



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Sexagesima

Four Chaplains Day

Sunday Report



Today was the Sexagesima (see later in the report for the origin of this name), the Second Sunday before Lent. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a nice 49°F under high thin clouds. With nice weather, we had three in attendance. As you can see below, there was no singing. Jack and Hap both had the traditional January Seattle cold brought back just for us. But, there is a special in store nonetheless. Today is the 70th anniversary of the Four Chaplains day. A somber reminder of both the price of freedom and the depth of love.

Four Chaplains Day – Seventy Years ago today

On the frigid night of 3 February 1943, the fully laden Allied ship USAT Dorchester, carrying 902 servicemen, plowed through the dark waters near Greenland.

At 0100, a National Socialist submarine fired a torpedo into the transport's flank, killing many in the explosion and trapping others below deck.

It sank in 27 minutes. The water temperature was 28°F, time of useful consciousness was measured in seconds, not minutes. Everyone on board knew that.

The two escort ships, Coast Guard cutters Comanche & Escanaba, were able to rescue only 231 survivors.



Navy Chaplain Lieutenants Fox, Poling, Goode and Washington

In the chaos of fire, smoke, oil and ammonia, four chaplains calmed the sailors and distributed lifejackets:

Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist;
Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed;
Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic;
Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish.

When there were no more lifejackets, the four chaplains ripped off their own lifejackets and put them on four young men.

As the ship went down, survivors floating in rafts could see the four chaplains linking arms and bracing themselves on the slanting deck. They bowed their heads in prayer as they sank to their icy deaths.

Congress honored them by declaring this "Four Chaplains Day." On 7 February 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower spoke from the White House in support of the American Legion Back-to-God Program: "

And we remember that, only a decade ago, aboard the transport *Dorchester*, four chaplains of four faiths together willingly sacrificed their lives so that four others might live. In the three centuries that separate the Pilgrims of the *Mayflower* from the chaplains of the *Dorchester*, America's freedom, her courage, her strength, and her progress have had their foundation in faith.

Today as then, there is need for positive acts of renewed recognition that faith is our surest strength, our greatest resource. This "Back to God" movement is such a positive act...Whatever our individual church, whatever our personal creed, our common faith in God is a common bond among us...Together we thank the Power that has made and preserved us a nation. By the millions, we speak prayers, we sing hymns and no matter what their words may be, their spirit is the same—"In God is Our Trust. As a former soldier, I am delighted that our veterans are sponsoring a movement to increase our awareness of God in our daily lives. In battle, they learned a great truth—that there are no atheists in the foxholes."

Quite a distance from that time and place to "Whatever we once were, we are no longer a Christian nation," BH Obama.

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.

The propers are the same each year, except if a Red Letter Feast, that is one with propers in the prayerbook, falls on a Sunday, then those propers are to be read instead, except in a White Season, where it is put off. Red Letter Feasts, so called because in the Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

The Propers for today are found on Page 120-122, with the Collect first:

**The Sunday called Sexagesima, or the
second Sunday before Lent.**

The Collect.

O LORD God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

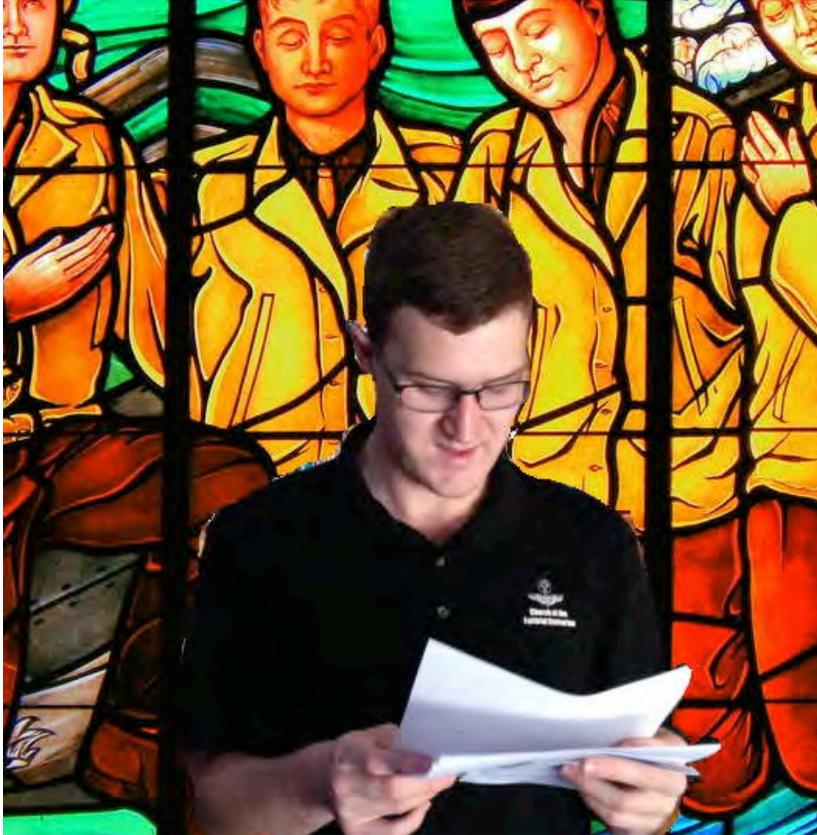
Dru Arnold read the Epistle, which came from the Eleventh Chapter of Saint Paul's second letter to the Corinthians beginning at the Nineteenth Verse. Paul reminds us salvation, honor and glory come not from what we do or have done, but rather from God. Paul, who as Saul, had been a super star on his way to being the number one rabbi in the Hebrew nation, he was more learned, more vigorous in following the law, more vocal in all things. When he "saw the light" and converted, he took that same approach to Christianity. No one was more in any thing than he. He had been the best of the worst and the best of the best. Now he was aware of how short he himself fell. More importantly, he was keenly aware of the saving perfection of Christ.



No one did more than Paul, yet he counseled all to take comfort and pride in God, not themselves. Do your best and look towards God.

YE suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise. For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face. I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

Jack Arnold read the Holy Gospel for today which came from the Eighth Chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke beginning at the Fourth Verse and tells the well known Parable of the Sower, which might be better referred to as the Parable of the Four Soils, for the seeds were all alike.



A sower scatters seed on to four different types of soil.

- Hard ground
- Stony ground
- Thorny ground
- Good ground

Hard ground “by the way side” prevents the seed from sprouting at all, and the seed becomes nothing more than bird food. Stony ground provides enough soil for the seeds to germinate and begin to grow, but because there is

“no deepness of earth,” the plants do not take root and are soon withered in the sun. Thorny ground allows the seed to grow, but competing thorns choke the life out of the good plants. Good ground receives the seed and produces much fruit.

Jesus explains the seed is The Word.

Hard ground represents someone so hardened by sin that though he hears he cannot understand the Word. Thus, Satan can pluck the message away, keeping the heart dull and preventing the Word from making an impression.

Stony ground represents those who hear and express delight in The Word, but do not change to live The Word. When trouble arises, they abandon their faith.

Thorny ground represents one who hears and receives The Word, but who does not connect to it and whose heart is full of riches, pleasures, and lusts. The effort that should by rights given The Word are given to the things of this world and he has no time for The Word.

Good ground represents he who hears, understands, and implements The Word. Thus, The Word can work its wonders in his life and that person gains salvation.

The Word is there. We may hear it. We may take it in our heart. The benefit comes only when we take it in our heart and act on it. At that point, The Word is acting in our lives and salvation is in hand.

WHEN much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way-side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way-side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

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.

Consider these words from the Collect:

...put not our trust in any thing that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity ...

In the Collect, we tell God we put our trust for eternal life not in our actions, but in His Power. If we do this, then we must do as He

asks us. For, to make trust in His Power rational, we must follow His Direction. If we do not follow His Direction then we are surely just going to be as lost as before we accepted Him into our hearts. We need Him as our navigator to guide us along the rocky paths of life, so we don't crash into the rocks of Sin and Death! We need His directions if we are to proceed upon the path to Heaven.

This squares with what Paul tells us, that is salvation, honor and glory come not from

what we do or have done, but rather from God. By following His Word that is where the salvation, honor and glory come from. Paul, who as Saul, had been a super star on his way to being the number one rabbi in the Hebrew nation, he was more learned, more vigorous in following the law, more vocal in all things. When he “saw the light” and converted, he took that same approach to Christianity. No one was more in any thing than he. He had been the best of the worst and the best of the best. Now he was keenly aware of how short he himself fell. But even more importantly, he was keenly aware of the saving perfection of Christ. Because he had been at rock bottom, he was able to recover to his high, so that he was aware of the saving power of Christ. From this he could tell us of the experience of the power of God first hand, using his life as an example of that. He told us these things not to glory himself, but to show the glory and honor that comes from on high, from following His Word. Thus he counseled all to take comfort and pride in God, not themselves. Do your best and look towards God.

This brings us right in to the well known Parable of the Sower, which might be better referred to as the Parable of the Four Soils, for the seeds were all alike.

Like the seed sown by the sower, The Word is spread throughout the world for all to hear and act on:

- Yet, some will not even hear The Word (Hard ground);
- Others will hear, act quickly and abandon God’s help at the first sign of adversity (Stony ground);
- Still others will hear The Word, but The Word is overtaken by the “pleasures” of this world and is choked out by them. Like the line from the Bible, where your money is, that is your worldly effort, there is the evidence of your heart. The temptation of this world is great, the reward from God should be greater, but you have to look long term;
- Finally we come to those who accept and act on The Word, like the one seed planted growing into a great plant bearing its fruit, the rewards are manifold, though the effort is also great, the end reward far greater. For the seed to grow to full fruition and glory, with its manifold blessings, it must have the ground prepared, carefully tended against encroachment of the evil weeds, it must be continually watered by the life blood of those around it. There is much effort required on our part, but the ultimate reward is so much greater.

While we are on the subject, consider the issue of weeding. Is this not part of the reason for the Church, that is to say the body of believers, to exist. We cannot often pull our own weeds, but we can help others and they can help us. Christianity is not a religion of hermits; it is a social religion where we can help each other.

So, think about this, we need to understand eternal life and indeed on a shorter term, happiness in our life here, comes not from our self-directed actions, but those of God and our action following His direction. If we follow our self-directed actions, we will find death and misery awaiting us. However, if we put our trust in Him and follow His commands, we will “live long and prosper” to quote Spock. Do your best and look towards God for the Light to illuminate your path. If you prepare your heart, as the farmer prepares the field, root out the forces of this world as the farmer roots out weeds, cultivate the good given by God, water your heart with His Water, your life will be manifold.

Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

Bishop Ogles' Sermon

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

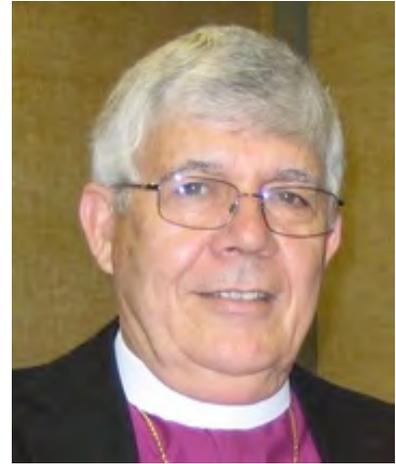
Sermon Notes

Sexagesima, or the second Sunday before Lent
3 February 2013, Anno Domini

The Sunday called Sexagesima, or the second Sunday before Lent.

The Collect.

O LORD God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



4 And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: 5 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. 6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. 8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. 9 And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? 10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. 11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. 15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. (Luke 8:4-15)

Our Collect which we have prayer today reminds us that we take no credit for any good deed that we do but only for the evil deeds we may do. If we cannot trust our own heart to avoid sin, how can we trust that heart to do only righteousness? If we do not place our full trust in God, then we have nothing at all to trust. *Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake* (Psalms 115:1) When I see churches and shallow ministers taking credit for that they claim the Lord has done in building elaborate sanctuaries to the exclusion of the orphan's table, I know that this is the world church and not that of Christ. We are all alike helpless in this world to defend against the forces of darkness. Darkness is the prime feature of the world in which we live. But we can always call upon the Lord for our main defense. He will stand with us, and He is Light. Where Light is, there can be no darkness.

In the Epistle reading for today (2 Corinthians 11:19-31) Paul reminds us of the many sufferings, hardships, and trials he has faced. He has been in the sea for a day and a night, beaten with whips and rods, cold and naked, hungry! Yet Paul, by the grace

and protection of God, still stands. He has placed a trust in God that is worthy of our emulation. Paul readily admits that these sufferings came as a result of his own weakness, yet he gives God the glory for sustaining and keeping him through all. God is glorified in the good works which we do because all righteous works are of God.

Let us now turn to the very acts and Words of Christ in today's Gospel text from Luke chapter 8.

There is a harmony in the Gospels on this parable. It is covered in Matthew, Mark, and Luke; but I prefer, most thoroughly, the account in Matthew 13 for it relates in perfect unison with the other parables of the Kingdom in Matthew 13 (also known as the Kingdom Chapter of Matthew).

We see, first of all, in the parable of Jesus, that the Word of God (Seed) must be carried forth. It does no good to the lost soul for one to have a very accomplished knowledge of the Word if that Word is not carried forth and shared. Does the dust covered Bible on your mantle serve any Godly purpose? No, it does not. Its only value is a promised value such as **potential** energy. We need an active value of the Bible being dusted off, read carefully, memorized, carried forth, and shared. This is the **kinetic** energy that results in fulfillment of purpose.

Secondly, we may wonder who is this Sower that goes forth? We know the Sower is, in the original, Jesus Christ. He brought the saving Gospel and was Himself, that salvation. He taught the Apostles to be like-minded sowers of the Word. The Apostles have sowed the Word so abundantly that we all have at least tasted the fruits of that sowing. And no we are the sowers as well. If we only consume the Seed upon our own lust, how can there ever be a profitable increase. The Seed **MUST** be sowed in order that there will be a continual harvest. We must not take our Seed as the one talent and bury it away, we must invest the Seed by sowing and, in the process of time, we shall we receive abundance. The more we share the Holy Word with others, the greater the harvest of that Word in our hearts. What did the Sower do? ***A sower went out to sow his seed*** So must we go forth with the Seed.

Thirdly, we should note that there is only one Seed. It is not a variety of Seed, but one constant and unchanging truth of God. There are no Seed that are unwholesome or which do not contain in their hearts the power to produce more fruit. ***The seed is the word (singular) of God.*** God's Word does not change, and it is always wholesome whether received in a wholesome heart or not. The Sower's bag does not have diverse seeds – even seeds of bramble – in His bag; but only the true and constant Seed of God's Word.

Fourthly, we must know that the four different kinds of soils represent four different kinds of hearts. We know these hearts well. We have all had one of each of these type hearts at times, but the cultivating Word of God has prepared our hearts for the Seed – to receive that Seed into the hidden chambers of our hearts. Perhaps that hidden chamber is the lowest chamber and most humble part of our hearts. The lowest chamber is where the moisture of life is most available that the Holy Ghost may nurture the Seed in thick darkness as the germinated plant struggles to reach the sunlight of the surface. Jesus, the Sower, does not differentiate between the types of soil upon which He sows – He sows on all soils. That which is stony ground today may become fertile soil tomorrow. The Sower does not distinguish between soils or hearts. It is the

condition of the heart that receives the Seed that will determine whether that Seed shall bear fruit. But it is the Holy Ghost that gives life to that Seed when the heart has been conditioned by God. *"....some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. 6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. 8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.* God does not cast His pearls before swine. If there are deaf ears to His Word, then His Word will not germinate in their hearts. They are simply UNABLE to receive it because of the externals that they so highly value in the world. But remember, friends, the soils can change. The brambles and briar may be burned away exposing good earth.

The unlikely soils, or different types of hearts, are capable of being changed. The hardened wayside may be broken up, the rocky ground cleared of stones, and the thorns pulled up by the roots or burned by fire. These grounds may be prepared by God through His workers of the vineyard. We may, through our examples of obedience to God and contentment, become a hoe, or a plough, to break up the hardened soil so that the Seed may flourish there. Have you done this, friends, with the hardened soils about you?

Shall we discover the Fountain of Life and hide its existence from our families, from our friends, from our neighbors, and from the stranger that passes by. Would we not suffer from want of our sons and daughters, our wives, mothers and fathers, neighbors, etc. in an Eternity of Life alone with God? When the scroll of Heaven parts and time is no more, shall we go empty-handed before God because we selfishly guarded the secret of His Gospel? What defense can we utter at that time when our only son or daughter, or our postman, druggist, or merchant precedes us in judgment and tells the Lord, "I never knew because no one ever told me?" Then to feel, as did Peter the night of the Passion, the eyes of Christ turn upon us with that Great Question in His Face. Perhaps there would be bitter tears, even in Heaven?

The Church has sat silent far too long. It is time to serve as the salt of the earth – to speak out against the evils of our day. If the professing church in America would rise up with that One Voice of Christ, in condemning the murder of innocents in their mother's wombs; the adulteration of the institution of marriage and its perversions away from the Creation model; the promiscuity, the pornographic sex education in schools; the forced elimination of prayer in school – if the Church were to stand up courageously and not cringe in political corners, then would there be change, but not until. What about you, friend: Do you leave your Christian faith at the door of the voting precinct? Do you prefer to remain silent in caving to public pressure to hide your faith always? If told to remove your lapel cross, do you brazenly remove the symbol of the One who died for you? Do you believe that changing times have changed the Sower's Seed? Really? Is truth relative, or is truth ALWAYS truth? Wake up church, and smell the poison in the cup of the world that you have preferred to that of the Cup from which our Lord drank....NOW!

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

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:



The Misery of Sin Psalm 71, Genesis 3 Sexagesima 3 February 2013

If you talk to contemporary people about the misery of sin, you will probably receive shocked looks, and maybe even anger and hostility. "Who are you to tell me what is right for me?" they will say. And they will accuse you of being ignorant, backwards, even a criminal on the same level as mass murderers and dictators. There is a very active movement that says Christianity is oppressive, faith is mental illness, and what the Bible calls sin is actually liberation and freedom.

But let's briefly look at the results of non-Christian views in history. Think of the mass murders in the French Revolution, the Bolshevik revolution, and the rise of communism in Asia, and Europe. Millions of people died in these movements for "freedom." Let's look at the deaths in America due to the decline of respect for faith, morality, and human life. I know that the "church" has been guilty of crimes as well, but everyone knows they are the result of corrupting and deviating from Biblical faith, not from believing and following it. In reality, sin is misery, and, going toward Lent we begin to think about that misery, because, unless we understand it and its cause, we will never understand God and His mercy.

A major part of the misery of sin is seen in our relationship to the Creation. We were formed from the dust of the earth, and, at first, we lived in harmony with it. But in the Fall that harmony was ruptured. Yes, the earth still brings forth its fruit, the sun still shines and the rains still fall. But the earth also brings forth briars and poisonous plants, and droughts and floods. Many, believing they have silenced Christians, proclaim they could never believe in a God who allows tornadoes and earthquakes and suffering. And many Christians ask themselves why these things happen. The answer is found in Genesis 3:17-19, "cursed is the ground for thy sake... in sorrow shalt thou eat of it... thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth... in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground... for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Simply put, when we, by sin, became enemies of God, we also became enemies of nature. And nature has turned against us. That is why we have killer storms and devastating floods. It is why we have illness and suffering and death. It is why nature often destroys what we build. It is why building crumble, cars rust, and our physical bodies wear out.

A second part of the misery of sin is found in our relationship with other people. At the very beginning we see Adam and Eve in perfect love and harmony. But after the Fall we see him blaming Eve for his sin. It wasn't Eve's fault that Adam ate the fruit. It was

his. Before the Fall he would not have accused her before God. He would have defended her, for his love for her had been perfect. But, now, being a sinner, and being corrupted in his nature, he is alienated from his wife. Their perfect love is now defective and polluted with self love, so he blames her for what is obviously his fault. God Himself pronounces that this will continue, telling Eve her husband will rule over her and she will desire her husband's authority (Gen. 3:16). Sin has ruptured their relationship.

It did not end there. Cain murdered Abel, and it wasn't until the time of Enos, Seth's son, that people began to seek God again. And the Fall continued to wreck human relationships. The mighty men of Genesis 6:4 are warriors. Their presence shows that mankind was already forming armies to kill one another. Genesis 6:11 says, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." It became so bad "it repented the Lord that He had made man upon the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart" (Gen. 6:6).

Have things improved? Has education, revolution wealth redistribution, the United Nations, constitutions, kings, parliaments, presidents, congresses, treaties, technology, or even religion changed things? I think not. I think the words of Moses in Genesis 6:5 are as true today as when he wrote them nearly four thousand years ago, "the wickedness of man was great in the earth... the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." I think of the words of James in the fourth chapter and first verse of his book, "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your own lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not."

I agree with Thomas Jefferson that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. I agree that these are self evident truths, but there is another truth I consider more self evident than these. Simply stated, that truth is, all are sinners. All have neglected much of the good they ought to have done, and have done much evil they ought not to have done. And no where is this sin more evident than in our ruptured relationships with other people.

A third part of the misery of sin is found in our ruptured relationship with God. Frankly stated, we have become God's enemies. Notice I did not say God has become our enemy. It is we who have turned against God, not God who has turned against us.

The result of this rupture is the alienation and emptiness of the soul that often grips us. We have lost our identity, we have lost our meaning, we have lost our purpose, because we have lost our God. Young people used to spend much time and effort trying to "find" themselves. I don't see that much any more. Today's youth spend their efforts inventing themselves. If they don't like the identity they create, they simply re-invent themselves. And they keep re-inventing themselves whenever they want to change. But it is not only young people who do this. People of all ages re-invent themselves many times during their lives. Part of this is thrust upon us as we go from children to adults, to parents and grand parents. But part of it is simply because we don't know who we are in the first place. We don't know we are created in the image of God to know, love and enjoy Him. Therefore we are constantly trying to re-invent ourselves according to other images. This is all part of our ruptured relationship with God. In short, we have rejected God's call and purpose for us, and have invented our own. But our own cannot fulfill our need to be right with God, and so we are miserable.

But there are worse consequences of this ruptured relationship. We have come under God's justice. We have been measure by the standard of God's perfect righteousness, and we have been found wanting. We have become criminals against His righteous law, and are liable for the penalty our crimes deserve. We have become children of wrath, and the wages of sin is death.

Fortunately sin is not the end of the story. Grace is. We see fallen humanity and we learn that we need a Saviour. We look at Christ, and we see that we have one. By grace nature will be restored to its original state. It will become our friend again. The storms will cease. Disasters will end, as will hunger, illness, and death. It will become Paradise again, restored by the power and grace of God.

By grace human relationships will be restored. We will be delivered from our sinful lusts, to live in perfect love and harmony. There will be no more crime, strife, or hate. We will finally be able to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, and study war no more. We who are in Christ already live in the restoration. It is not complete yet. It will never be complete in this present age in which sin and violence prevails. But we have the hope of peace and we have the taste of peace. Our natures are being transformed by God through the means of grace. So we are able to live among each other in a way that approaches the way we shall live in that great day of Peace.

By grace our relationship with God is restored. Our sins are forgiven. His anger is appeased, and we are turned to Him to love and serve Him in joy forever.

The misery of sin is great. There is not one problem or sorrow of this life that cannot be found to be the result of sin. But the grace of God is greater than our sin. His grace will win.

--

+Dennis Campbell

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Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon

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



Sermon for Sexagesima

In Daniel 3:8-26, we read where Daniel's three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (a.k.a. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) would not worship the great statue that Nebuchadnezzar had erected on the plain of Dura. Upon hearing that they had not done so, he called on the men to worship the image as his other officials had done. They, however, continued steadfast in their faithfulness to the LORD and

refused the king's command. Angered by their resistance, the king threatened them saying, but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace, and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands (v.15)? Undeterred, the men responded, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up (vv.16-18).

We know that God did indeed deliver them from the effects of the furnace much to the amazement of Nebuchadnezzar and his officials. The power of God is greater than any other in either the heavens, or on the earth. That should be of great comfort to us for even though God may permit us to go through difficult times, we know that he is with us. Consider the words of the 23rd Psalm: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want... Yea though I walk through valley of the shadow of death, thou are with me. It was likely that Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah had heard those words before, but their faithfulness in keeping the commandments of God remained for them first and foremost. The Second Commandment clearly rejects all forms of idolatry. And so, when faced with either obeying the pronouncements of an earthly ruler, or the commandments of the one true and living God, there was no question with whom they would side.

The Rev. Matthew Henry once wrote concerning this event by saying, "The worshippers of false gods are not wont to mind charges in settings up images and worshipping them. Strong convictions often came short of a sound conversion. Many in a pang have owned the absurdity and dangerousness of sin, and yet have gone on in it." In other words, those who worship such things are often oblivious to the sound doctrines of God. Even Christians are not immune from idolatry. Any image, artifact (relic), icon, or statue which is worshipped and venerated is just as devoid of scriptural acceptance as any image or idol of pagan antiquity. Godly obedience requires us to be stalwart and implacable in our adherence to our Lord's commandments.

Now the Devil is smooth in his deception. C. S. Lewis once expressed the nature of seductive evil in this way in his Screwtape Letters: "If they must be Christians let them at least be Christians with a difference. Substitute for the faith itself some Fashion with a Christian colouring..." Satan has always been about corrupting the faith all the while giving his "amendments" a good daubing of untempered mortar, or a "whitewashing", so that those who have fallen under his influence will not question his changes to the very word and commandments of God.

The Rev. E. M. Bounds noted that, "The Devil does a big business on earth. He is a prince and a leader. Men and devils are his agents. The elements of nature are often corrupted by him from their beneficial purposes and forced to destroy. He is busy tempting men to do evil... By his schemes, sin seems to lose its sinfulness, the world is clothed with double charms, and self is given twice the force. He turns faith into fanaticism and love into hate. A spiritual character can work through other agencies or directly on the human spirit. Satan infuses thoughts and makes suggestions, and he does it so deftly that we do not know their origin." Think of how Satan got Nebuchadnezzar to justify in his mind the setting up of that statue on the plain of Dura. Think about how he organized the worship and the music. It thus becomes readily apparent that such a powerful man as Nebuchadnezzar believed himself to be the

originator and author of this pious fraud. The Devil took the vision which the king had received from God (Daniel 2), and which had been interpreted by Daniel, and turned it into an opportunity for idolatry. How mere thoughts and dreams can be fashioned by the evil one into blasphemy and degradation.

The Rev. Dr. Merrill Unger once noted that, "Satan and evil spirits are untiring and ceaseless in their prosecution of enterprises of deception and wickedness... [they] imperil man's well-being by subjecting him to temptation... [Satan] not only takes away the good seed, but sows the tares. Assuredly this power of temptation is possessed by Satan's many subordinate evil spirits, through whose instrumentality he accomplishes his nefarious purposes." Still, it is very hard for many Christians to come to grips with the notion that pure personal evil exists, and that he hates mankind because we are made in God's image.

Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah understood what the LORD wanted them to do in the face of this deception. They knew the commandments of God were designed to set forth the proper course of conduct for the faithful even as those around them are falling into Satan's traps. The word of God is the truth. It is that moral compass which points us away from evil and keeps us squarely on the road to God's eternal kingdom. Our Lord commanded us to, Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it (St. Matthew 7:13-14). And our Lord also said, No man can serve two masters: for he will hate the one, and love the other... (St. Matthew 6:24a). The Devil will seek to divert us from the true path of Christ into the broad way that leads to Antichrist. The statue at Dura was just ersatz version of God. It was the insinuated musings of the father of lies who was attempting to turn even God's people into his servants via a false or pretended worship of the divine.

Are there plains of Dura in your life? Are there golden idols which look impressive and have the appearance of deity that you bow before? Are there things that shine for you in this life other than the living God? Do you worship mammon? Do you venerate people or institutions as one would venerate the Lord of all life? Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were in positions of power and influence within the court of Nebuchadnezzar. They along with Daniel were his favorite advisors. But even their earthly positions did not matter when it came to being obedient to God rather than some temporal ruler. Are you ready to stand for God's word written against the temporal rulers in this life? Are you seeking to do the will of our Lord in opposition to all else? May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in all extremity so that you might stand, and having done all to stand in these evil days.

Let us pray,

LORD, deliver us from all false doctrine, all idolatry and all deception of the evil one; that we might better serve thee in this life, so that at the last we might be received into thine everlasting kingdom; for this we ask in the name of our Lord and Saviour, 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 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
10 February 2013	Opportunity Available – Quinquagesima
17 February 2013	Opportunity Available – First Sunday in Lent
24 February 2013	Opportunity Available – Second Sunday in Lent

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

Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.

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

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

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

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

What is the commitment from the prayer team?

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

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

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

What should I ask for?

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

Updating the Team

If you are on our prayer list, or if you have submitted a person that you have asked us to pray for, please update one of the team members or Hap in person, by telephone or

email. It helps to be able to pray specifically for these individuals including their specific needs; plus if they get better, it is nice to give thanks!

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

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

Travel

Carol is in Australia to be with her family as they adjust to the loss of their mother. Please pray for her safe travel and return home.

Loss of Home

Sarah who lost her home and all the contents when her house caught fire and burned to the ground near the end of January 2013. Her beloved dog was taken in the fire. Please pray for Sarah as she has many decisions at this time and help her to know Jesus will be with her to help to make the "crooked road straight."

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. Help him to see where God would like him to go from here and how he should get there.

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 schoolmates 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

Dru Arnold celebrated her 58th birthday 2 February 2013. It should be noted while it was a pleasant day, when she went outside first thing in the morning, she did not see her shadow; thus there will not be six more weeks of winter.

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

Ed Rasimus made his last takeoff at 1045L 30 January 2013, after a really tough fight with cancer. Ed, who everyone called Raz, was a retired Air Force major and flew over 250 combat missions into North Vietnam in both the F-105 and F-4. More than that, Raz was a true patriot and gentleman. He will be missed by all who knew him. Please give thanks for his sacrifices on behalf of our country and pray for comfort for his family who remain behind, in particular his wife Carol.

Nearing the end of their time here on earth

Richard Campbell had a heart attack and now pneumonia which is not responding to treatment. It may be he is near the end of his time here on earth and is in hospice care. Please pray for him as he prepares to go home to be with his family who have gone before him. Pray for Richard's faith and that of his family to build and the transition to be good. Pray also for those he leaves behind.

Julia has cancer, which has spread through her body, further treatment seems impossible. She is preparing to go home to be with her family who have gone before her. Pray for her faith to build and the transition to be good. Pray also for those she leaves behind.

Polly is in hospice care with dementia and spinal stenosis. Please pray for her as she prepares to go home to be with her family who have gone before her. Pray for the faith of her family to build and the transition to be good.

Homebound or Infirm

Lou has aspiration pneumonia. Please pray for the infection to be knocked down and for her continued recovery.

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 and prayer gives her a sense of peace. 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

Eugene (in his 80s) was recently admitted to the hospital for pneumonia where they found he had Stage 4 lung cancer. Please pray for the medical team treating Eugene to pay attention and do their very best; pray for Eugene and his wife Gladys to let God carry their worries and cares and to help them keep their physical strength and put all their trust in Him.

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 began radiation and chemotherapy on 26 December 2012; that seems to be going pretty well. He has had some breathing issues, which seem to be under control right now; he asks you pray for no more of that. 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.

Surgery

Mike is in the hospital for emergency Rotator Cuff surgery. Please pray for the medical team treating him that they pay close attention and do their very best and that he will have a rapid recovery.

Ralph who recently had surgery on his sinuses, he is without faith in our Lord and Savior and is fairly naturally feeling fearful and depressed. Please pray for his physical recovery and that he might come to know our Lord and gain complete spiritual health more importantly.

Thanksgiving and Continued Healing

Dick's left arm was amputated after treating for Merkel Cell carcinoma over a year. He is now believed to be cancer free and is waiting to be fitted with an artificial arm. Please join Dick and his family in giving thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ for his recovery as well as for their trust in God.

Sasha a young lady with a husband and two children had diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer whose cells were thought to have spread to her spine. After radiation and chemotherapy, which is continuing through the end of January 2013, she is regaining her stamina and does not have any detectable cancer activity. The tumors in her skin are gone and the large tumors in her breasts are gone. She and her family ask that you give thanks to our Father in heaven. She also gives thanks to all who have prayed for her.

Traci had surgery colon cancer on 27 December 2012. The surgery went very well and she appears to be cancer free. But, she had a pulmonary embolism and another clot in the artery to the spleen which will keep her in the hospital for at least several days. Traci is beginning to be weary of her medical situation. Please pray that she will not become despondent. Pray that she will open her heart to God's Grace that He might enter in to her heart and strengthen her.

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, seems to have recovered far better than expected from a severe brain bleed. She thinks she can walk, etc., even though she cannot. She has improved and is nearly able to stand up by herself; this makes it almost certain that she will have another fall. Presently she can stand and walk a little with a great deal of assistance. Hopefully this means she will ultimately be able to walk, at least with the aid of a walker or cane. What's holding her back at the moment is her cognitive deficits and they are trying to find a place to get her more therapy

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 was home, but has had complications and went back in the hospital. She is now back home. Please give thanks for her return home and pray for her continued recovery.

Healing

James had surgery the afternoon of 10 February 2012, to remove two small, but cancerous tumors, from his intestines. On 14 January 2013, James was found to have bladder cancer. On 28 January 2013, he underwent surgery. The doctor felt she got all of the tumor. They still are waiting on the results of the tissue samples she removed. The result of the report will decide the treatment options. Please pray that the cancer was confined to the tumor alone and that it has not invaded the bladder walls. James is a minister with the AOC in Savannah, Georgia. He made it through the first hurdle, he and his family ask your prayers for this second trial. Please pray for the medical team treating him to do their very best and pay attention, pray for the treatment to go well and result in remission. Pray that James and his family will be able to put their cares and worries on God's shoulders during this trying time.

Richard an elderly gentleman has severe pneumonia. Please pray for the medical team treating him to do their very best and pay attention, pray for the treatment to go well and result in recovery.

Lee has Arterial Fibrillation; the medical people are not sure how to help her. Please pray for guidance for the team treating her and for Lee and her family to make the right decisions regarding treatment.

Nell recently adopted two children and has just been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

Sarah is recovering from a stroke, but fell and broke bones. Please pray for her peace of mind and rapid and full recovery. Pray for trust in God for her and her family.

Inez' blood pressure is back down, but she needs surgery for a torn leg muscle. Please pray for guidance for the medical people treating her, as well as peace of mind

and trust in God for her and her family.

Kathleen has spent the last two weeks in the hospital. She has been diagnosed with colitis, shingles and possibly colon cancer. Pray she will be comfortable and begin to heal.

Rachel has Mitochondrial Myopathy. This is a hereditary disease of the muscles and they do not have a cure for it. Part of her pain is her family does not believe she is indeed ill, as she appears to be just fine. Please pray her family will learn the truth and be supportive of her; pray also the medical people treating her will find the right measures to minimize the disease. Most particularly pray for Rachel's trust in God.

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.

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.

Business

Mark's business is in difficulty. He works in a shrinking field, of which he is one of the country's true masters, but there is little work available. He asks that you pray that he can find a way to survive in his industry, which he loves and needs his talents. Pray he can find new sources of business and new ways of doing things, perhaps someone to partner with to better use his talents. Pray also for those who work for and with him that they might do their best to help.

Employment

Lori is considering a potential change in her employment. Please pray for God's guidance in considering all aspect of her potential work.

Rodriguez Family are looking for work. It seems many obstacles have been put in their way of finding employment. Please pray they will find employment with a firm that will be able to use their considerable skill and hard work to benefit both the firm and the family.

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 considerable skills.

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

Daniel and Danielle are experiencing family strife as a result of custodial issues with a daughter. Please pray they and those they strive with might look to the child's best interests in their time of difficulty and disagreement; to work for her best interests and not use her as a weapon amongst themselves.

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. She asks for God's help to grow her business while keeping up with the needs of her mother and husband and healing her own problems.

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 Congregations

New AOC congregations have been established in the Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands. This is in the Eastern end of the Islands and a ways away from the established congregations in these islands. Please pray for them as they bring souls to Christ as they establish His Church.

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, his 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 this week.

Bobbie was born prematurely in December 2012 and is now home from the hospital. He and his parents give thanks to God and thank you for your prayers.

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

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.

What is Sexagesima?

Sexagesima, or, in full, Sexagesima Sunday, is the name for the second Sunday before Ash Wednesday in the Catholic (Universal or Whole) Church Calendar.

The name "Sexagesima" is derived from the Latin sexagesimus, meaning "sixtieth," and appears to be a back-formation of Quinquagesima, the term formerly used to denote the last Sunday before Lent (the latter name alluding to the fact that there are fifty days between that Sunday and Easter, if one counts both days themselves in the total). Through the same process, the Sunday before Sexagesima Sunday is known as Septuagesima Sunday, and marks the start of the Pre-Lenten Season, which eventually became the time for carnival celebrations throughout Europe, this custom being later exported to places settled and/or colonized by Europeans. While Quinquagesima (50th day) is mathematically correct (allowing for the inclusive counting), Sexagesima and Septuagesima are only approximations (the exact number of days is 57 and 64 respectively). The earliest Sexagesima can occur is January 25 and the latest is February 28 (or February 29 in a leap year).

The 17-day period beginning on Septuagesima Sunday spanning Sexuagesima and Quinquagesima Sundays was intended to be observed as a preparation for the season of Lent, which is itself a period of spiritual preparation (for Easter). In many countries, however, Septuagesima Sunday marks the start of the carnival season, culminating on Shrove Tuesday, more commonly known as Mardi Gras.

Need a Bumper Sticker?



The church has some very nice Bumper Stickers. If you would like one, email Hap at 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
10 February 2013	Dru Arnold – Quinquagesima
13 February 2013	Dru Arnold – Ash Wednesday
17 February 2013	Dru Arnold – First Sunday in Lent
24 February 2013	Dru Arnold – Second Sunday in Lent

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

3 February 2013 – Sexagesima – 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**

10 February 2013 – Quinquagesima – 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 February 2013 – Ash Wednesday – Evening Prayer - Service start time 1900 (7:00 pm); **Time 1900 (7:00 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

17 February 2013 – First Sunday in Lent – 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**

24 February 2013 – Second Sunday in Lent – 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**

