



Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Report



Today was the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday. The weather was picture perfect; clear blue skies, calm winds and 56°F at sunrise, rising to 84°F by the end of church under skies. Once again, the gathering song gathered not one and we ended up with 3 people present for the service.

Today's service was led by Deacon Striker Jack Arnold, who also preached an excellent sermon. I commend it to you.

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 214-215, with the Collect first:

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity.

The Collect.

LORD, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians beginning at the First Verse of the Fourth Chapter.

Once again, Paul calls us to a new life, different from our old life. A life in which we act in a manner worthy of the better life to which we have been called by Christ and for which He gave His life. Paul, of all people, knows the importance of setting aside your old life, as Saul did, so that as Paul he asks us to put God first in our lives, to put ourselves last. He reminds us, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are 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."

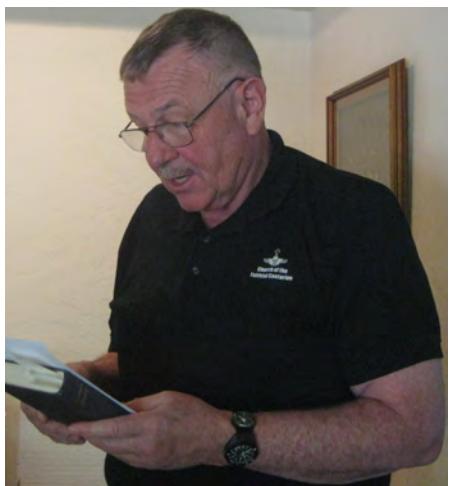
The key to a successful life is to put the important things at the top of your To Do List. And, notice it is a To Do List, not a To Think About or To Wait a While List. What is more important than God?



ITHERFORE, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, for-bearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are 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 all¹.

¹ "you all", normally pronounced "ya'll", is clear proof Paul was from the South.

Hap Arnold read today's Holy Gospel which came from the Fourteenth Chapter of the



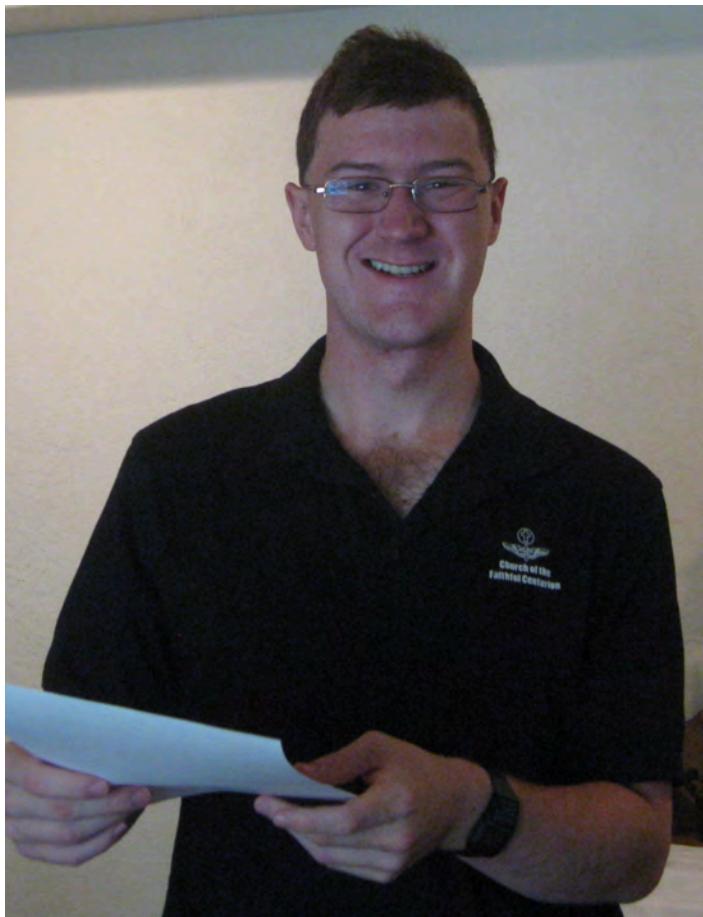
Gospel of St. Luke, beginning at the First Verse. The Gospel starts out reminding us the Law was designed to be flexible. The goal is to do God's will, not to "follow the letter of the law" as the Pharisees were so keen on. They brought before Him a man in need of healing as they sat to eat on the Sabbath Day. They watched to see what He would do. Putting the monkey on their back, He asked, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath Day?" Wishing to be in a position to criticize rather than answer, "they held their peace." He healed the man, then asked them, "Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the Sabbath Day?" They would not respond; for the answer was obvious.

Then "He put forth a parable to those" who had been invited to dine with him, after He had seen them joust for the seats of honor. "When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest seat; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest place; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Do we put God first and let others raise us up, or do we put ourselves first and let others put us down?

IT came to pass, as Jesus went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him. And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy. And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go; and answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day? And they could not answer him again to these things. And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief seats; saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest seat; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest place; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Sermon – Time and Action

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold preached today's sermon which tied the Collect, Epistle and Gospel together and is partly contained in the forewords above.



Consider the words of the Collect, "... thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works ..."

The first thing to consider when you look at today's Collect is a word: prevent. Prevent is a word that has many uses, and at least one has fallen out of general usage as time has gone on. This is one of the. In this case the word prevent means *to go before*. Before you object to archaic words, consider this is a current word, it just has a use you may not have been aware of and now you are! What a bonus for this week!

So, we ask God that His Grace, His Love, His Power, His Help may go before and after us to protect us and guide us that we might desire to do

what He wants us to do. Pretty much a re-wording of a lot of the Collects. Why would that be? Pretty simple, our biggest failing is we are wont to do what we want! We are creatures that have free will and are not wont to exercise it for God or good. That is a very dangerous combination, as my father says often. That is not the same as doing what will provide us with the best result. If we follow our natural inclination, we will not like the end result, that is eternal separation from God. We know, often very clearly, what we want. For example, this morning I started to lead the Order of Morning Prayer. My first inclination was to do it without looking at the rubrics. But after thinking a moment, I realized that this was a mistake, as the rubrics are there to guide the minister in leading the service. Like the rubrics, God knows, always very clearly, what we need. He is there, like the rubrics to guide us along our paths in our daily life. So, we need to ask God every day, every time, for help to do our duty.

So, what does Paul tell us in his letter to us? Once again, he calls us to a new life, different from our old life. We shed our old clothes, as it were, and put on the brand new armor of light, new helmet, new boots and new everything. A life in which we act in a manner worthy of the better life to which we have been called by Christ and for which He gave His life. Paul, of all people, knows the importance of setting aside your old life, as Saul did, so that as Paul he asks us to put God first in our lives, to put ourselves last. He even changed his name to reflect his state as a new man under Our Lord's leadership. He reminds us, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are 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." The key to a successful life is to put the important things at the top of your To Do List. And, notice it is a To Do List, not a To Think About or To Wait a While List. It is not a I'll Get a Round To It List, or What I Don't Want to Do List. What is more important than God?

When Luke relates the parable of the feast, it is more than just a sitting diagram. I liken it to the tale of the publican and the Pharisee. When Christ talks about the man who exalts himself and sits too high at the wedding and thus must be abased. That would be the Pharisee. When Christ then talks about the man who sits low, and is raised to the higher station, I think of the publican, who smote his breast and would not even look up his eyes to heaven. We have to be the publican in our dealings with God, rather than our natural tendency of being the Pharisee. If we put God's will before ours, the welfare of those we encounter before ours, if we hold open the door as gentlepersons are wont to do for others, we will find we are doing what God would have us do and enjoying it.

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

Bishop Ogles' Sermon

Bishop Jerry is on travel today for the AOC meeting in Statesville. No sermon, sorry!

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 Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity:



God Our Only Hope

Psalm 25, Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 14:1-11
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

"In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." These words of Christ in John. 16:33 do not surprise those of us who have had some experience with the ways of the world. We know we live in a fallen world, a world where people often do bad things, a world in which we often suffer as the result of other peoples' sins. We know this, not as theory, but as fact

verified by our own hard experience in life. We know this as fact verified by the teachings of Scripture. Ephesians 4 reminds us of the tribulations of St. Paul. Luke 14 records the opposition Jesus faced from the scribes and Pharisees who exalted themselves above God. We remember the words of Christ in Matthew 10:24 and 25:

"The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?"

But we are fallen creatures, too, and we know that much of our tribulation is self-inflicted as we reap what we have sown.

Psalm 25. *Ad te, Domine, levavi.*

UNTO thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul; my God, I have put my trust in thee: * O let me not be confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph over me.

2 For all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed; * but such as transgress without a cause shall be put to confusion.

3 Show me thy ways, O Lord, * and teach me thy paths.

4 Lead me forth in thy truth, and learn me: * for thou art the God of my salvation; in thee hath been my hope all the day long.

5 Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies, * and thy loving-kindnesses, which have been ever of old.

6 O remember not the sins and offences of my youth; * but according to thy mercy think thou upon me, O LORD, for thy goodness.

7 Gracious and righteous is the LORD; * therefore, will he teach sinners in the way.

8 Them that are meek shall he guide in judgment; * and such as are gentle, them shall he learn his way.

9 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, * unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

10 For thy Name's sake, O Lord, * be merciful unto my sin; for it is great.

11 What man is he that feareth the Lord? * him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

12 His soul shall dwell at ease, * and his seed shall inherit the land.

13 The secret of the Lord is among them that fear him; * and he will show them his covenant.

14 Mine eyes are ever looking unto the Lord; * for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

15 Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; * for I am desolate, and in misery.

16 The sorrows of my heart are enlarged: * O bring thou me out of my troubles.

17 Look upon my adversity and misery, * and forgive me all my sin.

18 Consider mine enemies, how many they are; * and they bear a tyrannous hate against me.

19 O keep my soul, and deliver me: * let me not be confounded, for I have put my trust in thee.

20 Let perfectness and righteous dealing wait upon me; * for my hope hath been in thee.

21 Deliver Israel, O God, * out of all his troubles.

Psalm 25 is the prayer of a person experiencing deep tribulation partly because of the actions of others, and partly because he is reaping the natural consequences of what he has sown through his own actions and decisions. But the Psalm is not a complaint about the writer's tribulation, it is a prayer of faith. It is an expression of trust in God. David, in the midst of all his troubles writes, "Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul; my God, I have put my trust in thee."

David trusts God to teach him the ways of God. "Show me thy ways," he prays. "Teach me thy paths. Lead me forth in thy truth." How can we possibly know God? How can we ever hope to know what He wants from us, or wants to give to us? He must show us. And He has shown us. He is revealed in nature, for "The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth his handy work" (Ps. 19:1). And there is something inside of us that knows about God, an instinctive knowledge that we ought to live and be better than we are, and that we will give an account of our sins one day. Thus

Romans 2:15 tells us the law of God is written in our hearts. So, through nature and through His law written on our hearts we are able to discern the invisible attributes of God, "even his eternal power and Godhead," says Romans 1:20. But this revelation is incomplete. It does not tell us how to worship God, or how the Church is to be ordered, or how to live for God at work and at home, or how to build a Godly family or a Godly nation. But most of all, it does not really tell us of God's mercy. It does not really tell us of God's everlasting love. It does not tell us how to find forgiveness of sin, or how to find peace with God.

This was accomplished by God sending prophets and teachers to give and instruct us in the moral law of the Old Testament. God also gave the ceremonial law through them, which points us to the Great Salvation He would accomplish for us in Christ, of whom the Temple and sacrifices were symbols and shadows. It is Christ who ultimately reveals God, for "he hath declared him" (Jn. 1:18). Christ taught the revelation of God to the disciples, and commissioned them to proclaim it to all people (Mt. 28:19-20). He also commissioned them to teach and ordain others who would, in turn, teach others (2 Tim.2:2). The Apostles recorded the ministry and teachings of Christ for us in the Bible, and it is the standard by which all other teachers and doctrines are measured.

David trusts God to forgive his sins. He trusts God to "Remember not" his "sins and offenses" "Be merciful unto my sin" he cries in verse 10, "for it is great." It is Christ who accomplishes the forgiveness of our sin. The rituals and ceremonies of the Old Testament ceremonial law were symbols and shadows of Christ, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world. We "have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:14). He died for our sins, and "whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16).

David trusts in God for many other things. In verse 5 it is for continuing mercy. In verse 14 it is for defense from enemies. I would like us to focus on verses 12, 16, and 21 as we come to the close of the sermon. Verse 12 says of the man who fears God, that means reverent love combined with respectful fear, "His soul shall dwell at ease." God will give that person peace in his soul, and nothing in this world or the next can take that peace away. It is the peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ which the world cannot give or even understand. It is the peace that comes from the knowledge that "all things work together for good to them that love God" and that nothing "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:28, 35-39).

This does not mean we will never see troubles. It does mean God is with us, even when we face trials, and His grace is sufficient for us at all times. David, in the beloved Twenty-third Psalm, said he would fear no evil even in the valley of the shadow of death. He said God prepares a table for him "in the presence of [his] enemies." The enemies were still there. The wolves were still lurking and prowling, often in open view of the sheep. Yet God had brought him into green pastures and beside still waters, and God continually "restoresh" David's soul. God had something for him even in the presence of enemies and troubles. Now, today, God is with us. God has peace and grace and blessings for us, today, in this life, in this world of troubles and wolves and wolves in sheep's clothing. He is leading us into us His will and guiding us into His ways, and He will not allow the trials of this world to ultimately defeat us. We can be of "good cheer" because He has "overcome the world."

Finally, David trusts God to "Deliver Israel, O God, out of all his troubles" (vs. 21). This is one of the verses upon which our "Prayer for all Conditions of Men" bases the request to give us a "happy issue out of all [our] afflictions." We have no delusions that the world is going to love us and welcome Christ into its heart today. But we do believe a better world is coming, and in that world all the cares and troubles of this world will be over because God will finally, completely, and forever deliver Israel, that's us, out of all his troubles.

O MOST loving Father, who wildest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of thee, and to cast all our care on thee, who carest for us; Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which thou hast manifested in us in thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon

We are fortunate to have Brian's Sunday Sermon. If you want people to come to The Truth, you have to speak the truth, expose the truth and live the truth. This is really a good piece and I commend it to your careful reading.



The Sermon - Avoid Being Carried Away Captive.

In our Old Testament lesson (Jeremiah 13:15-27), we heard the prophet Jeremiah admonishing the rulers and people of Jerusalem and Judah to abandon their prideful natures and give glory to the LORD else they be carried away captive. Throughout both Testaments, we are admonished to be humble. We are also called upon to possess a heart for God and respect for his wishes. We must not permit our religion to drift from a pure, unselfish and steadfast faith into a stony and proud disposition that is devoid of caring and concern for others. When St. Paul warned the Christians in Rome (12:3-5), not to think of [themselves] more highly than [they] ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another, he was calling upon them to reflect on their particular calling and not to lord over those of the same body who did not have the same calling. Thus the same pridefulness which was the downfall of God's people prior to the Babylonian Captivity, has the same potential to lead to our own undoing at the hands of our ever-present and ever-aggressive adversary.

Consider the warning of our Lord in the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican which has been ignored by very many of today's churches (St. Luke 18:10-14). Two men went up into the temple to pray; one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God I thank thee that I am not as other men are... or even as this publican... and the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner... I tell you this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. As St. Paul admonished the Christians in Rome (12:16), Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

The devil has invested much time and energy in his ongoing campaign against the faith and the fellowship of Christians. The Rev. E. M. Bounds once observed, "Satan... is always trying to make the good bad and the bad worse. He filled the mind of Judas, and he inflamed and hurried him on to his infamous purpose. He filled Peter with an arrogant pride that tried to inject human views into the purpose of Christ..." You see, even the disciples of our Lord were not immune to Satan's attacks.

In our gospel lesson (St. Mark 10:35-45) St. James and St. John asked our Lord to grant them a tremendous request which angered the rest. For those making the request, there was an element of pridefulness, as they sought positions of authority over the others; while the latter group possessed a certain spirit of jealousy which was stirred up by that request. Our Lord set them all straight concerning the matter. God has appointed those to sit at Christ's immediate right and left hand and even they must be servants of all. We often hear the term "public servant" with regard to those who are on the public payroll. No doubt a chuckle or two can be heard from the citizenry in many locales when that term is used because many so-called "public servants" are merely serving themselves and their egos rather than the public. Compare their behavior with the standard which our Lord set for all who will serve in his kingdom, ...but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister, and whosoever of you will be chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. Very few of those in public service today would pass such a test.

The prophet Jeremiah was deeply concerned that his messages to the people were being ignored and rejected. He knew that God was about to bring upon them the terrible judgment of diaspora: the casting away or scattering of the people from the land of promise. He appealed to them to turn back to the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but sadly, they did not. As a result, they were carted off into captivity much to the pleasure of our adversary, the Devil. And surely he is laughing still at the utter arrogance of those who profess to be Christians while refusing to heed God's word written. Just as he worked to destroy the fidelity of God's people Israel, so too has he worked indefatigably to turn the church against its very Lord and Saviour. He has developed converts in nearly every period of church history and these have eagerly sowed doubt and confusion within the body of Christ. Now these pawns are hardly aware of his presence, and are oblivious to his power of insinuation through which he has introduced and managed the particulars of his plan to alienate the church from the Godhead.

Let us now examine how Satan's servants have labored to degrade and turn the whole of Christendom away from the Godhead.

First of all, Satan's minions have ordained individuals contrary to God's word and commandment, much as King Jeroboam had done when he made priests of those persons who were outside the line of Levi (I Kings 12:31). God has restricted the offices of church leadership (bishops, priests, and deacons) solely to righteous men, and he has expressly forbidden women to serve over men within the body of Christ (I St. Timothy 2:11-15; 3:1-16). The devil has blurred the biblical distinction between men and women by filtering Scripture through the lens of Egalitarianism. As a result, now any person regardless of sex, or sexual orientation, can serve in the offices of ministry because it would be unfair and exclusive to do otherwise. What arrogance. What pridefulness is found within those churches who resist the stated will of God.

Secondly, as Satan's minions have encouraged idolatry through the arrogance of will-worship. The old saw of 'I'm OK, you're OK' is nothing more than the proverbial "way of Cain" (St. Jude 11) where everyone does what is right in their own eyes (Judges 21:25). The paganism of the Israelites— who offered their children to the false gods of Molech and Baal— is hardly different from the modern Molechs and Baals of self-worship and self-will at the expense of all else. The former bowed before idols of wood, stone and metal, while the moderns worship themselves or the works of their hands. Narcissism is nothing more than idolatry before a mirror. The moderns have sacrificed their children by handing them over to Satan's messengers operating in both the church and in schools. Instead of learning about the one true and living God, these youths have been taught an array of false doctrines that contradict the word of God and make a mock of his only begotten Son. The moderns have sacrificed their own souls on altars dedicated to worldly lusts and desires. Without question, such arrogance in religion is devoid of any sanctity or salvation. Unless those deluded souls repent and turn unto Christ, they are destined to become just another batch of kindling for the fires of Hell rather than saints destined for God's glorious kingdom (Psalm 9:17; Revelation 20:10-15).

Thirdly, as the Israelites had their share of lying prophets sent by Satan to provide an alternative to those whom the LORD had supplied; so too, the church has what our Lord described as wolves in sheep's clothing. These charlatans use the gospel to further their own ends, and in so doing they do not speak the whole counsel of God to their congregations. They do not tell them about Hell, or about the Devil as the personage of evil, nor do they speak much about heaven; and such is sad indeed because Hell is real; the Devil is not a myth; and heaven has been exclusively reserved for those are in good standing with God. So, pray tell, what do they tell their congregations? Well, they are taught to love one another—which is good—because God does indeed want us to love others as ourselves. But they are also taught that God's love should include acceptance of those lifestyle choices which are contrary to the scriptures. They tend to focus more on those things that encompass the here and now with little or no regard for the hereafter. The Bible teaches us to train ourselves in this life for our service in the next. We have but a few years to live in this particular dispensation of time and then we are in eternity. For those who are shepherded by false teachers and wolves in sheep's clothing, there will be no such godly preparations made. They will pass from this life to a place of eternal separation from God where no good thing will be found and all chance of repentance has been closed off for ever.

Fourthly, our very admission into the kingdom of God is dependent on our salvation which comes solely through our relationship to God via his only begotten Son. Satan's pawns teach that our Lord was "a way to God," not the only way. As I heard one wag put it, "Jesus is way," and this was after we had heard the very Scripture wherein our Lord said unequivocally that he was the way the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me (St. John 14:6b). The ministers of Satan have created a false religion which contains a pantheon of personal choices that have been designed to lead as many as will listen away from the strait gate and narrow way—from the very door to the sheep's fold which is Christ Jesus—and into Satan's broad way and wide gate. You cannot enter and be accepted into God's kingdom unless you come by means of a saving faith in Jesus Christ for there is no name under heaven by which men must be saved (Acts 4:10-12). What arrogance there is to think that one can make your own way to heaven apart from God's expressed will.

The Devil has transformed much of modern Christianity into the image of the Laodicean church as found in the Book of Revelation. St. John recorded our Lord's description of that church in this way: ...because thou art lukewarm... I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked (3:13-17). Is it not apparent that our Lord is ashamed of that church? And where has our Lord been relegated by the people of that church? Is he not outside knocking to come in? Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne even as I overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches (3:20-22).

The current state of our world is not much different from that of the apostate kingdoms of Israel and Judah or that of pagan Rome; and so Jeremiah's message about the sinful nature of humanity is a sort of universal truth. We, who are of the true faith in Christ, have been warned to avoid the unequal yoke with the ungodly (II Corinthians 6:14) as well as to obey the moral law of Moses (St. John 15:10- 14; Acts 15:5-29). We have been warned to keep sin out of our lives, and to confess such should we slip back into our old ways (I St. John 1:9-10; 2:1-5). We are encouraged to have a daily, yea, moment by moment, fellowship with our Lord and God (Acts 2:42). We are to keep his word and commandment (see St. John 15). We are to read his word daily and prayerfully petition his throne of grace for our own needs and those of others (I St. Timothy 2:1-8). We should seek to do good to all as the occasion arises, and to advance the gospel message in this world (St. Matthew 28:18-20). We should have ever-ready an answer for those who inquire of the faith within us (I St. Peter 3:15); and we should always speak the truth in charitableness to all (Ephesians 4:15, 25, 32).

Some will say that our "fundamentalist" Christianity is harmful and hurtful to others who do not believe as we do. I would respond by asking which is better: to say nothing which will dissuade a sinner from falling into Hell— being forever separated from the love of God— or tell them the truth so that they might avoid such an unhappy end? And shouldn't we be saddened over the apparent course of these pawns of the evil one? The prophet was saddened over the coming captivity of his people by the Chaldeans. Likewise shouldn't it make us sad to see so many being prepared for their day of captivity because they are not living in agreement with God's word written? St. Jude (v.23) said that we ought to be pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. We can hate the sin and seek the well-being of the sinner, but we are not to salve the sinner in his sin for to do so would, in essence, make God into a liar for his word stands as sure and true as the day he communicated the same to the prophets and apostles of old.

What it all boils down to is this: God defended his word against the arrogance of children of Israel, and he will do so against those who make a false profession of faith in his name while denying his authority. As a church, we will either be like Philadelphia, or we will be like Laodicea. If we are like the former, we will live in obedience to God's word. If one should choose to be the latter, they will be led away captive. Choose you this day whom ye will serve (Joshua 24:15a).

Let us pray,

FAITHER, make of us a people who are truly ready to do thy will and rejoice in the strength of thy salvation; for this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

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, we headed to the next little village for Mexican Food. 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
7 October2012	Opportunity Available – Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
14 October2012	Opportunity Available – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
21 October2012	Opportunity Available – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
28 October2012	Opportunity Available – Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles, superseding the Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity

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

Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.

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

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

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

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

What is the commitment from the prayer team?

Each member of the team will pray for the desired outcome at 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

Lots of travel this week:

Bishop Jerry Ogles is on travel to the AOC Meeting this week.

Hap, Dru and Jack Arnold are on travel to the AOC Meeting this week.

Hopefully lots of other people are on travel to the AOC Meeting this week.

Patrice Li is on travel to the Philippines this week.

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.

Departed

Bob Burrell, for whom the Arnolds' valley is named, passed away 21 September 2012, in his late 80s. Please pray for his family members who remain behind, in particular his wife of sixty some years, Marion.

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.

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.

Thanksgiving and Continued Healing

Carol Stone, the sweet wife of Mike Stone, longtime friend and colleague of Sara Simmons as well as Hap, was helicoptered to hospital with an ultimate diagnosis of severe bleeding on the left side of her brain.

From Mike –

Carol has slowly but steadily improved over the last three weeks. She still breathes through a tracheal tube and therefore cannot speak much, but in the last two days she has been able to whisper so that she can be heard if you put your ear to her lips. The good news is that she can speak clearly and in sentences. Her attention span is about 20 seconds and her memory is very short, but it is a start. Although her left side remains flaccid, she can awkwardly sit up for a few minutes with the help of the physical therapist. She was able to write some letters and numbers on request on the iPad and she could write a short sentence, although rather poorly. She cannot see much on her left side, but it is unclear whether that is permanent. All in all, amazing progress in the greater scheme of such things.

She will be transferred to Kentfield Rehab Hospital sometime in the next day or two. She will then start on a more intensive rehab program with the hope that she ultimately have the trach removed and that she can develop enough stamina to be transferred to Kaiser's acute rehab center in Vallejo.

It remains a long road with lots of potential bumps to be negotiated, but a month ago we truly did not expect her to live. We hope that this time next year we can see you all at a pizza party.

Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Mike, guidance for the medical team treating Carol and strength for Carol as well as faith and trust. No one can ever understand the why of these things here on earth. Sara who passed this request on asks that you pray in both faith and hope.

Healing

Liz Strauch has a pineal cyst, which is causing various problems for her, headaches, dizziness and distress. It appears it can be drained, but she is very concerned and hesitant to do so. Please pray for guidance for the medical people treating her, as well as for Liz and her husband Ken.

Lauralee Meade 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. He underwent 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.

Sara Simmons has recovered pretty well from a fractured right knee, but is still challenged for mobility while trying to take care of her mom and her husband Bill. 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 doing better keeping the doctor's instructions, for which we are all grateful, 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) hip has deteriorated to the point walking is a slow and painful process, but she manages. Please pray for continued peace of mind for Mrs. Kay and her family. Give thanks for her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude.

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 and his mom just came back from Houston at the Cancer Center for what was hoped to be a routine every four month bone scan. The scans were done on schedule, but a couple of new spots

showed up. After Matt's San Diego doctors conferred with the Houston doctors to figure out what these spots mean, it turned out they are new and old injuries with no bad meaning. In effect they are CLEAN SCANS. Matt and his family ask you to give thanks for the super results. Please also give thanks 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.

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.

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)

Thanksgiving

Hap Arnold had an elevated temperature last Sunday and then Labor Day Monday, after consultations with the Medical Officer, he went to the hospital where he was given an IV antibiotic and admitted overnight (a seeming mistake) for a Urinary Tract Infection. Within 24 hours of the start of the antibiotics, he felt 100 percent better and is now feeling better than any time in the past year. His legs no longer hurt to walk and he is far more mobile. He gives our Lord thanks and asks that you do also.

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.

Epistleers

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

Date	Reader
7 October 2012	Dru Arnold – Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
14 October 2012	Dru Arnold – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
21 October 2012	Dru Arnold – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
28 October 2012	Dru Arnold – Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles, superseding the Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

1 October 2012 – 6 October 2012 – We will all be on travel to the Anglican Orthodox Church Biennial Convention in Statesville, North Carolina. While the meeting is Wednesday through Friday, we need to leave on Monday to make everything and will be returning on Saturday. The church number will ring through to a mobile number and the emails are still good.

7 October 2012 – Eighteenth 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**

14 October 2012 – Nineteenth 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**

21 October 2012 – Twentieth 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**

28 October 2012 – Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles, superseding the Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**