



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

# Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday Report



Today was the Fourth Sunday in Advent, the period including the four Sundays before Christmas; the first Sunday of which is always the nearest Sunday to the feast of St. Andrew (30 November). Advent is a season of preparation and penitence. We prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of Jesus at Christmas, but we also look forward to his second coming. The liturgical color for this season is purple reminding us of the Kingship of Jesus and that Advent is also a season of penitential preparation.

This weekend, we have had some odd frontal weather, just like last year. Weekend weather has been pretty frontal, with fast moving, but weak, cold fronts moving through. The year has been much colder than before. Thanks be to God for global warming; we are nearly being overrun by mastodons 😊 A few degrees colder and they would have us all. Overnight it was 31°F, with a sunrise temperature of 37°F on Mount Olympus with cloudy skies and variable winds. The start of church brought a lovely 47°F. Even though the weather was marginal, we had three people for the service nonetheless.

## *Gathering Song*

Just in the nick of time, we got Deacon Jack to play our favorite Advent hymn, *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*, for the gathering song.

## ***Come, thou long-expected Jesus***

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art:  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.



Pretty cool that Jack sight reads music and at the last minute was able to just sit down and play this on the organ for the very first time. We are blessed!

## *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. If you have a hard time remembering, "Do I read the Collect from last Sunday or next Sunday during the week?" Remember Sunday is the first day of the week. There are also two Bible readings, the Epistle and the Gospel. While they are "lessons", they are not the First Lesson and the Second Lesson, they are the Epistle and the Gospel. 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 our minister or 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 Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

The Propers are found on Page 95-96, with the Collect first:

### **The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

*The Collect.*

**O** LORD, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent is on Page 90:

### **The First Sunday in Advent**

*The Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. *Amen.*

¶ This Collect is to be repeated every day, after the other Collects in Advent, until Christmas Day.

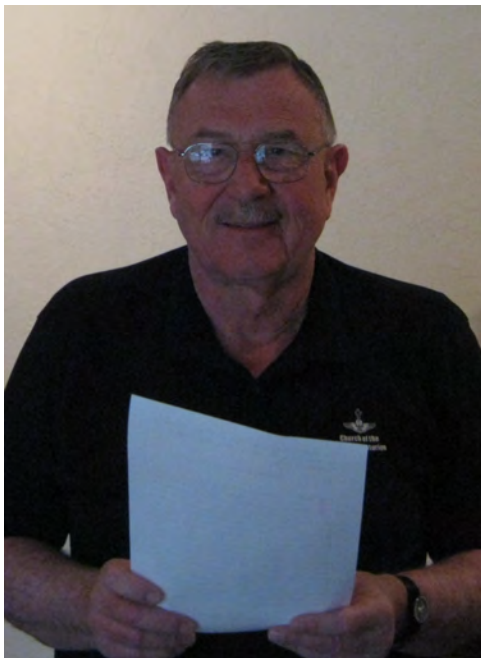
Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from Paul's first letter to the Philippians, starting at the Fourth Verse of the Fourth Chapter.

Paul calls on us to "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." We are to lead the world to Christ by example, to "Let (y)our moderation be known unto all men." In this Advent season, as always, "The Lord is at hand." We are to worry about nothing, "but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Be joyful in all things, not for all things. And in the words we find at the end of the Holy Communion Service, may "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Or to quote another, "Trust in God and Dread Naught."



**R**EJOICE in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Hap Arnold read today's Holy Gospel which came from the Gospel according to Saint John, the First Chapter, beginning at the Nineteenth Verse. When they heard rumor of John the Baptist, Jews wondering if this might be the Messiah, sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who art thou?" John told them, "I am not the Christ." Then, they cast about for who he might be, "Art thou Elias?"



Confounded, they asked, "Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias." The Pharisees people were somewhat confused and asked, "Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?" John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; he it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to

unloose."

Interestingly, the same theme is found over and over, as is oft the case with truth. There are those among us who just plain will not see. For, there are none so deaf as those who will not hear and none so blind as those who will not see.



**T**HIS is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; he it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

### *Sermon – Reverend Deacon Jack Arnold - Time and Action*

Today's sermon brought the Collect, Epistle and Gospel together and is partly contained in the forewords above.



As is oft the case, today's propers are all tied together. The Collect asks for God's help for us to accept His Help and do it His Way. That is a thought that permeates or at least should permeate our entire lives. It is oft supposed Christians are dour souls, with no sense of happiness or humor. Perhaps this thought comes from those who have heard what the Bible says, filtered through some odd prism, but have never actually read it. After all, the one said to be the most dour of all, Paul, tells us to be happy. Not just happy, but to REJOICE. REJOICE in the Lord ALWAYS and AGAIN I say REJOICE! How much more fun can you have? We are also to be moderate in everything we do, no excesses, an even keel. Work hard, but maintain a time and space for our family, honor

our country, and above all honor God. He goes on to tell us if we think we need something, simply ask God for it! Speaking of God, John recounts John the Baptist's role in preparing the way for Jesus. The Pharisees just had trouble with the simplicity of his message. They were looking for something more complex, less straightforward, something more like themselves.

They were a case of no play, all work and led a rather unbalanced life. We are told to balance ourselves with play besides work, to make us into a happier people that will rejoice in God's commandments and will do His Work without complaint. We will be happier in the end if we do it His Way instead of our way as we are so want to do, which is in our nature. The whole of Scriptures is about us fighting against our nature so that we will be closer to what God intended us to be, a happy and holy people, living together in harmony. If the world would do what God asked, we would be living

together in harmony. Peace on earth will not be possible until the world accepts Him into their hearts. This is the perfect season for those who haven't yet, to accept Him, to acknowledge Him at his first true appearance amongst us, at His Birth.

Jesus also tells us to put our trust in the Lord, then not to worry. He knows how counterproductive, indeed how destructive worry can be in our lives. We know it will do no good, we know it will only hurt our cause; yet we do it. Is this not a proof positive of how much we need His Help? How hard is it to Trust in God and Dread Naught? Very, yet to make progress this we must do. Even though it is very hard to trust somebody you can't see physically, you must trust your spiritual sense and follow Him anyway, knowing that you will see Him physically one day, will be one of our great rewards.

The world is extremely complex; it is full of problems, temptations and difficulties. It is full of obstacles for us, yet all Christianity offers is a few simple solutions. We often hear that there are no simple answers to complex questions. Actually, that is not true. There are simple answers to complex problems, they are the only ones that work. The problem is they are not the answers people want. Most people do not want to know what they are supposed to do, lest they have to do it. They want to be told that what they want to do is at least okay, even though it is clearly not okay.

Once again, when you think about being a Christian, think a bit about these quotes from GK Chesterton:

- "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried."
- "The word "good" has many meanings. For example, if a man were to shoot his grandmother at a range of five hundred yards, I should call him a good shot, but not necessarily a good man."
- "The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people."
- "Tolerance is the virtue of the man without convictions."
- "A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it."

G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

We are called to a new and different life, we ask the Lord to lead us and follow us, to keep us always. Our goal is to do the Lord's will, not to avoid 613 laws. To do what is right and be humble.

**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:



#### **What the Bible Says about Us**

Psalm 80, Isaiah 40:1-11, Luke 3:1-17

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23, 2012

We always need to keep in mind the Bible's primary message is "God." It is about who God is, what He is like, what He is doing, and what His purpose and goal for creation is. So, in today's reading, as well as the readings in the other Sundays in Advent, the message is not about Zechariah, Elizabeth, or John, so much as it is about what God was doing through them to fulfill His purpose of bringing all things together in Christ. We saw, on the First Sunday of Advent, that John was promised by God as the one who would prepare the way of the Lord. Last Sunday we read of the birth of John as the fulfillment of God's promise to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and also as part of the fulfillment of the much greater Promise to send the Saviour, under whom all things will be gathered together. Today we see God using John in the work for which he was born; preparing the way of the Lord, and calling the people of Israel back to God. So, I want to emphasize that the Bible is about God, but, I don't want to give the impression that people are just props in a Divine Soliloquy. People are part of God's plan, which means God's plan is partly about us. That means the Bible, too, is partly about us. So, using John as an example, I want to talk about what the Bible says about us.

First, the Bible says we are created by God. Genesis 1 makes it very clear that the earth was created to be populated by people. We were no after thought, we were part of God's purpose for His creation. But it is not just people who were created, it was persons. The Bible gives many instances of individual persons being born because God planned and intended them to be. John was one of these persons. John was no accident of blind chance. John was foretold and foreknown by God. He was born to parents past child bearing age. John was a miracle child. But, and this is important, every child is a miracle child. Every child is foreseen and foreknown by God. Before we were conceived, and even before the world was formed, God knew us. We were in God's mind and plan from the beginning. You were no after thought. You were no accident. God knew you before He formed you in the womb.

Second, we are created for a purpose. Let me put it another way, God has a purpose for you. Your life has meaning. You exist for more than simply accumulating toys and gratifying your mental pride and physical desires. Millions of people today spend the bulk of their time and energy trying to "find" themselves. They are looking for an identity and purpose. They are looking for their "passion." Sometimes they look in the craziest places; drugs, toys, amusements, cults, radical causes, self indulgence, or fornication. Yet, after they have indulged every whim and passion, they find they still have an emptiness inside of them. They have not "found themselves."

Not everyone runs amuck in their quest for self. Some people look in more traditional places, like love, marriage, children, meaningful work, and being a "good" person. These people also find an emptiness inside of them that their carefully crafted identities cannot fill. So they continue to search, or they simply resolve to live with the

emptiness.

I think I see something in their quest. I see in it an explicit confession of one of the Bible's foundational teachings about man; they are lost. People are desperately trying to find themselves because they know, deep inside, that they have lost themselves. What they don't know is that they have lost themselves because they have lost God. They are strangers and aliens to God and His ways. But, rather than seeking God, they look for hope and meaning in things that cannot give them. They do not understand what St. Augustine meant when he said; "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless til we find our rest in Thee."

According to the Bible, your life has meaning and purpose already. You don't have to find it, invent it, or create it. It is given to you by One far wiser than yourself, who knows your needs, and wants better things for you than you can ask or think. Your purpose is to receive and return the love of God. The One who is omnipotent, omniscient, eternal, and Holy, created you to receive and return His love.

How do we return the love of God? By doing His will. When we see John in today's reading, we see him doing the will of God. He is serving God and God's people. But notice that it is not only "ministers" who serve God. All people are called to serve Him in every area of life. When the everyday people asked John what they should do, they were instructed to turn from sin and bring forth fruit worthy of repentance. Publicans, or, tax collectors, were told to gather only what was fair and required, rather than stealing to enrich themselves. Soldiers were told not to abuse civilians, or plunder like pirates. Instead they were to uphold the law and maintain the peace. So even our occupations are opportunities to serve God.

I see in these verses a call that encompasses all people. It begins with the faithful Jewish believers, the ones who do their jobs and care for their families and go to synagogue. They are the people of verse 10. It moves to the marginal Jews, the tax collectors who work for the Roman conquerors. They need to do righteousness too, even in their work. Then it moves to those on the far fringe. They were either Jews who had enlisted in the Roman army, or Gentiles soldiers who had come to Judaism or were attracted by the preaching of John, and wanted to know if it was possible to serve in the Roman army and still serve God. John's answer is to come back to the center. Don't stay on the fringes. Repent of sin. Let your heart be changed for God. Love Him, love His people, and prepare for the Advent of the Saviour. So the call to serve God in all of life is not just for clergy or "saints," it is for all people, and it is your purpose and calling in life.

Third, we need to be enabled to serve God. There is something about us, about our nature, that inclines us away from God. Some call this our sinful nature. Some call it our Adamic nature, meaning the human nature we have inherited from our parents, back to the very beginning. Some call it our natural fallenness. I prefer to call it what our Anglican Articles of Religion call it, "Original Sin." Article IX says Original Sin is the "fault and corruption of the Nature of every man... whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and is of his own nature inclined to evil." These words are a very brief summary of a very involved Biblical doctrine, but it is expressed well in verses like 1 Corinthians 2:14; "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

When John came preaching, "repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 3:2), he was addressing the need to have our natural inclination toward sin repaired. Repentance is to have a new mind and a new way of life. It is to be turned around, so

that instead of going away from God we begin to walk toward Him. More correctly, it is to be turned from a life-style of living apart from God, to a life-style of living in God. So John's call to repent is actually a call to let God renew and re-make your mind and your being, so you will be able to believe in Him in faith and follow Him in faithfulness.

Our Lord called this being "born again" (John 3:16). The Apostle Paul called it being quickened, or being made alive in Christ (Eph. 2:1). He also called it being renewed in your mind. I like the word, "regeneration." Paul used it in Titus 3:5, which tells us we are not saved by "works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost." I like the word "regeneration" because it reminds me of the Lord's words in Matthew 19:28; "Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Regeneration here refers to the new heavens and new earth, the renewal of creation and its restoration to its original condition as it came from the hand of God in the beginning. When Paul wrote of our regeneration he referred to our being restored to the original goodness and fellowship with God, which man had in paradise. That is what man needs. That is what God is doing in the lives of His people. That is His goal for you.

So the Bible has much to say about us. We were created by God. We were created to love Him and to receive His love. And because of our sin and natural corruption we need to be regenerated so we can be restored to the fellowship and purpose for which God created us. Thanks be to God, Christ is all about restoring us to God.

O Lord, our God, grant unto us true repentance and Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be wheat gathered into Thy garner, and bring forth fruit worthy of repentance, through Christ our Saviour. 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, expound the truth and live the truth. This is really a good piece and I commend it to your careful reading.



### **Sermon for the Fourth Sunday in Advent**

In our epistle lesson (Philippians 4:4-7) we find the apostle Paul encouraging the church at Philippi to rejoice in the Lord always and in all things with thanksgiving. Unfortunately in today's world, many do not rejoice in the Lord on a daily basis. They focus on their ills and difficulties instead of giving God the glory for what they have already received from his hands. There is an old expression that was made into a hymn entitled Count your many blessings, see what God has done.



The Scriptures are our guide to a life of fellowship with the LORD. In Leviticus 23:40 we read, ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God... In Deuteronomy 26:11 we learn that we should, ...rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee... In Psalm 5:11 we learn of God's expectation for us: But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

In St. Luke 6:23, our Lord spoke these words of comfort to all who would suffer oppression: Rejoice ye in that day and leap for joy: for, behold your reward is great in heaven... He also spoke of rejoicing because our names are written in heaven (St. Luke 10:20). And we are to rejoice because as Christians, we have an invitation to the greatest feast ever as noted in Revelation 19:7, Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come...

The true worshipers of God will willingly rejoice in the free gift of salvation which comes by means of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Those who are his will not question his grace. They will not stand skeptically, at a distance, examining with clinical coldness the gift which has been given. Only those who have not received the gift in their hearts will question its validity because as St. Paul noted in I Corinthians 2:14, But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

And while it is natural for us to rejoice when our enemies run into trouble. We are warned not to do so. Examine Proverbs 24:17: Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth. God knows who are his now as well as those who will come to him in the future. But we have not been given to know such things. In that light, we should not cheer at the downfall of an enemy today because tomorrow, if God wills, he or she might become a brother or a sister in Christ. It is better to let God judge. For if, in his judgment, they fall and we are preserved it should be enough for us. His will and pleasure has no rival as he is sovereign. For if those who meant us harm are eventually regenerated, then it would be sinful on our part to either wish them ill or rejoice over their errors and misfortunes.

Truly God desires that we rejoice when one has turned from evil and become a brother or a sister in Christ. God is merciful and not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance ( II St. Peter 3:9). As our Lord said, I say unto you that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than the ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance (St. Luke 15:7).

St. Luke recorded in his gospel account that following our Lord's ascension into heaven the disciples worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: and were in the temple, praising and blessing God (24:52-53). Later, in the Book of Acts, he wrote about the day of Pentecost where the flaming tongues descended upon the disciples and they began preaching the gospel to all who were in Jerusalem (2:1-11).

Hear now the words of St. Peter as he was moved to speak by the Holy Ghost: For David speaketh concerning [Jesus Christ], I foresaw the Lord always before my face...therefore did my heart rejoice and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou

shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance (Acts 2:14-36).

To fully realize the joy of God, we must order our lives around his teachings. As St. Paul instructed Timothy, If a man therefore purge himself from [iniquity], he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use and prepared for every good work (II St. Timothy 2:21)

So count your blessings this Advent season and be thankful, giving God the glory, rejoicing always in his gift of grace to us through Jesus Christ. Rejoice alway. Again I say Rejoice!

Let us pray,

**O** MERCIFUL and loving God, we rejoice with thanksgiving for thy most wonderful gift of thine all-sufficient grace; we also pray that through the work of the Holy Ghost we would be empowered in our witness to others that they too might come to know Christ as their personal Saviour. For this we ask in his most holy name. *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 were out of luck! Please someone, between now and next Sunday invent some no-carb dog nuts.

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
25 December 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Christmas Day</b>

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

### **Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.**

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

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

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

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

### **What is the commitment from the prayer team?**

Each member of the team will pray for the desired outcome at least once per day.

### **How do I get myself or someone else on the prayer list?**

You can email one of the prayer team leaders: Jack - jack@faithfulcenturion.org or Dru - dru@faithfulcenturion.org, or call the church office at (619) 659-3608 or fill out a prayer card at church.

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

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

### **Updating the Team**

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

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

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

### **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**

No reported travel this week. We do note many will be traveling to be with their families over the Christmas holiday.

### **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.

### ***Birthday***

*William Arnold* celebrated his 31<sup>st</sup> birthday 22 December 2012.

*Betsy Lane* celebrated her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday 16 December 2012.

### ***Marriage***

*Elizabeth* and *Gunnar* were married on 17 November 2012. They ask that you pray for God's guidance in their lives as they move from being two individuals to a single unit and help them to form their new family.

### ***Departed***

*Mr. Jairaj*, a fine Christian gentleman is now with our Lord. Please pray for his wife, sons, and daughter. Pray that they will cast their grief for their loss onto the Lord and He shall sustain them.

*Suz* passed away the week of 18 November 2012. Please pray for family members who remain behind.

*Don* passed away on 1 December 2012 after a hard battle with cancer. Please pray for family members who remain behind and help them to come closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Joy* passed away on 1 December 2012 after leaving hospice to return home to spend her final days with her family. Please pray for family members who remain behind and help them to come closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

*Frank* has been coping with various ailments from older age. He is in his 90s and it has been a difficult year. Pray he will find comfort in God, that those who provide care to him will pay attention to him, do their best and give him the love we all desire. Pray that the coming year will provide relief to him.

*Norma, Sara's mother* is in a state of deteriorating health, both physically and mentally, with both onset dementia and Alzheimer's. She is slowly drifting away, though she still recognizes Sara. Please pray 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***

*Larry Howes* suffered a fairly severe stroke. 4 December 2012, doctors replaced a valve in a shunt that had been put in about two weeks ago, and Larry responded very well. He was able to go home. He is now back in Mass General hospital. Please pray for the medical team treating him to pay attention and do their very best; pray also for confidence in our Lord for Larry and his family. Larry needs a miracle, pray for one. Please.

*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.

### **Treatment**

*Brian* has had lung problems for a while. Recent tests found small cell cancer in the upper lung and bronchial area. It appears not to have spread. Brian will begin radiation and chemotherapy on 26 December 2012. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Brian so he can rest and gain strength; pray for the medical team treating him that they pay close attention and do their very best; pray also that he can quit smoking.

### **Upcoming Surgery**

*Traci* has just discovered she has colon cancer and must have her whole colon removed; the surgery is set for 27 December 2012. As you can imagine, she is in need of prayer. Please pray for her faith in God, for Him to enter her heart and comfort her; for the medical team treating her, that they might pay close attention and do their best; for her family as they worry, that they might not worry but support her. Pray for a good result.

### **Thanksgiving and Continued Healing**

*Ernest* had a successful angiography and stent emplacement on Saturday 15 December 2012. He is now home and resting peacefully. Please give thanks for the successful surgery, the medical team doing a great job and also pray for his continued recovery.

*Lou* an elderly woman in the hospital with pneumonia, is improving and will be moving to an Assisted Living Home on 28 December 2012. Please pray a prayer of thanksgiving and for continued recovery.

*Liz Strauch* had surgery for a pineal cyst on 4 December 2012. The surgery was very successful, she was having nausea and pain from the surgery, which has now subsided. Please pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the successful surgery and the cessation of the nausea and for continued recovery.

*Bob Smouse* had shoulder surgery on 28 November 2012. He would appreciate your thanksgiving prayers. While the surgery apparently went well, he is still in pain and would also appreciate prayers for continued healing and the pain to subside. He promises to work very hard on recovery therapy.

*Tore*, of Oslo, Norway recently had a kidney transplant. Unfortunately his body rejected the kidney, infection had set in. Without God's healing touch he would soon die. According to his wife Inga, shortly after the prayer request, he began a prompt recovery and is now home. Tore and Inga give thanks for God's Grace and your prayer.

*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.

*Muriel Pappin* broke her hip in a fall and had surgery on 21 November 2012. Muriel is home and seems to be recovering well.; please give thanks for a successful surgery and a rapid and full recovery.

### *Healing*

*Donald* went into ICU the night of 22 December 2012, for unknown reasons.

*Mrs. Tucker* has had recent surgery as a result of bleeding on the brain. Please pray for trust in God and a full and rapid recovery.

*Jesse* a 27 year old man from Nebraska has had emergency brain surgery for bleeding in the brain. Please pray for trust in God and a full and rapid recovery.

*Zoie* a little 10 year old girl is having problems with one of her kidneys. Please pray that she will be comfortable soon.

*Nicolas* is in the hospital with serious symptoms of a heart disorder. Please pray for peace of mind for him and guidance for the medical team looking for the cause and cure.

*Mrs. Baek* an elderly women fell and injured her spine. Doctors cannot repair the spinal injury due to her age. She fell again the morning of 12 December 2012, breaking her collar bone which is also untreatable. Mrs. Baek is in severe pain and will appreciate your prayers.

*Gil Garcia* is hospitalized with a slow healing skin injury at the Long Beach Veteran's Spinal Cord Injury Center. Please give thanks for Gil's incredible attitude, as well that of his wife Mary and their family. Pray for the rapid healing of the skin injury so Gil can go home soon.

*Juanita* is a young girl who was in a coma because of a blood disease. She has not come out and is gaining strength. They are awaiting results from blood samples. Her family thanks you for your prayers and asks that you continue.

*Barbara* had a accident while cooking and the pressure cooker blew up in her face, causing second and third degree burns over her face and upper body. Because of this she has incurred kidney problems and may need a transplant.

*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.

*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.

*Bill, Sara's husband*, had a third abdominal surgery on 22 November 2011, to remove a tumor. Bill is doing better keeping the doctor's instructions, for which we are all grateful, including taking chemotherapy once a day for two more years. He has radically decreased the consumption of alcohol and eating at least mostly properly. Please pray for help for him to continue 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.

*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.

### **Employment**

*Sarah* is concerned about the future with her company. She would appreciate prayers for her continued employment and that her firm might find more and better ways to use her help.

### **Financial Guidance and Healing**

*David and Lorna* are having financial problems. They are trying to find a smaller home which may be more affordable. *Lorna* has had an ongoing battle with brain cancer, her trips back and forth to the hospital have drained their finances to the point they sometimes struggle to have enough food in the house. Please pray for Lorna's healing and guidance on how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves.

### **Guidance**

*Abigail* is a teenager who has behavior problems. She feels she is in an area of mental darkness. Please pray that she might look to God for help and not within herself.

*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.

### **Guidance for Ministers**

*Ken Howes* has been invited to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada to preach. There is a possibility of a call to that church, a 600-member church with weekly services in German and English. His ability to speak German was what prompted their interest in Ken; he preached in both languages last Sunday. Please pray for Ken, my family and St. Peter's. Pray also for Ken to not worry about his brother Larry.

*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.

### *Thanksgiving*

Hap Arnold gives thanks for safe travel the past week.

### *Various Special Requests*

Please pray for the *Youth of the Anglican Orthodox Church in Haiti*. They are having a revival that will continue until December 24. Pray that more souls will be brought to Christ.

We ask that you pray, please ask God that the Holy Ghost might give you insight into how you might make the lives of your friends and family better. Remember helping others is not just those who you don't know!

Please join us in praying that the *Free Teen Guitar Class* will be continue to be an opportunity for God to work in the lives of the kids and their families. Please ask God to guide the class to new opportunities to make Him known to others. Help us to let the love of our Lord shine through us into their lives, putting Him first, so that He might enter in to their hearts and lives.

### *Question that only you can ask*

What would you like to know about our history, what we believe, what we do or how we operate? Hap is looking for material for the continuing education class and *Thought for the Day* material. Help us help you. Please send your question to Hap so we all can get an answer. Just because you don't know the answer to your question doesn't mean you are the only one who doesn't know. But, if you don't ask, no one will know.

### *I'd like to get a different point across or announce something*

If you have a different point of view, I would be happy to give you room to get your point across. While this publication is my perspective on events, I recognize not everyone may agree and that some people would like to express their own opinion. If you want to write something, please forward your item to Hap (with a note as to whether or not you would like editing help) to: [hap@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:hap@faithfulcenturion.org).

## *Epistleers*

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>
23 December 2012	Dru Arnold – Fourth Sunday in Advent
25 December 2012	Dru Arnold – Christmas Day
1 January 2013	Dru Arnold – Circumcision of Christ
6 January 2013	Dru Arnold – Epiphany Day
13 January 2013	Dru Arnold – First Sunday after Epiphany
20 January 2013	Dru Arnold – Second Sunday after Epiphany
27 January 2013	Dru Arnold – Septuagesima

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

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**

30 December 2012 – First Sunday after Christmas – 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**

1 January 2013 – Circumcision of Christ – 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**

6 January 2013 – Epiphany Day – 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**

13 January 2013 – First Sunday after Epiphany – 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**

20 January 2013 – Second Sunday after Epiphany – 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**

27 January 2013 – Septuagesima – 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**