing.
- 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. Bill is having difficulty keeping the doctor's instructions, please pray for help for him to do so. Please pray that Bill might turn his heart outward to help those around him, as well as 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.
- 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 is back in the nursing home and gaining strength. Right now, the biggest trouble seems to be regulating his blood sugar, but otherwise he is doing very well 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 has worsened recently. She is no longer able to stand, in fact she has a lot of trouble sitting upright. Judith is depressed and wants to go home to watch her birds, which given everything seems unlikely at present. 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. Her husband is doing his best to take care of her; it is hard and he is learning the best he can. Please pray for further recovery for Becky, as well as strength and guidance for her husband.

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.

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

Ryan and David Hopkins give thanks for safe travel to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.

Various Special Requests

We ask that you pray, please ask God that the Holy Ghost might give you insight into how you might make the lives of your friends and family better. Remember helping others is not just those who you don’t know!

Please join us in praying that the *Free Teen Guitar Class* will be continue to be an opportunity for God to work in the lives of the kids and their families. Please ask God to guide the class to new opportunities to make Him known to others. Help us to let the love of our Lord shine through us into their lives, putting Him first, so that He might enter in to their hearts and lives.

Question that only you can ask

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

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

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

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
10 June 2012	Dru Arnold – First Sunday after Trinity
17 June 2012	Dru Arnold – Second Sunday after Trinity
24 June 2012	Dru Arnold – Nativity of St. John Baptist, superseding the Third Sunday after Trinity
1 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Fourth Sunday after Trinity
4 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Independence Day
8 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Fifth Sunday after Trinity
15 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Sixth Sunday after Trinity
22 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Seventh Sunday after Trinity

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

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**

24 June 2012 – Nativity of St. John Baptist superseding the 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**

1 July 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**

4 July 2012 – Independence Day – 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**

8 July 2012 – Fifth 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**

15 July 2012 – Sixth 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**

22 July 2012 – Seventh 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**

29 July 2012 – Eighth 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**