



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

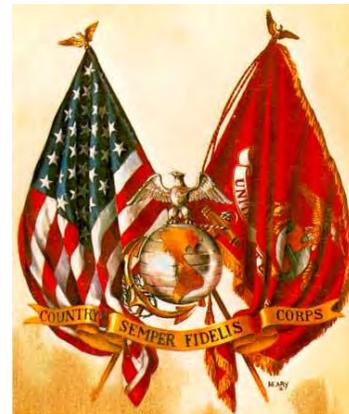
Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Report



Veterans Day

237th Birthday of the
United States
Marine Corps



Today was the Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity Sunday. We are in to fall now! Sunrise again brought the very bright sunny skies of a light Santa Ana typical of this time of year. Sunrise temperature was 28°F, which rose to about 50°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.

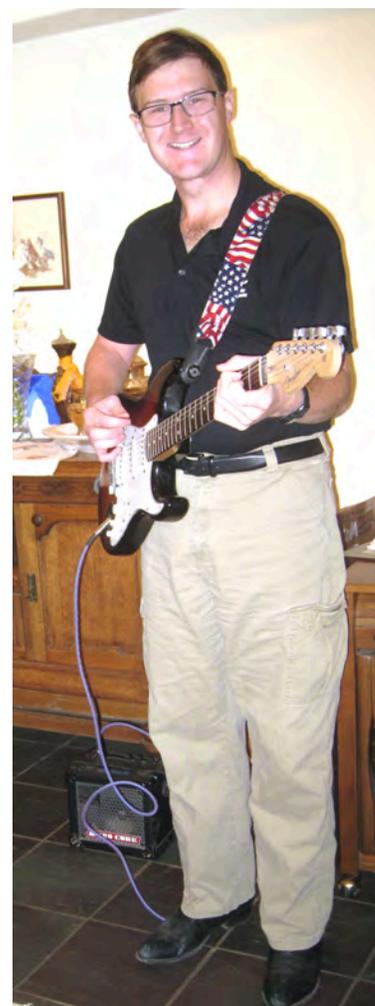
Amazing Grace

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.

Are you too tired to go to church?

While a resident of the Hanoi Hilton, Lieutenant Commander John McCain participated in a church service in 1971 in defiance of hotel rules which resulted in him spending most of a year in a camp reserved for "bad attitude" cases. He considered it a good investment.

Veterans Day – Guest Editorial

11 November is Veterans Day. It is TODAY. The Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month. Is not the first Monday in anything, it is not an occasion to sleep in or barbeque. It was originally Armistice Day, the day the Great War (World War I) ended. The armistice was signed on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month ending the War to End all Wars which took the lives of about 20 million people. We remembered that day until World War II, a war which took the lives of about 70 million people, not including the 25 million killed by the Soviets internally. In total, almost 100 million people lost their lives during the period of this war.

Our country has chosen this day, Armistice Day, to honor those who have served our country. This is not the same as Memorial Day, the last weekend in May, during which we honor those who have given their lives for our country.

On this day, we honor those who have and do serve our country: men and women who have stepped forward when their country called; some even before the call. We honor those who have put their country before themselves and families.

Sometimes we forget the sacrifices made by the families. It is one thing to be in combat, forward deployed or on TDY at Christmas. It is another to have your son, daughter, husband or wife gone.

We can tell you from personal experience that it is a lot easier to go to war than to send someone to war.

It is easy to think the country is going to hell, in or out of the proverbial hand basket. Yet, so far we have young people who step forward and fill the breach in the line. How long we know not, but still they come forward. While they come we are safe. When they stop, we fall.

LTC Hap and Captain Dru Arnold, USAF Retired



Semper Fly!



A Veteran's Day Message from Jerry L. Ogles, Presiding Bishop:

Our nation had its birth amidst the Thunder of Battle – Concord Township witnessed the sowing, into the soil of Freedom, the first blood of patriotism. Little did the Colonies, or the world, know what great sacrifices would be required, in blood, toil, and suffering, over the coming months to purchase that Freedom for which men must sacrifice and for which our Lord, as well, died to grant to all who believe on Him.



Those crosses at Arlington, Flanders' Field, and military cemeteries around the world represent the cost of freedom hard won. Each Cross, or Star of David, represents, not a lump of clay, but a patriotic soul who gave the last sacrifice that we may be honored to carry on in the tradition of Freedom, and Liberty, and Godly endeavor. Even if our freedoms were lost today, the dying of these valiant souls would not have been in vain. Even a short moment of freedom, once enjoyed, is worth more than centuries of serfdom. How precious is this freedom to the hearts of a Godly people! If we fail to lift the battle flag at the first signs of tyranny, the blood of our beloved soldiers, living and dead will thunder from the dust, and from the beloved mountains - east and west.

The services of such courageous defenders of our Liberties, both men and women, are not cheapened by their unworthy leaders that may have achieved high office. Though such unworthy leaders may cringe behind the masks of restraint and political intrigue, it is yet the soldier, seaman, and airman that must pay the price for their ineptitude.

As America stands poised on the brink of greater challenges to Liberty than previous generations, it is this danger; this challenge; this uncertainty that makes heroes out of the common farmer and seamstress. The prophet does not stand and proclaim until the moment that God calls, and the hero does not stand as hero until the circumstances warrant. I know that America has not seen the last of her heroic warriors for Liberty. I am personally acquainted with many sterling and precious young souls that will answer the call when the clarion sounds. Are you, too, ready?

As the favorite writer of my childhood, Rudyard Kipling, has prayed:

"For God and the soldier we adore, In time of danger, not before! The danger passed, and all things righted, God is forgotten and the soldier slighted."

I trust that this great country will soon come to remember the Almighty God whom they have slighted and repent in tears and weeping.

To all of our veterans, living and dead, I commend to you the words of General George Washington to our valiant ancestors in arms two hundred years ago:

"And being now to conclude these his last public Orders, to take his ultimate leave, in a short time, of the Military Character, and to bid a final adieu to the Armies he has so long had the honor to Command--he can only again offer in their behalf his recommendations to their grateful Country, and his prayers to the God of Armies. May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of Heaven's favors both here and hereafter attend those, who under the divine auspices have secured innumerable blessings for others."

AMEN

237th Birthday of the
United States Marine Corps
No better friend, no worse enemy



On 10 November 1775, Captain Samuel Nicholas formed two battalions of Continental Marines at Tun's Tavern in Philadelphia as naval infantry in accordance with a resolution of the Continental Congress. They were to "be able to serve to advantage by sea when required" and "that they be distinguished by the names of the first & second battalions of American Marines."

No better friend: someone who will kill to protect you; someone who will give their life for you; someone who will be right there in your times of trouble and, thinking of you and your problems, will sacrifice so that you might get through your problem.

No worst enemy: someone who will not hesitate to destroy you even if that means destroying himself in the process; someone who will chase you down to the ends of the earth to extract revenge; someone who will cause you blood and tears and smile when it happens.

With a Marine as your friend, you have a person who will kill to protect you. With a Marine as your enemy, you have a person who will kill you. Pretty simple, huh?

The concept comes from the epitaph of Lucius Cornelius Sulla, famous general and legendary dictator of ancient Rome:

"No friend ever served me, and no enemy ever wronged me, whom I have not repaid in full."

Happy 237th Birthday, USMC!

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-Third Sunday after Trinity can be found on Page 222-223:

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity *The Collect.*

O GOD, our refuge and strength, who art the author of all godliness; Be ready, we beseech thee, to hear the devout prayers of thy Church; and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually; 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 Seventeenth Verse of the Third Chapter. Writing to the church in Philippia, Paul asks them to watch whom they follow, "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, ... that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things." He reminds us of our ultimate goal, of that which for us should have the principal place in our minds, "For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed unto the body of his glory, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself."



Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed unto the body of his glory, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself.

Hap Arnold read the Holy Gospel which came from the Twenty-Second Chapter of the



Gospel according to St. Matthew beginning at the Fifteenth Verse. Like many people today, the Pharisees took much comfort in the fact that they followed The Law to The Letter. Not looking to what the law was trying to get them to do and to think, but rather following The Law to The Letter. Jesus presented a threat to their very existence, because he asked the people to do what God willed, not to simply cook their food a certain way, or turn down an invitation to a luau because they served roast pig and drank Bud. Being good followers of The Law to The Letter, they sought to trip Him up. "...they sent out unto Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, 'Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest

not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?" Having for so long lived The Law to The Letter, believing The Kingdom of God would be of this world, they could not see the obvious response. They were absolutely floored when Jesus said, "Shew me the tribute money." With no thought of the answer, "they brought unto him a penny." Jesus asked them, "Whose is this image and superscription?" Again playing the straight man, walking into the trap they had set for themselves, they answered, "Caesar's." Driving his point straight into their hearts, he told them, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

This ended the encounter, "they marvelled, and left him, and went their way."

Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Cæsar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Cæsar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

Sermon – Rev Deacon Jack Arnold – Time and Action

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity

The Collect.

O God, our refuge and strength, who art the author of all godliness; Be ready we beseech thee to hear the devout prayers of thy Church; and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Collect says Our God is the author of all perfection; we ask him to be ready, to hear our sincere prayers: He may answer those things which are good for the Church and the world that we ask and that from His Grace we may receive those things which are good for us.



On this Veteran's Day, I realized God has used godly men to our prayers for our freedom to be kept, by laying down their lives for ours. No greater love could be found in the world, than those men who died in the Pacific and the European theatres of World War II, in Vietnam, in the Gulf War, 1 and 2, and Afghanistan, in World War I, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, the Mexican-American War, the War of 1812 and finally the American Revolution.

Through a sense of godliness, these men went to battle on our behalf, as Christ battled Satan on our behalf. These men did not just go into battle with the godliness, they prayed hard for them, they prayed for each minute just to stay alive, especially in the hellholes of the Pacific. The danger they faced were far more perilous than the ones we face today. We overcame the enemy, not only because of our superior tactics, but we had men ready and willing to take the enemy on and do our best to prevail, and that followed God.

A lot of the men knew the truth of St. Paul's epistle, about following God and not being dependent on man for their spiritual help. The courage they had is a clear showing of God shining through their examples; examples we as a people should endeavor to follow. We should pray to follow these men's good example and become in a way, through God, should we be so lucky to be in the end as quality of men as they were.

In the Epistle, St. Paul tells the Philippians to follow God and not be dependent on man, as so many in this country are now. The problem he explains with many, who claim they are followers of Christ, but don't walk the walk, is they are selfish and only think of themselves. Unlike our veterans, who not only talked the talk, but walked the walk, often with the price of their lives. This he warns them will lead them onto a path of doom and destruction. And also, he talks about how the enemies of Christ glory in our shame, but this will be their undoing in the end also. We are not to worry, but rather lean on Our Lord, even in these times of trials and tribulations, some of which we have yet to face. We realize that our citizenship is in heaven, from which we look to Our Saviour. If we are on the side of righteousness, of the Lord, of godliness, then who are we to fear?

Nobody; save a respectful fear of Our God.

We will not bow before the forces of darkness, but rather stand tall, equipped with the armor of light, the shield of truth, and the helmet of faith. We will give those in authority the respect that they are due as tradition, but we will not be dependent upon them for our every need and whim. We are to turn to God, if we are to be dependant on anything, it must be God upon whom we are dependant

Which brings us to the point of the Gospel, in which Christ tells the Pharisees of how they are to deal with the problem of tribute to Caesar. They have no love for the Roman Government, as we have very little love for ours, I might confess at this moment in time. However, Christ reminds them to separate their hatred of the government, and due the right thing. As we must give God his due (our prayers), we must give the government their due (taxes, etc.), but this does not mean that we treat the government as demi-gods, to put it one way, like politicians often think of themselves. But rather that, we give them what they are owed, no more and no less. The Pharisees were trying to trick Christ to say that you must honor one or the other, when you can do both. We should be serving God and not man, however, that does not mean that we do not have to pay our dues to the government that rules us. It is only through God's grace that he allows government to rule over man. The government we have was established with recognition that it serves at His pleasure. Its constitution establishes that people have rights endued them by their Creator, not the government. It is with the authority of the people that the government serves. It must exist to serve the people and God. It is not to be a self-licking ice cream cone.

The Collect, Epistle and Gospel tie together, laying out, detailing and reinforcing the same message, ultimately. We have to respect the authorities that govern us, no matter how we disagree or dislike them, and conduct ourselves like Christians. However, that does not mean that we replace the rule of God with the rule of Man. Man's laws should merely be a restatement of God's laws, not to replace God's laws.

Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

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 Our Home

Psalm 33, Philippians 3:17-21, Matthew 22:15-22
Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity
November 11, 2012

I cannot think of a more timely and appropriate passage of Scripture than those specified for today in our Prayer Book. America has just come through another exhausting election. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent. Hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel have been burned. Thousands of ink cartridges have been emptied and sent to "landfills," and countless kilowatts of electricity have

been consumed, all in the attempt to convince us which candidates are most qualified to save us money. And, of course, countless tons of mud were thrown. Now that it is over, a sense of exasperation has settled over our country as we have come to the realization that we are deeply divided, and, no matter who is elected president, half of us don't want him. It is a good time to be reminded that our home is in God, and no matter what direction America takes, we will be all right.

I think the very first thing we can gather from our Bible readings is that it is lawful to "render unto Caesar." The Bible makes it clear that civil government is one of the ways God blesses humanity. Romans 13:1 tells us government is ordained of God. The book of Judges, after recounting the disintegration of the Hebrew nation, and the vice and civil and moral relativism into which it had fallen, says in 17:6, "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did what was right in his own eyes." There was no ruler to protect the rights of the people. So the strong preyed on the weak, and the rich oppressed the poor. Each person made up his own rules, and they often allowed him to do evil things to others. Returning to Romans 13:1 we read, "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers," meaning, the civil rulers. According to Romans 13:4, government is a minister of God, even Caesar. Corrupt as the Roman system was at that time, our Lord said, "render unto Caesar."

This brings us to the very point of government, its job, its reason for existing; it exists to defend the rights of the people. Romans 13:3 says it exists to be a terror to evil. It exists to give us a way to address crimes and grievances against us, without having to resort to vigilantism and personal vengeance. It allows the people to band together for common defense which prevents the strong from taking advantage of the weak, or enriching themselves by oppressing others. Revelation chapters 5-11 chronicle the breakdown of government in Jerusalem during its siege and destruction by the Romans in 70 A.D. As the rule of law disintegrated, criminal gangs took over, robbing and killing at will. It appears that people had a choice of three ways to die in those days. If they had food, they could die by murder because one of the criminal gangs would kill them for it. If they didn't have food, they could starve. Or they could try to escape from the city, which meant certain capture and crucifixion by the Romans. Government exists to prevent such horrors.

But not all government is good government. Even government that is chosen by the people is not always good. Wasn't Hitler was elected? In 1 Samuel 8 we read some of the evil things a government can inflict upon people. Referring to the king Israel asked for, Samuel warned, he will take your sons and daughters to be his servants. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and oliveyards. He will take your best livestock and the best of your land and claim it for his own, "and ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye have chosen" (1 Samuel 8:10-22). Many people today live under oppressive governments which prove the truth of Samuel's words.

It seems to me that I see two primary ways by which governments are established. The first, I would call government from above. By this method government is imposed upon people by those stronger than they. Any who opposed them were either killed or escaped to another area. The second I would call government from below. In this method the people band together for mutual defense and benefit. The rulers are subject to the will of the people, who, in theory, retain the power and authority of government.

The United States was formed as a government from below, but so was that of the former Soviet Union. Thus we see that even the best intentions can result in bad

government. Many of the governments from below were established on a form of utopianism, which attempted to establish a perfect world, or, at least, a perfect society. Some of them have been good, others, not so good, but none have created utopia.

This brings up an important point; even the best governments devised by man are run by people who share all the human frailties and limitations. Even the best governments have their problems, and prove the truth of the view that government is a necessary evil. Therefore it is important to see that our hope can never ultimately reside in government because our hope cannot ultimately reside in man.

Our hope resides in Christ. His is the one perfect government because He is the one perfect Governor. As a Ruler, He has no sin, nor is He susceptible to temptation. As the owner of all things, He has no need to manipulate His government for personal gain. He rules for the good of His people, and His Kingdom is the Kingdom of Peace.

His government does exist here on earth now. It exists in the hearts of people of many nations and races and backgrounds. It is not characterized by capital cities, geographical boundaries, or any of the structures that characterize governments devised by people. His government is the government of Heaven. Those who are citizens of His Kingdom actually have their citizenship in Heaven, in a place where corruption, crime, discord, and oppression are unknown. There are no frantic elections there, no concerns about the next ruler, no coups, no rebellions, no recessions, no wars, poverty, hunger, or bailouts. All is peace and goodness forever.

We actually have a glimpse of this in the fourth and fifth chapters of the book of Revelation. There we see God seated on His throne in perfect peace. On earth the tempests rage, wars and famines consume their victims, and the kings of earth make war on God's people. But their cursings and fightings cannot touch God. Nor can they harm those who have been gathered into Heaven. Chapter 6 shows the martyrs who died for the testimony, the faith, which they held. Where are they? Secure and safe under the throne of God. No more harm can reach them. They rest from their labours and enjoy the wonders of Heaven forever.

Your destiny, if you are in Christ, is with them. Your citizenship transcends that of any nation you may be a part of here on earth. You are united with countless others whose home is in God Himself, and will one day take you to be with Him in glory forever. Meanwhile you can be a good citizen of your earthly nation. You can and should give all due honour to its laws and rulers. You should pray and work for its peace and prosperity. You should do all for it that can be done that is in agreement with the teachings of Scripture. And you can hope and pray that its government will be good government that will allow you to live in freedom and peace. And, by God's grace, good government is not dead in America. By God's grace America can be better and do better, and will survive in some form in spite of our imperfections and problems. But we who are Christ's need to remember always that our hope is not in government, or even in America. Our hope, like our home, is in God.

+Dennis Campbell, Bishop
Anglican Orthodox Church Diocese of Virginia
Rector, Holy Trinity Anglican Orthodox Church
Powhatan, Virginia
www.HolyTrinityAnglicanOrthodoxChurch.org
www.lifeinthescrptures.blogspot.com

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, expound the truth and live the truth. This is really a good piece and I commend it to your careful reading.

In St. Matthew's gospel account (22:15-22), our Lord was tempted by the Pharisees and the Herodians to speak against paying taxes to Rome. They attempted to bait him into making a seditious comment in the hope that the imperial governor, Pontius Pilate, would order his arrest. Nevertheless, as he had done on other occasions, our Lord perceived their thoughts saying, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?, and afterward said, Shew me the tribute money. Now the coin that the Pharisees and Herodians presented to him bore the image of Tiberius Caesar. When our Lord asked them whose image was upon the coin, they almost gleefully replied, Caesar's, to which he gave them the now famous response of, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

There can be no question that we are to render unto God that which is his due: more particularly to love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are also expected to pay our taxes and to do all that is lawful under the rubrics of our order of governance. Our Lord did not say render unto Caesar on certain occasions, or if we feel like it. We are expected to, as St. Paul stated in our epistle lesson (Romans 13:7), render... tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour... is due; for in so doing, we will seek to live peaceably within our communities— avoiding any action which will bring opprobrium upon the gospel. Thus, paying our taxes, and doing our duty to the state is something that our Lord would have us do, particularly if that government has been of good character and has operated per its founding principles.

Our Lord did not raise the specter of rebellion against the Roman authorities because that was not his purpose. As he told the temple guards who had come to seize him in the Garden of Gethsemane, Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be (St. Matthew 26:53-54)? And to Pilate he said, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence (St. John 18:36). Our Lord came to seek and save the lost. He came to die for our sins and rise again. His revolution, if you choose to call it that, was to gain the promised victory for all his saints over the world, the flesh and the devil. And that he did. He did not come to lead a violent and bloody clash with the armies of Rome. He counseled peace and obedience within the existing governmental framework but only so long as it did not conflict with God's word.

Returning to Romans 13 the apostle supplied the reason for our rendering unto Caesar: Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil... Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake (vv.1-7). But does this mean that

we must be obedient in the face of tyranny? Recently, Robert Hawes attempted to address such concerns in his article entitled Higher Powers wherein he offered the following:

"The first thing I would like to point out to people... who think Christians should obey government officials no matter what because they are the higher powers, is that there is another, yet higher power... the Constitution of the United States. This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land (Article VI, Section 1). It is from the Constitution that our elected officials, both federal and state, derive their office and legitimate powers. Their powers are delegated... they are limited to the specific areas of authority... (see the 9th and 10th Amendments). Further, our elected officials are bound by oath or affirmation to support the Constitution and its provisions, including the limitations placed upon their own powers... Thus, in taking up the powers and responsibilities of political office, our elected officials are also agreeing to place themselves under the law. This is one of the foundational ideas of the American political system: the concept that everyone is under law and equal in its eyes. For this reason, if government officials violate the Constitution, their actions are illegal and void of authority, and they are no better than common criminals. It is absolutely critical that Christians understand this when they contemplate their relationship to the government. Our elected officials are not the source of their own power; rather, they are representatives who have been entrusted with the authority of the American people as set forth in the United States Constitution. If they violate that trust, they are as much criminals as the guy who robs your local 7-11 store... Consider Article IV, Section 6: The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence... The moment that martial law is declared, the federal government will have stepped outside of its sphere of lawful powers. In fact, in a very real way it will have conducted a revolution, as it will have overthrown the legitimate government of the Constitution by force of arms... the Apostle Paul [argued] that Christians should support the higher powers because government is ordained by God to be a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, [St.] Paul tells us, but for evil, after which he admonishes us... Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. So what then of a government which, instead of punishing evil, actually practices evil itself? [Could the apostle] have been suggesting that Christians should view the evil actions of a lawless power as somehow bearing the approval of God? Can a Christian either condone or submit to evil doings for conscience' sake? Is it possible to do good by sanctioning, submitting to, or participating in evil? As [St.] Paul himself was fond of saying, God forbid!"

To Mr. Hawes' comments I can give a hearty AMEN. Our Lord did not condone evil, but rather rebuked such at every turn, and we are to do so as well. God has given us this land of liberty as a gift and we should do all we can to preserve it. If we choose not to act, then we are in essence abdicating our God-given freedoms to the forces of tyranny. We cannot proclaim liberty throughout all the land if we are not willing to stand up for our rights.

I have heard it said that Romans 13 pronounces an absolute prohibition against resistance, even to a tyrannical government. Adolf Hitler thought so for such was his favorite Bible passage. But while tyrants and dictators love this particular biblical doctrine, they conveniently forget (and hope that you will as well) that everything within it speaks to the positive of what government ought to be. Consider the following verses: For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: (v.3) for he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil (v.4). These are hardly words in support of evil and tyranny in government. Nevertheless, I have read the works of even the most well-intentioned folk that should our government become tyrannical, we would still be required under the apostle's teaching to be obedient to it for conscience sake (v.5b). Such would be a personal decision, but one to which I do not subscribe principally because it is unbiblical. For if one acquiesces to tyranny, one is therefore in agreement with it and will suffer God's condemnation. For just as approval-by-participation is sin, so approval-without-action is just as much as a sin (see Romans 1:32).

Last week our country held elections for both federal, state and local offices, and these will affect us for many years to come. Nonetheless, we ought always to keep our hearts and minds turned toward God. We should lean on his everlasting arms. We should, as part of our regular prayer life, lay before him our cares and concerns including those regarding our politics. Do not be afraid to petition God because that is what he expects. Therefore, render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's.

Let us pray,

FATHER, you have given us this land of liberty as a haven from tyranny and wickedness; we humbly beseech thee to grant us a spirit of revival that this people might return unto thee, and that you would hear from heaven and heal our land; for this we ask in the name of him who is the author of all liberty, peace and justice, even Jesus Christ. 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 had breakfast at home. Best seen to date! Please someone, between now and next Sunday invent some no-carb dog nuts.

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
18 November 2012	Opportunity Available – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity
25 November 2012	Opportunity Available – Sunday next before Advent
2 December 2012	Opportunity Available – First Sunday in Advent
9 December 2012	Opportunity Available – Second Sunday in Advent
16 December 2012	Opportunity Available – Third Sunday in Advent
23 December 2012	Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday in Advent
25 December 2012	Opportunity Available – Christmas Day

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!

O LORD God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray thee, thine almighty arm to strengthen and protect the Veterans and armed forces of our country. Support them in the day of battle and in the time of peace keep them safe from all evil: endue them with courage and loyalty; and grant that all things they may serve without reproach; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hurricane Sandy

Please pray for all those affected by Hurricane Sandy; for the more than 50 people who lost their lives, for hundreds injured, for the tens of thousands whose homes and businesses were destroyed. Pray that they might return their lives and world to a sense of normalcy and peace. Give them strength to rebuild their places in the world and the understanding that they and their friends and associates need to do the heavy lifting and not look to government.

Travel

Rev Rick Reid, of our church in Statesville, North Carolina, *and his family* are traveling to visit his father and let her get to meet his newest granddaughter, Casey Anna Reid (age six months). Please pray for safe travel.

Hap Arnold is on 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.

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

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.

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.

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)

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
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

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**