



# Seventh Sunday after Trinity

## Sunday Report



Today was the Seventh Sunday after Trinity Sunday. The weather was picture perfect, clear, dry and 67°F at sunrise, rising to 78°F by the end of church under those same blue skies! Once again, the gathering song gathered not one and 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, as well as Hap's.

### *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 198-199, with the Collect first:

**The Seventh Sunday after Trinity.**

*The Collect.*

**L**ORD of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things; Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dru Arnold read the Epistle, which was came from the Sixth Chapter of Saint Paul's letter to the Romans beginning at the Nineteenth Verse. Paul reminds us when we strive above all else for the things of this world, we gain nothing we can take with us to the next. "For, when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness." Conversely, if we will be servants of God (righteousness) we can be free from the devil sin). "... the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. If we will follow God, we will live, not only forever in the next world, but better in this world. We must put aside what we did and do what He would have us do. Actions are the key to everything. Talk is nice. Action is what counts.



**I**SPEAK after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become

servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read today's Holy Gospel which was written in the Eighth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Mark beginning at the First Verse. Jesus had been in the wilderness teaching a multitude, some four thousand in number. In those pre-restaurant on every corner days, the people had been without food and were hungry. Jesus was concerned and inventoried their supplies, seven loaves and a few small fishes. He gave thanks to God, and commanded the food to be set out before the people. When they had eaten their fill, the scraps gathered up from the seven loaves filled seven baskets.



Many speculated over the years as to just how He did it. The answer is simple, He did it. He did not talk about feeding the multitude and sit down to His own meal. He acted and they were fed. Does this story recall the words from the Last Supper used in Holy Communion at the

Consecration? "he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me." Those few words produced The Word, which has satisfied so many over millenniums.

**I**N those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them, I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat: and if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far. And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness? And he asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven. And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people. And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them. So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets. And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away.





## *Sermon – Time and Action*

Today's sermon tied the Epistle and Gospel together talked as is oft the case of the need for action, not simply diction, the general content is in forewords above.



Consider the words from the Collect, ... author and giver of all good things; Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same (that is to say keep us in goodness)...

To get anywhere, we must acknowledge in our hearts that all good is of and comes from God. Once we acknowledge that, we are in a position to ask God to put in to our hearts love of Him and all that is His. This will help us to appreciate and act in goodness. Without His love our efforts will ultimately be of no avail.

So, pretty clearly we need to be of God. Thus, when Paul wrote to the people of Rome, he was writing to all of us; for there truly is nothing new in the world. Before we are of God, we are of this world. Our life is here, our end is here. Once we are of God, then we are merely sojourners here; our life is not really here and certainly does not end here. The only way to be of God is through God, that is His Son, our Lord.

If we will follow God, we will live, not only forever in the next world, but better in this world. We must put aside what we did and do what He would have us do. Actions are the key to everything. Talk is nice. Action is what counts.

Saint Mark tells us of action. Jesus had been in the wilderness teaching a multitude, some four thousand in number. In those pre-restaurant on every corner days, the people had been without food and were hungry. Jesus was concerned and inventoried their supplies, seven loaves and a few small fishes. He gave thanks to God, and commanded the food to be set out before the people. When they had eaten their fill, the scraps gathered up from the seven loaves filled seven baskets.

Many speculated over the years as to just how He did it. The answer is simple, He did it. He did not talk about feeding the multitude and then sit down to His own meal. He acted and they were fed. Does this story recall the words from the Last Supper used in Holy Communion at the Consecration? "he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me." Those few words produced The Word, which has satisfied so many over millenniums.

Be of God - Live of God - Act of God.

## *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**

Seventh Sunday after Trinity  
22 July 2012, Anno Domini

#### **The Seventh Sunday after Trinity.**

##### *The Collect.*

**L**ORD of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things; Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



*1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. 3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen. 15 And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. (Gen 22:1-18)*

There is a Scarlet Thread of Blood Sacrifice (as Dr. W.A Criswell has rightly spoken) that runs from the Fall of Adam in Genesis to the events of Good Friday two thousand years ago. You will recall that the first death on earth occurred immediately after

Adam's disobedience eastward in the Garden at Eden. *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.* (Gen 3:21) The animal (most likely a lamb) from which these skins were taken, foreshadows that coming bloody sacrifice of the Lamb of God as a covering for our nakedness in sins and trespasses. Abel, the first prophet, also died in giving an acceptable sacrifice of a lamb. The Pascal Lamb of the First Passover significantly typified, in imperfect form, that perfect sacrifice of our own Passover – the crucifixion of Christ as a propitiation for our sins.

To the harlot, Rahab, it was spoken: "*Thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window*" (Joshua 2:18) It was not by her righteousness or good works that a harlot named Rahab was saved to become the mother of Boaz, and thus a great grandmother to David and presumed ancestor to Christ, but faith prompted by grace that saved her.

In our text today, we have one of the most complete and perfect foreshadowing's of the sacrifice of Christ given in the Old Testament – the voyage of Abraham to Mt. Moriah with the intention of obeying God by sacrificing his only beloved son. Abraham, in type, prefigures God the Father who will, indeed, sacrifice His own only Begotten and well-beloved Son in the fullness of time. Isaac is a type of Christ upon whose shoulders were laid the burden of the sins of the world as a wooden cross at Calvary. The Mountain at Moriah happens to be the very same upon which the Temple stands as well as Calvary – or very near to it and in the same range. Please consider the great faith of Abraham expressed in these lines as he is commanded to sacrifice his only son. Consider, too, the great truth that God intends to impart to us who believe.

*1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. 3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.*

It surely DID `come to pass' for it was decided upon in the Councils of Heaven long before the world, and all its creatures, was ever created. We know not the date for this momentous decision for there are no calendars in Heaven. The Great I AM is an eternal Present!

God tempts no man to sin! This reference to the tempting of Abraham means that God was testing the faith of Abraham. He could not have chosen a better subject for the trial. *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ* (1 Peter 1:7) Ah, yes, at the appearing of Jesus Christ! *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad* (John 8:56) True and living faith is always rewarded in its glorious fulfillment.

God, who promised Abraham multitudes of sons and daughters, has tarried in giving even one son until Abraham and Sarah are advanced in years – beyond the age of childbearing. But the promises of God are certain in their accomplishment. Even as we speak, the rolls of multitudes of sons and daughters of Abraham are being increased as the children of the promised Seed are added moment by moment. Imagine Abraham's relief and contentment at finally having received a son from the Lord – clearly given by the miracle of Promise and not by the normal process of childbearing. Just what Abraham was doing at the moment that the voice of God spoke to him on that fateful day we are not told. But, whatever it was, Abraham dropped all other pursuits

and listened to God – always!

God spoke crushing words to Abraham: Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. That was all! This son was so much comparable, in circumstance, with Jesus. He was an only son of miraculous birth (like Christ); he was well-beloved of his father (like Christ); and he was to be offered up on Moriah (like Christ – carrying the means of his own death). So how did Abraham respond to this seemingly tragic news?

3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Abraham immediately obeyed God – and COMPLETELY! He never offered a word of questioning doubt. He simply obeyed! He prepared and carried with him the means required to complete the command of God. Abraham, by faith, ALWAYS obeyed God. *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise* (Heb 11:8-9) May God, by grace, grant us a like faith of Abraham.

4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off On the third day, Christ rose from the Tomb. On this, the third day, would Isaac be redeemed from the terrible prospects of death by a substitute sacrifice.

5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. If you have your Bibles open, please read with deep understanding the great faith demonstrated in this verse. Abraham tells the young men with him that he and Isaac will go yonder and worship and "come again to you!" What profound faith! Abraham loved God. He KNEW the nature of God – that He was loving and kind. He did not know by what means, but surely he believed that by SOME means, Isaac would be restored whole to him. Obedience to God, too, is always an act of worship.

6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. God the Father laid the sins of the world upon the shoulders of His only Begotten Son in the form of a wooden cross which He bare. Now, Abraham does the same. Isaac climbed the mountain of his own presumed sacrifice bearing, in type, those sins. But Isaac would not be required of God to pay that penalty – nor COULD he. There remained only One who could pay that terrible price for us – the Lord Jesus Christ! Both climbed up the slopes of Moriah!

7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? In the innocence of his youth, Isaac never questioned any motive of his father, but he did ask a reasonable question arising from factual observation – where is the Lamb? He did not know that the true Lamb was yet with His Father in Heaven.

8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. Here we read one of the most profound prophecies in the Old Testament: "God will provide Himself a Lamb".....and He did! God provided that Lamb in the form of His only Begotten Son!

9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an

*altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.* Abraham hesitated not in performing all things requisite for the sacrifice of his beloved son, Isaac. It might be observed here that anything placed on an altar is then dedicated fully to God. Isaac, though not sacrificed, and all his progeny in faith, are dedicated to the service of God. Are you, friends? Now, with a heart full of sorrow, Abraham raises the knife for the terrible offering to God – even Isaac his son.

*11 And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me* It is good that Abraham was accustomed, by faith, to hear the voice of the Lord for this hearing saved his son from certain death. God is well pleased with Abraham's evidence of faith. God discovered that Abraham would hold nothing back from His Lord and His God. It is perhaps true that the trial and test of Abraham was intended to benefit us, the believers of the Promise, even more than Abraham. Abraham's faith was fixed on God, and God KNEW it! So God provides the faith of Abraham as an example of that faith that must lie in the hearts of all who believe.

*13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.* This ram is a substitute type of that promised Lamb of God – in this case a substitute for Isaac, but there would be no such substitute for that Lamb of God which would come in the fullness of time. The thorn bush was placed upon the fair and innocent brow of our Lord at Calvary.

*14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen* Yes, the name is symbolic to Mt. Moriah at which the "Lord will see to it" (the sacrifice).

*15 And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time* If we are keen to hear the voice of the Lord, He will never cease to speak to us. *16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son* In other words, "Abraham, because you have not held even your only beloved son from me, I know that your heart is filled to the brim with love and faith of me."

*17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.* This is a far greater promise than natural descent will allow. It is a promise filled in miraculous and persevering faith of the saints. God will bring numbers untold into the family of Abraham, far more by faith than by natural bloodlines. Only those who are of the family of faith in the Promised Seed shall be called the children of Abraham and not those of the natural bloodline. It is not who we are, but in WHOM we place our trust! This is the measure of the Church of Abraham and the Gospel to which he subscribed while the Promise was held in waiting.

*18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice* Those nations whose faith and institutions are centered on God shall never suffer the ravages of war and desolation. How shall our own nation fare as we cast aside, day by day, every vestige of that abiding faith that made us a most cherished nation among the nations of the earth? If America can be saved, that salvation shall not occur through political measures. It is the common heart of America that must be



turned back to her God and Benefactor. If America can now be retrieved from sure ruin, it must happen one heart at a time. AMEN

### *Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sunday Sermon*

As is oft the case, we are honored to present Bishop Dennis' Sunday sermon presented to his parish. Dennis has a great sermon for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity, my only comment is that the unity of which he speaks is unity centered on the Triune God, not a unity centered on a man made entity:



#### **God of Unity**

Psalm 133, Romans 6:19-33, Mark 8:1-9

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

July 22, 2012

Trinity is the season of Christian living. That doesn't mean we don't live the Christian life at other times; it means that the subject of the sermons and Scripture readings during Trinity is the Christian life. On the Seventh Sunday after Trinity we pause to remember again that even<sup>1</sup> the Christian life is a gift from God. Thus, we beseech God to form within our souls, the love of His Name, the increase of true religion, and all goodness, and to keep us in these things throughout our earthy lives.

The reading from Romans 6 reminds us the wages of sin is death, but we, being freed from sin, are to bear the fruit of holiness. The reading from Mark 8 shows Christ, the author and giver of all good things, supplying the needs of His people. As He fed the multitude in the wilderness, we can trust Him to "give us this day our daily bread," especially the Bread of everlasting life. Psalm 133 is about one of the greatest gifts of God to His people, the gift of unity in His Church.

Psalm 133. *Ecce, quam bonum!*

**B**EHOLD how good and joyful a thing it is, \* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

<sup>2</sup> It is like the precious oil upon the head, that ran down unto the beard, \* even unto Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts of his clothing.

<sup>3</sup> Like as the dew of Hermon, \* which fell upon the hill of Sion.

<sup>4</sup> For there the Lord promised his blessing, \* and life for evermore.

In the Apostles' time, the Church was one body, spiritually and organizationally. It was one organization with Christ as its Head accomplishing His teaching and government through the Apostles and other ministers. The Apostles taught and ordained bishops and ministers, who were to teach others what they had learned. Thus, Christ, the Word of God, called the Apostles to learn His teachings (Jn. 1:14-18, Lk. 24:27). He then commissioned the Apostles to make disciples of others by teaching them what Christ had taught them (Mt. 28:19-20). These men were to teach others, who would teach

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<sup>1</sup> Perhaps *even* is not the right word, for a Christian Life is the centerpiece of our gifts from God. Without the Holy Ghost entering into our lives, we cannot live in God, of God and through God.

others (1 Tim. 2:2), and so it will continue until the Lord's Return.

All of the teacher/ministers answered to the Apostles. The Apostles sent letters and instructions to them, and even sent delegations to their churches with authority to correct problems in doctrine and practice. The Apostle Paul excommunicated Hymenaeus and Alexander (1 Tim. 1:20) and placed Titus in Crete to establish churches and to appoint and ordain bishops and ministers as Paul had appointed and ordained him (Titus 1:5). Even Peter was called to give an account of his activities to the other Apostles (Acts 11:1-18). So the Church was one connected body. There were no independent local congregations. Local churches were part of the larger Church, teaching the Apostles' doctrine and under the supervision of bishops, who were under the Apostles' supervision. That is why the picture of the Church as the Body of Christ is so accurate. No part of the Body is independent of the others. Each is dependent and organically connected to the whole Body, under the direction of the Head. The Bible also illustrates this with the analogy of a Kingdom or Empire. The Church is the Empire of Christ. He is the Emperor, and His Empire is divided into provinces and counties, but no province or county is independent. Each province is part of the Empire, and each is connected to the others

Writing about the unity of the Church, the Apostle Paul gives the foundation of our unity in Ephesians 4:1-6, and, especially in the well beloved words of verses 4, 5, and 6:

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye were called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

We have already looked at the meaning of "one body," but we should note here that one Spirit, the Holy Spirit, animates the Body. The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church. The calling is our invitation to be a part of the Body. It is the Divine Invitation to be partakers of all the blessings of God in Christ; the forgiveness of sins, the communion of saints, the indwelling Spirit, the means of grace, holiness of life, and the hope of glory are all part of these blessings. There is much more to your calling, but I will have to talk about that another time. We are one in Christ, and in His blood. In other words, we are all sinners saved by grace. He died for our sins, and we are united in the fact that we are forgiven and made whole by His one offering of Himself on the cross. Of course our unity is based on the One Lord. There is one Lord, so there is also one body. There is one Saviour, therefore there is one Church.

We are united in one faith. That means we are united in the Apostles' doctrine, the doctrinal content of Christianity, which we looked at earlier in the sermon. But faith is also belief and trust. So we are united in our belief in the doctrines, and also one in our trust in Christ as our Lord and Saviour. We are one because we have partaken of one baptism, that is, our baptism into Christ, our spiritual baptism, accomplished by the Holy Spirit, by which we were placed in Christ, and Christ was placed in us, and of which our water baptism is a sign and seal.

I apologize for the quickness of this discussion of the basis of our unity. I thought it necessary to mention it, but it is not the point of this sermon. The point of the sermon is the point of Psalm 133, that it is a good and joyful thing for the people of God to dwell together in unity. The Psalm does not give the details of the good and joyful benefits of Christian unity. It does what poetry often does, giving images and word pictures rather

than concrete examples. It poetically compares unity to the oil that consecrates the high priest in the line of Aaron. The oil was costly, and perfumed with sweet and exotic spices. It was pleasant to see and smell, and it was poured in abundance over the head of the High Priest so that it ran down to his beard and some even dripped onto of his robe. In that semi-arid climate, the oil reminded the people of the soothing and healing effect oil had on their chapped, dry hands and skin.

Keeping the dry climate of the area in mind, picture the wonder and appreciation the people would have for the pleasant climate of Mount Hermon. With an elevation over nine thousand feet, it is often snow capped through mid summer, and its melting snow and abundant rain are major sources of the waters of the Jordan River. Nights can be cold there, even in July and August. The mountain is a cool and refreshing retreat in an otherwise hot, dry area. The point, of course is that the fellowship, the belonging, the love, the acceptance, the unity of God's people is a cool, refreshing refuge from the dessert wilderness of the world.

This unity is both a gift to the people of God, and the responsibility of the people of God. It is a major part of our calling to preserve the unity of the Church, especially in our local congregation. Next to ensuring that we have our unity in the Apostolic faith recorded in Scripture, being sources of encouragement and edification rather than strife and sorrow may be our most important task as Christians. Remember that the world will know we are Christ's people because we love one another, and our growth in Christ is tied to our belonging to His Body. So it is imperative that we are able to say from experience, "Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

### *New Nametags*

We had no new nametags today.

### *After Church Hospitality*

Sadly, no after church snacks. The same story every week, is it not? The fact is that we are supposed to be on a low carb diet and there really aren't any low carb snacks that appeal to us. So, with no fatted dog nut in sight, it was off to the next village for Greek Food; a salad at that! Fatted dog nuts next week! We are hoping between now and next Sunday some invents no-carb dog nuts.

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
29 July 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Eighth Sunday after Trinity</b>
5 August 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Ninth Sunday after Trinity</b>
12 August 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Tenth Sunday after Trinity</b>
19 August 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</b>
26 August 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</b>
2 September 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Thirteenth 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 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**

*Shamim Gray* is on travel to London this week to be with her family as her father Bashir Ahmed passed away on Tuesday.

**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.

### ***Homebound or Infirm***

*Norma, Sara's mother* is in a state of deteriorating health, both physically and mentally, with both onset dementia and Alzheimer's. On 30 January 2012, she broke her hip and had a partial hip replacement. She is not doing well, but has decided she would like to live a bit longer. Please pray Norma might come back to God and 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***

*Bashir Ahmed*, father of Shamim Gray, passed away on Tuesday 17 July 2012, in London. Bashir had been in failing health for some time and had a series of seizures on 10 July 2012. Please give thanks for his transition to be with our Lord in His home, pray also for his family who of necessity remain behind, in particular his daughter Shamim and his loving wife who cared dearly for him. Above all, pray for his entire family to open their hearts to accept all God's love will bring them.

*Morris Martin, 91*, passed away on Monday 16 July 2012. His son Paul was with him as he left for home, for which all are grateful. Morris was comfortable in our Lord. While he will miss his family here on earth, he was grateful for all the time the Lord has given him. Please pray for continued peace of mind for his family, in particular his wife of many years, his daughter Patty and son Paul. Pray for their trust in our Lord and for his family to let God carry their worries.

*Elizabeth Brooks*, mother of Reverend Tom Brooks, Rector of All Saints Church in Pensacola, Florida, and Chancellor of the Anglican Episcopal Church. Mrs. Brooks passed away the morning of 6 July 2012, at after a long illness at 0130 EDT in Rochester, New York. Thankfully, her son Tom was in attendance for her final illness and at the time of her passing. She was born on 6 January 1920, and so was 92 ½ years old. Please pray for the repose of her soul, now safely in the arms of our Lord, and for the strength and consolation of Tom and her other children.

*Robert "Bob" M. Hall* passed away the afternoon of 5 July 2012. Bob, a lifelong follower of our Lord, left behind children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who are a testimony to his work here. His family misses him, but rejoices in his freedom and happiness. Please pray for their comfort as they deal with the temporary separation, in particular remember Elaine, his wife of 65 years, who will miss him dearly.

*Caroline*, good friend of Sara Simmons, passed away on 5 July 2012, after a battle with lung cancer. Please give thanks for her safe passing and comfort for her family and friends who of necessity remain behind.

*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*

*Kevin Gerhart* discovered cancer on his neck. They have not found the primary site and his doctors are trying to find the source site. In the mean time, he is undergoing radiation and chemotherapy. Please pray for the medical team treating Kevin that they might pay attention, do their very best and find the source; that the treatment might be successful and he might live a long and healthy life to His honor and glory. Pray also for trust in God and peace of mind for Kevin, his wife and family.

*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 and undergoing physical therapy while trying to take care of her mom, her husband Bill and Caroline. Please pray for patience for Sara and her husband Bill, as well as rapid and complete healing.

*Bill, Sara's husband*, had a third abdominal surgery on 22 November 2011. This time the tumor was removed. Bill is having difficulty keeping the doctor's instructions, including taking a chemotherapy once a day for three years, radically decreasing the consumption of alcohol and eating properly, he is also having difficulty maintaining equilibrium, please pray for help for him to do all this. Please pray also 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.

*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.

*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.

*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 was 92 in June. Please pray for her to keep 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.

### **Thanksgiving**

*Hap Arnold* gives thanks for safe travel this past week.

### **New Position**

*Rev LTC Al Ryan* has been appointed Deacon-In-Charge of the mission parish of St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church, Anglican Church in America (ACA) parish in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. It is a small but growing mission, which has been plagued by clergy change. Al, the diocesan pilot, has been appointed for one year, during which time he is to help them identify what their needs are for a vicar. He has done this before and asks you to pray for God's help one more time; not only for himself, but for the parish.

### **Armed Forces & Contractors**

Airman Donny Patton (Kadena AB, Japan), Jordan (USMC – Fleet Marine Force - Pacific), 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.

### **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](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>
29 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Eighth Sunday after Trinity
5 August 2012	Dru Arnold – Ninth Sunday after Trinity
12 August 2012	Dru Arnold – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

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

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**

5 August 2012 – Ninth 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**

12 August 2012 – Tenth 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**

19 August 2012 – Eleventh 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**

26 August 2012 – Twelfth 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**

2 September 2012 – Thirteenth 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**

9 September 2012 – Fourteenth 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**

16 September 2012 – Fifteenth 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**

25 September 2012 – Sixteenth 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**