



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

# Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Report



Today was the Ninth Sunday after Trinity Sunday. The weather was once again picture perfect, clear, dry and 50°F at sunrise, rising to 77°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 200-203, with the Collect first:

### The Ninth Sunday after Trinity.

*The Collect.*

**G**RANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Dru Arnold read the Epistle, which came from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, the



Tenth Chapter beginning at the First Verse. Paul reminds us we have a common past, regardless of our actual lineage. Spiritually, we are descended from the Jews of the Exodus. Their God is our God, their actions were directed by our God, the same God. He was a Trinity then as He is today. Their reality is our reality, whether we choose to understand or accept it. Our forefathers drank of "the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." Those who have gone before provide examples, both good and bad. In this letter Paul addresses the bad and suggest we should see what their ill behavior gained them before we set our course and not after. And, let us think ourselves ever so special, he reminds us that we are subjected to no special temptations, only those "as is common to man." This is another example of the adage, Those who are ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it.

**B**RETHREN, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up

to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

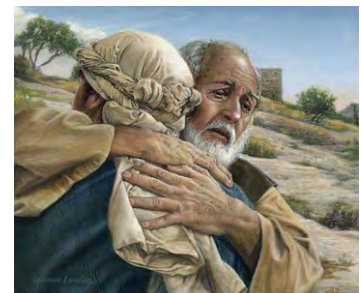
Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read today's Holy Gospel, which started in the Fifteenth Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the Eleventh Verse and recounts the story of the prodigal son. A man has two sons, the older is a wonderful young man who strives to please his father in everything he does. The younger son asks for his inheritance, now rather than later, and sets off to spend it wastefully in a far off land. In dire straits, he decides to go home to his father and beg to be allowed to live as one of his servants. He decides to tell his father, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son..." Before he can get the words out of his mouth, his father welcomes him, gives him new clothing and calls the servants to prepare a fatted calf for a big party. The elder son is very angry and hurt. He asks his father what he did wrong; he followed his



instructions every day to the best of his ability, worked hard, and yet his father had never even given a small party for him. The father answered, saying, "Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine." It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost and is found." This story, like that of the workers in the vineyard has a number of meanings. Like the father in the story, God wants us to be His faithful child, but rejoices when we return to Him. Like the prodigal son, we should be grateful to live long enough to return to Him. If we are like the oldest son, let us learn from his mistake and be joyful when our brothers and sisters come home to our family. Let us join in the celebration and not begrudge the fatted calf.

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**J**ESUS said, A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat:



and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: but as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

### *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, wherein we ask God to give us ... the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will ...

This is kind of a follow-on to last week's Collect. We are asking God to give us direction that we might know right from wrong and follow the right way. If we listen to our hearts and minds, like the aviator, mariner or adventurer without a compass, we will soon be hopelessly lost. With

the compass that God gives us, we can find the One True Way, much like the compass always points North.

This is nothing new. As Paul reminds us we have a common spiritual past, regardless of our actual lineage. Spiritually, we are descended from the Jews of the Exodus. Their God is our God; their actions were directed by our God, the same God. He was a Trinity then as He is today. Their reality is our reality, whether we choose to understand or accept it. Our forefathers drank of "the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." Those who have gone before provide examples, both good and bad. In this letter Paul addresses

the bad and suggest we should see what their ill behavior gained them before we set our course and not after. And, let us think ourselves ever so special, he reminds us that we are subjected to no special temptations, only those “as is common to man.” This is another example of the adage, “Those who are ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it.” It is an old saw, but one that is as valid today as the first time it was used.

Speaking of lessons, when Saint Luke recounts the story of the prodigal son we oft think ourselves at that prodigal one returning to God so late in life. Yet there is far more to be learned than this, the titular one.

Consider the two sons. The older is a wonderful young man who strives to please his father in everything he does. The younger son asks for his inheritance, now rather than later, and sets off to spend it wastefully in a far off land. In dire straits, he decides to go home to his father and beg to be allowed to live as one of his servants. He decides to tell his father, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son...” Before he can get the words out of his mouth, his father welcomes him, gives him new clothing and calls the servants to prepare a fatted calf for a big party. The elder son is very angry and hurt. He asks his father what he did wrong; he followed his instructions every day to the best of his ability, worked hard, and yet his father had never even given a small party for him. The father answered, saying, “Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.” It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost and is found.”

This story, like that of the workers in the vineyard has a number of meanings. Like the father in the story, God wants us to be His faithful child, but rejoices when we return to Him. Like the prodigal son, we should be grateful to live long enough to return to Him. On the other hand, consider the oldest son, let us learn from his mistake and be joyful when our brothers and sisters come home to our family. Let us join in the celebration and not begrudge the fatted calf.

### **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**

Ninth Sunday after Trinity  
5 August 2012, Anno Domini

#### **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity.**

*The Collect.*

**G**RANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



The sermon text from the Lectionary of the Book of Common Prayer today is taken from the 8th Chapter of the Book of John. (the woman taken in adultery).

*1 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. 2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. 3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? 6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. 7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, **He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.** 8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. 9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, **Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?** 11 She said, **No man, Lord.** And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.***

Please note the verse precedent to this account in chap 7:53 And every man went unto his own house. And now the beginning verse of this chapter.

Jesus prayed daily, but not for the observation of the public. His daily bread was communion with the Father in Prayer.

He generally prayed in private and most often on the higher ground: Example -And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God

And many other times did Jesus resort to the mountain.

Why mountain? Because of the solitude...the aloneness with God. Because it illustrates that genuine prayer occurs in a high place even if our feet are in Death Valley.

Now to this most beautiful account of Grace to be found between the pages of the Holy Bible:

*2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. 3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?*

Note first of all the absence of the man who had committed precisely the same sin. If the woman was caught in the very act, why did they not take the man?

Lev 20:10 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Judging....Who is judging here, and with what authority?

What does God say about judging?

Mt 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged. Mt 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye

shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. Mt 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Mt 7:4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Mt 7:5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

The modern church claims that we must not judge, but is this a true command?

1 Cor 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? 2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

So judging is not only necessary, it is also a command. But the judgment must be a righteous judgment.

Why did these brigands bring the woman to Christ? To catch Him in a trap!

What does the text say?

6. This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him.

7. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

Why did Jesus do this? In the Middle East, it is a characteristic of a person, when embarrassed, to write upon the ground. Jesus felt, not only pity, but embarrassment for the woman and situation.

Jesus is God. God wrote upon the ground!

What did Jesus write? We are not explicitly told, however, we may have a clue in Jeremiah 17:13 – O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

When the finger of God writes, the issue is important! Luke 11:20 – But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

The names of these evil men are not written in heaven – in the book of Life – so God writes there name upon their eternal graves – the ground!

Wouldn't you rather that your name be written in God's Book of Life?

Rev 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

When we are sinful and hypocritical, God will blot our name out of the Book of Life by writing it upon the earth!

7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

Often, when Jesus stands to speak, it is in terrible judgment. The men brought the woman for judgment, but they themselves receive the judgment.

Had it not been for these evil men, the woman may never have come to Christ but THEY brought her wishing her woe, but the woman found grace and salvation instead.

8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

What did Jesus write this time. We are not told, but whatever it was, it had a strange

effect on those who demanded the woman be stoned. Perhaps a name, a date, a sin.

9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst

Only Jesus and the woman left alone. Every one of us will face that circumstance one day when we go before the Lord.

If we are accepted, as the woman sinner, we shall be admitted to heaven.

But if we are hypocrites and liars as the Pharisees, we will be sent away from God.

Mt 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Mt 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? Mt 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

The wicked flee from the Lord, but this woman did not flee. She had come to know the Savior of her sinful soul.

Just imagine her terror and humiliation as she listened to the dialogue concerning her fate.

She uttered not a word, and neither will the sinner at the last day, for our guilt will be revealed. We will have been caught, as this woman, red-handed until the question from Christ:

11 She said, No man, Lord

Now Jesus utters the most beautiful words this woman's ears have ever heard:

And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**

Read the fullness of Jesus words: **Neither do I condemn thee**

Does Jesus condone adultery and other sins? Absolutely not, but He does forgive the repentant soul:

Read the last phrase: go, and sin no more.

And you should do likewise.

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

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

As is oft the case, we are honored to present Bishop Dennis' Sunday sermon presented to his parish. Dennis has a great sermon for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity:



#### **God of Blessings**

Psalm 115, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Lk. 15:11-32

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

August 5, 2012

There is a saying that goes, "out of sight, out of mind." I know that's true of me, for without reminders I am liable to forget things. Sometimes even reminders don't help. Looking over my calendar for this week I noticed I have written a large "N" in one of the boxes. I probably wrote that while on the phone, intending to fill in the details



after the conversation was over. Instead, I moved into something else, and now I have no idea what the letter was supposed to remind me of. Fortunately, God is not like that. He is always mindful of you (vs. 12). He knows your down-sitting and your up-rising. He is around your path and around your bed, and is acquainted with all your ways (Ps. 139:1-15). He even knows your thoughts before you think them. He knows your trials and hurts, your miserable failures, and your desire to do better. He watches over you. He sees you through the eyes of His compassion and mercy. He has you in His mind with the intention of doing good for you. Thus we read in verse 12 of Psalm 115, He shall bless you.

The blessings of God are a major point of Psalm 115. In 18 short verses, this Psalm uses the word, "bless" five times. It is found three times in verse 12 alone. "He shall bless us;" "He shall bless the house of Israel;" He shall bless the house of Aaron." Then verse 13 says, "He shall bless them that fear the Lord," and verse 15 says, "ye are the blessed of the Lord." This is a Psalm about blessing, and it is a Psalm about the God who blesses.

What does it mean to be blessed? We usually think of it as getting things from God. We are blessed with comfortable houses, abundant food, friends, family, and Church. And truly these things are blessings, and truly God promises to give us such blessings, according to His wisdom, and according to what He sees we need to have and according to what He sees we need to have taken away. Verse 14 is a promise of such blessings. "The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children" It refers back to the promise to make a great nation of the descendents of Abraham. It refers, in part, to the increase of Israel through the ingathering of Gentiles into the Kingdom of God, and it refers to the increase in the knowledge of God that would come to Israel, and the world, through the Saviour Jesus Christ. But it surely also refers to God's intention to care for all of His people, and to "bless" you with the good things you need to live in peace and happiness before the Lord.

But the word "Blessed" means more than this. It really refers to an attribute of God. It means He dwells in perfect and unshakable peace and joy. It means He is complete and fulfilled in and of Himself. He needs no other person or thing to make His life complete. He has it all within Himself. Theologians call this the aseity of God, and if you want to get a discussion going this week, just tell someone you heard a sermon about the aseity of God on Sunday. They won't be able to resist asking what that means. If God really is complete and fulfilled in and of Himself, then He did not create you to fulfill some need in Himself. He doesn't need you to make Him happy. He created you to share His happiness with you. He created you so you could experience some part of the Joy that He is. Thus, to be blessed is to become one with His Blessedness. It is to become a partaker of the kind of joy that can only exist in God Himself. To say, God is blessing you is to say God is bringing you into deeper fellowship with Him and you are finding more and more of His perfect joy. The Bible states this in many ways. It talks about the peace of God which passeth all understanding, and the peace of Christ which the world cannot give, and of entering into the joy of the Lord. All of these verses refer to being made partakers of God through Christ, of Him dwelling in you and you dwelling in Him who is joy forever and ever. This is what the words, "He shall bless us" really mean.

A second point of this Psalm is faith; "trust thou in the Lord." Psalm 115 uses the word, "bless" five times; and it uses the word, "trust" four times. Once, in verse 8, it refers to the ruin of those who trust in god's that do not exist. These are the idols made with

human hands, the Kalis and the Baals and the golden calves before which people bow and to which they attribute the blessings they have received from God alone. But there are other idols, too. The god of mammon does not have a statue to represent it, nor a temple in which to worship, yet it is still an idol which the Bible warns us about many times. There is another kind of idol, it is the idol of our own supposed goodness, and many people worship it with all the devotion they have to give. They even believe they will be able to stand before the Judgment Throne of God one day and tell Him they are worthy to enter His Heaven and fellowship with Him forever, because they have earned it by their own goodness.

These idols have ears that cannot hear and hands cannot help. They cannot teach you how to run a home, find a vocation, or find the really important things in life. They cannot comfort you in sickness or sorrow, heal your brokenness, or save your soul from hell. Ask a stone to teach you how to live an honest and honourable life. Ask a stick to comfort you when friends and family abandon you. Ask your car, your money, your hobby, and your job to make life worth living and to carry you safely to the shore of Heaven when this life ends. Ask Buddah to die for your sins, or Kali, or Osiris, or Caesar. They cannot help when you stand before God to give an account of your failure to meet the perfect standard of His holiness. That is why the Psalm says of those who serve idols, "They that make them," that is, they that trust and hope in them, "are like unto them." They are dead.

"Trust" is repeated three more times in verses 9-12. "House of Israel, trust thou in the Lord." "Ye house of Aaron, put your trust in the Lord." "Ye that fear the Lord, put your trust in the Lord." I think it is safe to say that, as much as this Psalm is about the God who blesses, it is equally about trusting the blessings He gives. As much as it is about God giving the things we need, it is also that much about having the faith to desire the blessings He wants to give.

The amazing thing about this Psalm is that it seems to have been written to encourage faith in God during a time of tribulation in Israel, for verse 2 asks, "Wherefore shall the heathen say, Where is now their God?" It is as though enemies have gathered around Israel like scoffers around the cross of Christ, saying, "He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him" (Mt. 27:43). Where is your God now, Israel? Where is your God now, Jesus? Where is your God now Christian? Where is He now when you need Him? It is in the face of these taunts and persecutions that Israel, that you, are told, trust thou in the Lord; He is your helper and defender. It is often true that, rather than delivering you from your trials, God chooses, for your own good, to deliver you through your trials. He "preparent a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." Picture a small flock of sheep grazing green pastures and drinking still waters. Where are they? Not in the fold, safely locked away from predators, they are in the wilderness, under the eye of the wolf and lion, in the presence of their enemies, just like you. And the faith you are encouraged to have is faith in God when the storms arise and enemies surround. In sickness and tribulation and sorrow and loss, and even in the face of death itself. Because the One who dwells in Heaven and is able to do whatever pleases Him has promised that these things are but the fires that purify your gold, and that He will bring you safe at last to the Mansion He has prepared for you in Heaven.

Father of all mercies, who has promised that all things work together for good to those who love Thee, grant us faith to tear the idols from our hearts and life in faith and obedience in Thee, now and forever, through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

## The Ninth Sunday after Trinity.

*The Collect.*

**G**RANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *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 Chino to work on one of the airplanes and have some low carb food; a salad at that! **AGAIN!** 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:

Date	Name
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 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](mailto:jack@faithfulcenturion.org) or Dru - [dru@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:dru@faithfulcenturion.org), or call the church office at (619) 659-3608 or fill out a prayer card at church.

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

Depends on what you want. Some people merely want God to be asked to heal their ills

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

### **Updating the Team**

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

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

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

### **Travel**

*Albert and Ali Esquivel* are on travel for their honeymoon in Kauai.

*Matt Alcantara and his mom* are on travel to Texas for bone scans on Tuesday 7 August 2012, see Matt's prayer request below.

### **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.

### **Marriage**

*Ali Arnold and Albert Esquivel* were married on 3 August 2012. They are now on their honeymoon in Kauai, on return the Esquivels will make their home in El Cajon, California, almost exactly equidistant from their respective parents. They ask that you pray for God's guidance in their lives as they move from being two individuals to a single unit and help them to form their new family.

### **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.

## **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.

*Colonel Bud Day's* cancer has returned. The outlook is not favorable. Bud has been an inspiration to all of us for years, this changes nothing. He is well at peace with our Lord and we all hope he stays with us for a while longer.

## **Healing**

*Lauralee Meade* was in an automobile accident on Friday 3 August 2012, injuring her wrist and finger. Please pray for her rapid and full recovery. Her friend *Michael* broke his leg, four ribs and injured his face. Please also pray for his rapid and full recovery. 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.

*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! On Tuesday Matt travels to Texas for his every four month bone scan, please pray for 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.

*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**

*Hope DeLong* and her mom *Linda Hall* give thanks for safe travel.

*Shamim Gray* gives thanks for safe travel to London the past two weeks to be with her family at her father *Bashir Ahmed*' passing.

### **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>
12 August 2012	Dru Arnold – Tenth Sunday after Trinity
19 August 2012	Dru Arnold – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
26 August 2012	Dru Arnold – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
2 September 2012	Dru Arnold – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
9 September 2012	Dru Arnold – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
16 September 2012	Dru Arnold – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
25 September 2012	Dru Arnold – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

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**