



Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Report

Today was the Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity Sunday. Sunrise again brought the very bright sunny skies of a light Santa Ana typical of this time of year. Sunrise temperature was 58°F, which rose to about 76°F by the end of church under those same bright skies. The exceedingly beautiful weather brought the usual 3 people to worship.

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.

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 Holy Table 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 the Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity can be found on Page 220-222:

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity
The Collect.

LORD we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from Saint Paul's letter to the



Philippians beginning at the Third Verse of the First Chapter. Writing to the church in Philippi, Paul sends his greetings letting them know he has been praying for them constantly. He tells them that the good work God has begun in them will surely continue until Christ returns to them. Paul tells them he prays that they will find more and more joy in following the will of God. Continually reminding people of the joy of being born a new person, Paul prays that their "love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the tender mercies of Christ Jesus. And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Hap Arnold read the Holy Gospel came from the Twenty-Eighth Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew beginning at the Twenty-First Verse.



On the subject of confession, repentance and forgiveness, knowing the rabbis had ordained forgiving one's transgressors three times Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." Knowing Jesus as he did, Peter no doubt expected Jesus to say more times than three, but 490 may have been somewhat more than he expected. In one of the more important stories in the Bible concerning God's forgiveness of us and our obligation to forgive others, Jesus went on to liken the kingdom of heaven to a king, who was

balancing his accounts. He found a servant who owed him, in today's terms, a million dollars. The man had no money, but promised to pay and begged for mercy rather than have himself and his family sold into slavery as the law allowed to repay the debt. The king forgave him the debt and set him free. Upon release, the man being reminded of his debts, began to attempt to collect from those who owed him. The first debtor he came across owed him \$10.00 and had it not. The one who had been forgiven cast the \$10.00 debtor into prison. The king found out and bye, bye.

The quote is - Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Not – Do unto others before they do unto you.

Peter said unto Jesus, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow-servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat,

saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellow-servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow-servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Sermon – Rev Deacon Jack Arnold – Time and Action

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity

The Collect.

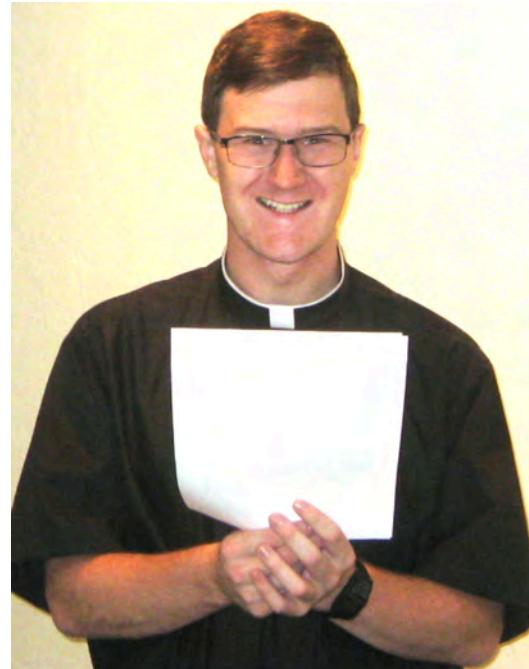
LORD we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In the Collect we ask the Lord to keep His household (that would be us) in continual godliness (that is to keep Him as our leader and follow Him), so that with His Help we can have as smooth a path as practical and serve Him in happiness.

Saint Paul follows this same thought in his Epistle when he thanks the Philippians for their fellowship and talks about how they in the bond through Christ have strengthened his faith as a result which enabled him to continue doing his good works for the Lord. In this same way our friends in the AOC, strengthen our faith as we tell others about the good news of our Lord and the faith in which we all share. The more we love the Lord, the more it will show through in our actions and our judgment.

Which brings us to the point of the Gospel, in which Christ tells Peter about forgiveness and how we must be ever patient with our fellow humans, and if they are repentant grant them that forgiveness, no matter how many times they might err and vex us. If they are truly sorry for their sins, then God will forgive them. We are not forgiving them ourselves, but informing them God has forgiven them for their sins. We can forgive them for personal trespasses against us, but through God's power, only He can grant absolution of our sins, not us. I do not remember Christ telling Peter humans have the power to forgive sins, like the Roman Catholics claim they have, but rather that God must forgive sins, but we can tell others that God has forgiven them.

The parable illustrates what happens to those who are forgiven, but yet turn around and do not forgive their neighbor (in this case, a debtee.) for their sins and have thus



abused their forgiveness from Our Lord, and will find himself in a very poor spot in the life hereafter.

The Collect's prayer the Collect, Epistle and Gospel tie together, laying out, detailing and reinforcing the same message, ultimately. We have to be willing to forgive others, tell them about God's forgiveness, and not turn around and commit a grave error in not forgiving others as God has forgiven us for our sins. We have to act more like God everyday, though we are not perfect. If we try our utmost best, then that is all we can do.

Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

Bishop Ogles' Sermon

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



Sermon Notes

Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity Sunday
4 November 2012, Anno Domini

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity

The Collect.

LORD we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. 23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.
(Matt 18:21-35)

Peace of mind is one of the fruits of forgiveness. Even when we are sure in our minds that we have been irreparably wronged, there is a sore spot in our hearts that

says, FORGIVE.

The wrong done you will not result in the loss of an arm, or of one's life. Go to that person who has wronged you. He is hurting more than you are. Frankly forgive him in the same way Christ forgives you.

A tree grows and produces fruit because of the outward benefit the leaves provide through the process of photosynthesis to the inward tree, just as the inner tree gives growth to the leaves. If we take away the leaves, the inner tree will die. Forgiveness is the leaves of the tree of our hearts.

Peter seems to be the spokesmen of choice for the disciples. He is fearless in being open and frank. One of the others most likely planted the question in Peter's mind – most likely Judas – the least forgiving of all. So Peter frames the question in a manner consistent with the law of Moses. He feels that seven times is a large number, but Christ gives him an answer that is intended to indicate that, like love, there should be no bottom to our forgiveness.

There are three stages of forgiveness that are consistent with the manner in which God forgives.

1) When a brother, not one of the world, offends me, I should forgive that person in the silent chambers of my heart , but not yet openly. *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.* (Eph 4:32) The bitterness of unforgiving spirit is then taken from our own hearts.

2) I do not inform him of my forgiveness for him since that would not be consistent with the manner in which God forgives. I

must go to him, in love, and rebuke him for his offense. Take heed to yourselves: *If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.* (Luke 17:3)

3) Immediately upon the friend's apology, you must inform him that he is forgiven. *And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.* (Luke 17:4)

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. (Matt 5:22-24)

There are reasons for righteous anger and indignation. It spurs us to action to remedy a wicked circumstance such as rape, murder, molesting little children, etc.

We now have the parable of the Kingdom involving a King. That King is God the Father.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be

sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

In the days of this accounting, the amount of ten thousand talents was an enormous amount – more than \$20,000,000.00. The King in this story represents God. The debtor – you and me. Without the remission of our debts (sins) we are sold off into slavery and bondage to Satan. In fact, we sell ourselves out to that merciless master.

We may deem it a simple thing for a great King to forgive even an enormous debt, and feel that we are justified in demanding the last cent owed us by a poor man; but though God is a great King, He has a great Heart and is willing to forgive. It was no simple thing for Him to forgive our sins and remit them. It cost Him the life-blood of His only Begotten Son!

A minister was discussing forgiveness with some school boys one day. One of the boys was incensed that his friend had struck him on the playground. The minister asked, "Jimmy, do you think, in view of the Scripture passage we just read on forgiveness, that you could find it in your heart to forgive another boy who hurt you, or struck you, on the playground?" Jimmy responded, "Y-e-e-s-s, Sir, I suppose I could," and then added, "I could if he was bigger than me!" Well God is bigger than all of us. But He desires that we love others as a measure of our love for Him.

The debtor in the parable pleads for patience. Apparently, the King has long exercised patience with this man, and there is no more time for it. God's Spirit will not always strive with man. *And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh* (Gen 6:3) God cannot renew an unwilling spirit to reconcile that spirit to His own Spirit of Righteousness. Those whose hearts are not full of love and forgiveness do not belong to God.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

See how this unworthy servant has received such a mighty forgiveness, and at enormous cost (as you and me through the blood of Christ) – yet cannot forgive even a small debt (100 pence or three months average wage at the time) of a fellow servant of less means. He will sell him into bondage! This is not God-like. This is not Christ-like! This is very much like the devil that deceived Eve.

You may have had a dear friend spite you in a small matter, but the resentment has built in your heart – it has grown beyond the proportions of a normal Mustard Tree

and taken over your whole heart. You are weary day by day and avoid even looking into your dear friends eyes. He is hurt by your behavior, but who suffers more: the offender, or the victim. Seeds of wrath in the heart bare trees of hatred and misery.

We have all fallen so very short of the righteousness of God that it is completely beyond our sight, but Christ gives us the means to assume that righteousness of His own. He forgives our sins, washes us clean, and is ever ready to renew our hearts when we repent of every offense. He suffered intensely for you and me. Can we not overlook the smallest infraction by a friend?

The criminal has no rest of conscience in constantly contemplating his being discovered. Many would find greater joy in confessing their faults and paying debt than in whiling away in constant fear. The sinner suffers no such dilemma. The King stands at the ready to forgive promptly and completely every sin confessed, and those unthought of sins unconfessed. We need only remove the shroud of false pride and bitterness, empty our hearts of hate, and come to Him seeking forgiveness in repentance. There is no cost to the sinner for such a benefit for the cost has already been paid by the King's Son. If you have resentment and hate in your heart growing from unforgiven offences, open you heart to the Dipper of Love in God's Hand and forgive all. Then you may have rest to your souls. Amen.

Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sermon

Bishop Dennis is a brilliant speaker. He is able to take biblical precepts and make them perfectly understandable, even to me. Oft he provides the text of his sermons and I take the utmost pleasure in passing them on:



God and Godliness

Psalm 32, Philippians 1:3-11, Matthew 18:21-35
Twenty -second Sunday after Trinity
November 4, 2011

It has truly been said that the longest journey begins with the first step. Sometimes we look at the spiritual journey to which God has called us, and, seeing it is long and difficult and filled with dangers, we shrink back from it, afraid to make such a commitment or to devote ourselves to such a seemingly impossible task.

In such times we need to remind ourselves that we cannot accomplish the entire journey in one mighty leap. We must take it one step at a time. Put one foot in front of the other, and keep on walking until we reach our Heavenly home.

It is also true that each step is a new beginning. It is a new chance to put one foot in front of the other, or to stop, quit, or turn back. Everyone knows we cannot reach our destination by quitting. Only those who continue the journey will reach the goal.

This is more true in spiritual things than in any other sphere of life. A writer may never achieve the goal of writing a great masterpiece, yet still have some measure of success. An architect may never achieve the goal of designing a great cathedral, yet still plan useful buildings for homes and businesses and churches. But in spiritual things there is no such thing as partial success. We either continue in Christ to the end, or we do not. We either follow our Lord to Heaven, or we allow the devil to take us to hell. Thus we

come to the point we are trying to draw from this morning's Scripture readings; continue in Godliness.

Philippians 1 commends the Church at Philippi for their fellowship in the Gospel. This fellowship is much deeper than simply believing the same doctrines and enjoying one another's company. It is a common participation in a way of life. It is consciously and intentionally uniting together in Christ. It is sharing life together as the people of God and body of Christ. It is intentionally allowing their fellow Christians to become a part of their lives, and intentionally becoming a part of the lives of other Christians. It is also having a compassionate and active concern for one another, similar to that which Christ has for them. One of the sad misunderstandings of contemporary evangelicalism is its neglect of the communal aspect of the faith. It has emphasised personal autonomy and personal salvation and personal relationships with God so much that the Church has been reduced to a voluntary association which we are free to take or leave according to our own convenience or preferences in music or style. In such thinking, the Biblical teaching of oneness in Christ is in danger of being reduced to a mere metaphor, or a spiritualized reference to the invisible Church.

According to scripture, the visible Church is a connected Church and the individual Christian is a connected Christian. The Church does not consist of autonomous Christians in independent churches associating with one another by choice. It is one body, the Body of Christ in which individual congregations and Christians are members of the organic whole.

Paul urges the Philippians to "abound yet more and more... till the day of Christ." He is telling them to continue in Godliness. They have made good start, but a good start is nothing unless they continue in Godliness.

Matthew 18 shows an important aspect of continuing in Godliness. We are to forgive as Christ has forgiven us. Forgiveness means to wipe the record clean of offences, and to treat others as though they have committed no offenses against you, and, as though there is nothing in their mannerisms that is offensive to you. Matthew 18 also shows us how to deal with serious offences and breeches of fellowship, and I urge everyone to read and practice our Lord's teaching there.

It is important to remember Christ was talking about our relationships within the Church. He was talking to Jews who were fellow members of the people of God. This does not mean we don't have to forgive unbelievers. But the Lord's concern here is the preservation of unity and harmony within the Church. Nor does forgiveness mean we are to allow ourselves to be assaulted with false doctrine and practice within the local church or denomination. If such things exist in our fellowship, we must make a serious, loving attempt to remedy them. If such attempts fail, we have no choice but to remove ourselves from them.

The main point here, today, is that we do not allow offences against us to prevent us from continuing in Godliness. We forgive offenses, and continue to place one foot in front of the other in the journey of faith.

There is no doubt about the difficulty of this. We grow weary of fighting the same battles and temptations over and over. We are saddened by the un-Godliness in our nation and world, and, of course, in ourselves. We grow tired of the burdens we carry, and when we see another problem coming toward us, we are tempted to move away like a horse that doesn't want to be ridden.

But it is not only the burdens and trials of life that tempt us to give up on God. It is more than even offenses committed against us by other Christians. The weight of our own sins, and the consequences of them in our daily lives deprives us of our joy in Christ, and tempts us to quit, rather than continue in Godliness. Psalm 32 addresses this. Written by David after his sin with Bathsheba, David recognizes that he has brought most of his problems upon himself. That is probably true of most of us. We follow our own desires, either unconcerned about the will of God, or convincing ourselves our sins will have no great effect on our lives and relationships, and in doing so we pile hot coals upon our heads. A person who habitually drives in a careless fashion will eventually lose the right to drive, one way or another. A person who refuses to do his job will find himself unemployed. A person who neglects the means of grace will, at best, find that the passing years bring him no closer to God, and may even find that his faith was a pretense all of those years, and now it is completely dead. As St. Paul wrote in Galatians 6:7, "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

I want to quickly address two other points of this Psalm. First, now is the time to devote yourself to continuing in Godliness. Now is the time to start putting one foot in front of the other and keep on walking until you reach Heaven. This is accomplished by recognizing and turning away from sin, and trusting in Christ. It is accomplished by diligence in prayer, worship, the Scriptures, the Church, and obedience in the everyday things of life. These are the steps on the journey of faith. Doing these things is the way we put one foot in front of the other and follow Jesus. I think we are sometimes like Naaman in that we want God to ask us to do some great mission and undertake some great quest for Him. Instead He tells us to go home and care for our families, mow the lawn, rake the leaves, cook the meals, earn our living, go to Church, read the Bible, pray with your family, and love one another. These are the small steps of daily continuing in Godliness.

The second point is, God will help you. In the first 8 verses of Psalm 32, David is speaking to God. Here David repents of his sin and commit his way unto God again. But in verse 9 God speaks to David. "I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go; and I will guide thee with mine eye." God is promising to help David. He is promising to teach David what He needs to know about living a life that is happy and fulfilling and avoids some the pits into which David has recently fallen. He makes the same promise to you. The Bible is His teaching, not only about how to get to heaven, but also about how to find meaning and joy in life again. It teaches you how to continue in Godliness. And all the means of grace I talk about so often, are the means by which God teaches and guides you now in this life. They lead you into the gladness and joy expressed in Psalm 32:12. That's a wonderful verse, but I think verse 11 is the great conclusion of the Psalm, and an appropriate closing to the sermon; "whoso putteth his trust in the Lord, mercy embraceth him on every side."

Father of all mercies, keep us in continual Godliness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

+Dennis Campbell

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Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon

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



Leave no room for the Devil. Be too busy for him. Have no time and no place for him. Vacant places invite him. The Devil loves a vacuum. A very busy person himself, he does his biggest business with those who have no business.

The Rev. E. M. Bounds– 19th and 20th century American pastor and author.

The Sermon – Fear

In our epistle lesson today (II St. Timothy 1:7) we read the apostle's admonition, For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. In the apostle John's first epistle (4:18), we find the following: There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. Now consider verse 10 of Psalm 111: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever. Atheists and agnostics are quick to grasp selected passages of Scripture because of their seeming paradoxical nature without seeking to learn their precise biblical meaning. Nevertheless, they will attach their own meaning to such passages, usually in an effort to repudiate the divine authenticity of the Bible, as well as to mischaracterize the Christian religion as nothing more than an ancient fable founded upon hypocrisy and inconsistency. What a load of rubbish!

We Christians were long ago warned by our apostolic fathers that there would be mockers, scoffers and heretics who would seek to undo the faith of even the elect. St. Peter wrote the following warning in his second epistle (3:3-4a) Knowing this first that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? And later in that chapter (vv. 15-16) the apostle wrote a stirring defense of St. Paul, whose writings the unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Twisting God's word is not something he takes lightly and he will judge in the strongest terms those who have misused his word written for their sordid purposes. Witness the words of the apostle John in Revelation, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life... (22:18-19).

Returning to the passages above concerning FEAR, let us reflect on what the Bible has to say about this word. First of all, we can define FEAR to be anything which causes us anxiety. We FEAR an economic meltdown because it might result in our being financially ruined. We FEAR criminal gangs because they interfere with our right to unhindered enjoyment of public spaces. We FEAR foreign interventions because they might result in a global war which will result in a horrendous loss of life, and, given our tenuous economic state, one which will likely upset the general framework of our public order. We FEAR the expansion of government control over our lives because it will diminish our privacy and impact negatively upon our rights and liberties as free persons. Yes, there is much we could add to our list of current and worldly fears.

In the Old Testament we learn that, as the psalmist noted (111:10), The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever. From this passage, FEAR is interpreted to mean having a healthy respect for God as our Supreme Judge. We are all under the curse of original sin, hence, we should be anxious because we tend toward sinful actions and thinking. God is to be thus feared for we are in danger of his eternal judgment. The law was given to make us aware of our sinful natures. Witness the apostle Paul's words in Romans (3:19-20), Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for the law is the knowledge of sin. It also provided a means for covering sin in order that the Old Testament saints might commune with God. Witness also the words of Moses in the book of Leviticus (16:30-34a), For on that day [the Day of Atonement] shall the priest make an atonement of you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD... And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year... Needless to say that time and again, the children of Israel violated God's law and lived in outright disobedience to his expressed will. In such a state, they had lost that godly fear which was necessary for their fellowship with him. And so, without a godly FEAR, they did not seek to be cleansed of their iniquities which in turn opened them up to God's wrath.

In the New Testament, God has called us through Christ Jesus to a perfect love of the Godhead which casts out FEAR. Through our Saviour, we have been justified and sanctified so that we have moved from FEAR to FAITH. We are to trust in the regenerating power of the Holy Ghost who guides us into all truth and, in the process, leads us to confess our sins and trespasses. On that account, that we are made right with our God who loves us. Consider the words of Moses as found in the book of Deuteronomy (6:4, 5) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: and thou shall love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. As Christians, our love of Jesus Christ brings us the love of God the Father. Faith, then, overcomes the natural tendency in us to FEAR the judgment of a righteous and holy God. Our Lord encourages us to consider him a friend as well as our Saviour. Witness also the words of our Lord as recorded in St. John's gospel (15:14-15), Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Hence forth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

The critic, the skeptic, and all others of the profane will not be satisfied with this or any other explanation because it will require them to recognize that there is a sovereign God whose laws are immutable, and whose judgments are sure and certain. If they should ever come to such an understanding of the Godhead, they will either have to accept him, and thus acquiesce to his will. Otherwise, they will persist in their rejection of him, much as the leaders of the Jews did during the time of our Lord's earthly ministry. If it be the latter, they will have much to FEAR!

The earthly and profane rulers of this world seek to instill FEAR into all who are subject to their control. That is basically how human government has perverted its duty to preserve righteousness and truth, and it is entirely demonic. The Devil seeks to imprison as many as he can with a spirit of FEAR because it is both crippling and debilitating. He and his minions wish for even the elect to live in such a state as it will

impair their communication of the gospel of truth to those who languish in the prison house of sin and degradation. We must not FEAR. We must do our duty. God has given us his word written to serve as a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. As Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson is reputed to have said, "The duty is ours the consequences are God's." Live, therefore, in obedience to Christ and live without fear knowing that all is in God's hands.

Let us pray,

FATHER, lead us by means of thy most blessed Spirit, that we might fulfil the works and duties which thou wouldest have us do; and give us hearts to love thee so that we might live without fear: knowing that we have a loving and caring God before us, and that our sins and trespasses are behind us; for these things we ask in the name of our Saviour and Friend, even 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 down the hill for lunch at the Greek Food restaurant that has raw hamburgers. Please someone, between now and next Sunday invent some no-carb dog nuts.

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
11 November 2012	Opportunity Available – Veterans Day - Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity
18 November 2012	Opportunity Available – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity
25 November 2012	Opportunity Available –Sunday next before Advent

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

No reported travel 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.

Marriage

Elizabeth and Gunnar will be married in a few more weeks. Pray they will find a way to come together in prayer and to seek a relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray they will find the wisdom to begin life together with Christ at the center and His Word as their daily bread.

Departed

Suz passed away this past week. Please pray for family members who remain behind.

Bob Burrell, for whom the Arnolds' valley is named, passed away 21 September 2012, at age 90. 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

Christine has cancer of the colon which spread to her liver; she is receiving chemotherapy and is having difficulty eating. Please pray for the medical team treating her to pay attention and do their very best; pray also for confidence in our Lord for Christine and her family.

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. She remains hospitalized, but seems to be making some progress.

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

George had foot surgery. Please give thanks for the surgery and pray for a full and rapid recovery.

Baby M. Sowry is having heart surgery. Please pray the medical team will pay attention and do their best. Pray for peace of mind for the entire family, as well as a good outcome.

Colleen has been battling pancreatic cancer over the last year and it has now spread to one of her lungs. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Nellie is in the emergency room of a hospital in a great deal of pain. Please pray for

peace of mind for her and guidance for the medical team looking for the cause and cure.

Liz Strauch has a pineal cyst, which is causing various problems for her, headaches, dizziness and distress. She has committed to having it drained on 4 December 2012. This is a difficult and concerning procedure. 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. He needs to radically decrease the consumption of alcohol and eat 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 2011. 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, Dru and Jack Arnold give thanks for safe travel this week.

Ralph and Hope DeLong give thanks for safe travel this week.

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
11 November 2012	Dru Arnold – Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity
18 November 2012	Dru Arnold – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity
25 November 2012	Dru Arnold – Sunday Next before Advent
2 December 2012	Dru Arnold – First Sunday in Advent

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

11 November 2012 – Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

18 November 2012 – Twenty-Fourth 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 November 2012 – Sunday Next before Advent – 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 December 2012 – First Sunday in Advent – 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 December 2012 – Second Sunday in Advent – 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 December 2012 – Third Sunday in Advent – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

23 December 2012 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – 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**

25 December 2011 – Christmas Day – 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**