



Quinquagesima

Sunday Report



Today was Quinquagesima, (explanation of the origin of the word later in the report), which is the Sunday next before Lent. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a cool 31°F with the bright clear skies found after a cold front passage. By the time church started, the temperature had climbed to 37°F, a nice change from Friday's snow, though there was still a fair amount of that left. The nice weather brought three people to church.

Jack Arnold played *Lord I lift Your Name on high* for the gathering song.

Lord, I lift Your Name on high

Lord, I lift Your Name on high
Lord, I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me
Christ beside me, Christ within me
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. *Lord I lift Your Name on high* is a congregation favorite.



Lent

Lent is coming up, it starts this coming Wednesday, called Ash Wednesday. So, what does the word **Lent** mean? It has an obscure origin, and is probably a corruption of Lencten, or a similar term in ancient Anglo, Saxon, and Germanic languages, all of

which referred to spring, new life, and hope. Although it is generally considered to be a time of mourning and repentance, it is more than that, it is like death, a time of new life and hope because by means of the death of Christ, we receive new life.

Many avoid Lent and Holy Week because they think it isn't a happy and uplifting time—but to be honest, neither is most of life. Sometimes we come to church all scrubbed up, dressed nicely, with smiles on our faces, and when people ask how we are, we reply that everything is fine and we even boast how wonderful things are—but is it? Life is not always uplifting, or wonderful, or pleasant, or joyous. To claim it is, is to miss the whole point of the incarnation! God became flesh in Jesus Christ. Jesus faced temptation, He suffered hunger and thirst, He suffered the agony of crucifixion. Jesus our God did not face these things so that we would be exempt from them, He faced these things so that we would have dignity in them, He faced these things that in Him we might have triumph.

The forty days commemorate the significant "forty" periods in Scripture (although forty is not always significant), including the forty years the Jews wandered in the desert after they had been rescued by God from Egypt, and which did not end until they repented. Jonah preached to Nineveh that God's judgment would come on them in forty days. During that time the people repented and thus were spared God's judgment. Jesus was tested by the Devil in the desert for forty days before He began His public ministry, announcing salvation to the repentant and judgment to those who continued to rebel against God. Jesus prophesied that God's judgment would come against Israel for rejecting Him as Messiah within the time of His own generation (Matt. 24; Luke 21; Mark 13). Within forty years of His death, burial, and resurrection, Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple was so ravaged that "not one stone [was] left here upon another" (Matt. 24:2). The Jewish Christians, however, escaped this judgment of God by fleeing to Pella before the final Roman siege, just as Jesus had warned them to do (Matt. 24:16-21).

Lent is a time for Christians to contemplate their sinfulness, repent, ask God's forgiveness, and realize the infinite sacrifice God made on their behalf. It is to be a time of quiet contemplation, but not a time of despair, since it culminates in the commemoration of the resurrection. Traditionally, those who are joining the church spend this period in special instruction regarding Christian doctrine, practice, and responsibility. Historically, prospective members ("catechumens") did not participate in the Lord's Supper portion of the Sunday services until they were received into full membership on the Sunday of the Resurrection of Our Lord. For them, this first experience of Ash Wednesday and Lent has special significance as God's eternal plan of salvation is applied to them personally.

When Jesus taught us how to pray, He didn't say, "If you elect to pray, do it this way..." and when He taught about fasting, He didn't say, "If you elect to fast, do it this way..."

He said, *when* you pray, don't do it for show like the hypocrites do. It's a conversation between you and God. And He gave us the Lord's Prayer as an example of what we should pray about:

Address God
"Our Father, who art..."
Submit to God's will



“Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done...”

Ask for your physical needs

“Give us this day our daily bread...”

Ask for forgiveness

“Forgive us our trespasses...”

To the degree that you yourself are willing to forgive...

“As we forgive our trespassers...”

Ask for help with temptations

“Lead us not into temptation...”

And preservation from evil

“Deliver us from evil...”

Recognizing whose world this really is

“For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever.”

Similarly, Jesus told us that *when* we fast (not *if*) we are not to make a show of it, like hypocrites do. A fast is different from a hunger strike: a fast is a personal act of devotion to God, while a hunger strike is a public act most often used to shine a spotlight on injustice. A fast is also different from anorexia nervosa: it is *disciplined* diet, not total abstention from food. During a religious fast, you still eat, you just abstain from certain foodstuffs. Traditionally, people have fasted by eliminating luxury items from their diets, such as meats. A fast can consist of eating whatever you want, but drinking only water.



More positively, you can fast in other areas beyond food, you can commit to a something that can benefit the church, such cutting back in an entertainment area, using that time for Bible study and donating the savings to the church.

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On Palm Sunday, there were crowds who cheered Jesus as the King, but where were all those fair-weather friends when Jesus prayed in agony on Gethsemane, and where were they when He hung upon the cross? Let us be bold to join Him, fasting in the wilderness for forty days during Lent; let us be bold to pray with Him in the garden on Maundy Thursday, let us fearlessly stand at the foot of His cross on Good Friday, so that we may witness His Resurrection and His Ascension, and join in His triumphant reign.

Mite Boxes

If you read this report at all, you know the Anglican Orthodox Church (AOC), and this parish in particular, is not about money. Not that money is not useful, but the parish has plenty. Any extra we get, we send it to the AOC to use for their mission work. The AOC works on a very slim budget, they aren't about money either. The AOC is about the Great Commission; to go forth and spread The Word of the Lord:



18And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, '...19Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.'" (Mt. 28:19-20)

You may not realize it, but the AOC has national church affiliates in 22 countries around the world, that does take a little money. Not great quantities of money, but some and as a church, we would be dirt poor, if we had dirt.

So, that is where the Mite Boxes come in. Ash Wednesday is 22 February 2012; Easter Sunday is 8 April 2012. That period is Lent. Often thought of as a time for fasting, it is more importantly a time to channel your attention towards God. A time to let your heart open to the Holy Ghost that you might come closer to God and perhaps do His Work more effectively.

So, to exercise this concept, we are asking you to cut back. We know the economy is not really great and you are probably cutting back already. So, cut back a bit more. Take part of your savings every day and put it in the Mite Box. If you did not cut back on a given day, dig into your wallet or purse and cut out a bit of cash for the Mite Box anyway. Every day, except Sundays. Sundays are the Lord's Day and a day of celebration. They are not part of Lent. By Easter Sunday, you will have a full Mite Box. Bring it to church, this church, another church, that is best. If you cannot find a church to actually go to on Easter, you probably aren't looking hard enough, but pull the money out and send us a check, payable to the Anglican Orthodox Church and we will send it on.

One box for each member of the family. A little bit, just a mite, every day. Every day, miss none. Every day, every body in the family can do just a little bit. When you drop your daily contribution in, think, "Did I do what I could today for the Lord? Did I fall short or meet the standard? Can I do better tomorrow? Will I?" It should be a time of reflection. It will be if you do it.

By the way, what is a Mite Box? Named after the smallest of Roman coins, a normal wage of the time being 10 mites per hour, of which two were donated by the widow, in Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4, it is normally a small cardboard box, say 3 inches each dimension, a cube piggy bank so to speak. If you don't have one, call, email or write. We have a pile of them.

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to the Lord's Work and make your life better at the same time.

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.

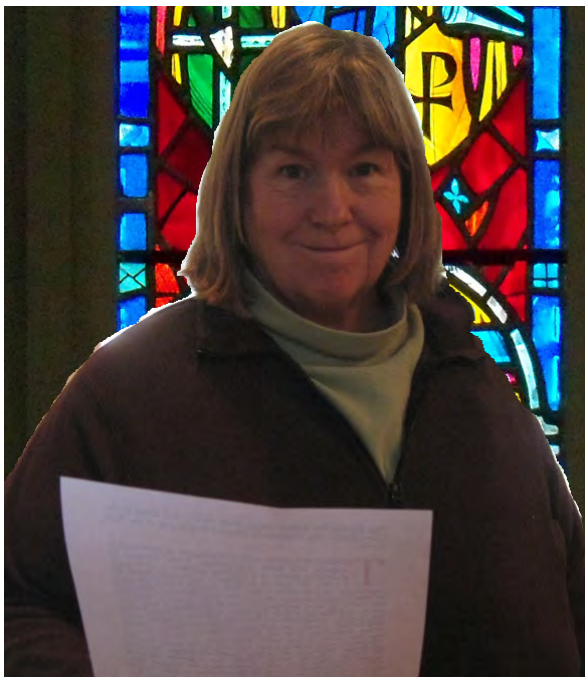
The Propers for today are found on Page 122-124, with the Collect first:

**The Sunday called Quinquagesima, or the
Sunday next before Lent.**

The Collect.

O LORD who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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



Corinthians, starting at the First Verse of the Thirteenth Chapter. Paul talks of charity¹, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." Paul goes on to say that no matter what you do, if in your heart you have not that love for others, it is all to naught. Our understanding here on earth is limited, we will never here see the fullness of God's plan, yet the part most clear is the love we must have one for another, to do unto others as we would have them do unto us, for no reason other than we know that is right so to do. Paul uses the phraseology

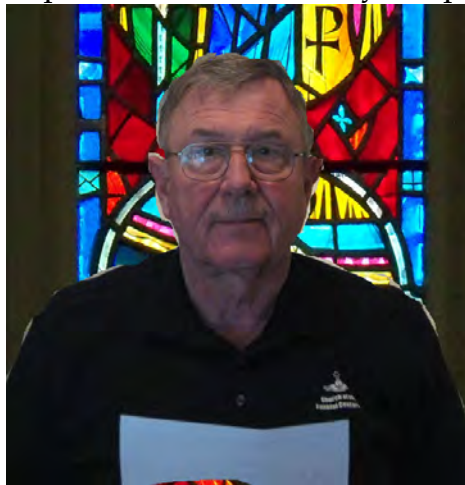
"through a glass, darkly", which is very interesting inasmuch as CS Lewis uses a variation to describe earth as compared to heaven. He calls the earth The Shadowlands and says in heaven all is clear and bright, not dark and muddled as here on earth.

THOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of

¹ Charity - Love; universal benevolence; good will; the word which properly denotes love. Properly understood the Love of God, that perfect love, to which man should aspire. [1913 Webster]

prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Hap Arnold read the Holy Gospel for today which came from the Gospel of Saint Luke,



starting at the Thirty-First Verse of the Eighteenth Chapter. The Gospel starts out telling of Jesus' trying to prepare his disciples for what was to come, and they could not grasp it: "Then Jesus took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: and they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken." The

Gospel goes on to tell of Jesus' healing of a blind man near Jericho, "And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way-side begging: and hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God."

If you take nothing else from today's Gospel, take this – Faith will save you. After you are saved, you need to act on your faith. The order is clear.

WHEN Jesus took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: and they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none

of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken. And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the wayside begging: and hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

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:

... that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity ...

In the Collect, we acknowledge to God that if we have not charity, nothing we do is worth anything; we then ask Him to send the Holy Ghost into our hearts with the precious gift of charity. Webster tells us that Charity is love; universal benevolence; good will; the word which properly denotes love. Properly understood the Love of God, that perfect love, to which man should aspire.

Charity is not giving oodles of money away to an organization, hoping to make yourself look better, like many modern “philanthropists”, but it is to help people with the love in your heart that Christ and God has given us, to enable us to act on His behalf here on this Earth. We are to be agents of good change, not that of bad, and with Charity, we will act with love towards one another. If we do not have love in our hearts towards one another, how can we expect to be able to have any positive change on the world around us?

Paul tells us no matter our gifts, talents and so called accomplishments, without the Love of God, we are nothing and have done nothing. It must be clear to us that our understanding here on earth is limited, we will never here see the fullness of God's plan, yet the part most clear is the love we are to have one for another, to do unto others

as we would have them do unto us, for no reason other than we know that is right so to do. It does not matter to us that we will never see the fullness of His plans, each of us are a small piece of a much bigger plan. We only need to find our part in the plan, us, and act upon that, again with Charity in our hearts. When Paul talks about God's great plans, he uses the phraseology "through a glass, darkly", which is very interesting inasmuch as CS Lewis uses a variation to describe earth as compared to heaven. He calls the earth The Shadowlands and says in heaven all is clear and bright, not dark and muddled as here on earth. So, here our understanding is limited, it will not always be so. That will be fulfilled when we pass the Pearly Gates into heaven, and in order to do that, we have to have faith, and have good works acted upon with charity. If one of these ingredients are missing, we are not acting according to what He wants for us. So, we have to believe with all our heart in God and Christ, and act upon that belief with great Charity.

As they were coming in to Jericho, Jesus told the disciples of what was to come, yet they could not grasp their leader would submit to such treatment on their behalf. He was the Conqueror; in a sense they were right, He was to conquer death for us, but not the Roman Empire. As they went along, they encountered the blind man. The blind man who wanted his sight and knew Jesus had The Power. He cried unto the Lord and was rebuffed by His People. Did he give up? No, he cried the more. When Jesus heard him, he turned and asked what the man wanted. MY SIGHT! No generalizations, no beating about. He asked of Him what he truly wanted. Ask and it shall be given unto you. The blind man lacked sight, but not vision. Nor, it might be added did he lack faith. To some, the faith he had might seem a blind faith, but it was one that he acted on and gained what he lacked. Will we have the faith to act?

True love is Faith, Hope, Charity².



Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

² The three Gloster Gladiator fighters *Faith*, *Hope* and *Charity* defended Malta against the Italian Air Force during the early part of the siege of Malta in World War II. Legend has it that all three persisted and of the three, *Charity* never failed.

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

Quinquagesima, or the Sunday next before Lent
10 February 2013, Anno Domini

The Sunday called Quinquagesima, or the Sunday next before before Lent.

The Collect.

O LORD who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.



31 Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. 32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: 33 And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. 34 And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

35 And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: 36 And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. 37 And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. 38 And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. 39 And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. 40 And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, 41 Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. 42 And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. 43 And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God. (Luke 18:31-43)

Perhaps, as a Christian, you have believed that you might escape the troubles and trials of righteous Job and rest at ease in your faith of Christ. Has this ever been true? No, it has not been true for, if you courageously stand upon that Rock of your Salvation in both desert and garden, the world will hate and trouble you. There is no escape unless you are blessed to live in a nation whose God is, in fact, the Lord and not rhetorically so. Even then, there is always a gravitational pull downward on the soul of man enticing him to sink to the gutter of sensual living rather than to rise to the pinnacle of moral living. If you are the "life of the party" wherever your feet take you, and always well received by the world, you are not living a Christian life of victory. The Christian shall see days of greater and greater rejection as the whole world continues in its spiral into the abyss of darkness. It is not that the world does not understand, but that the world does not DESIRE to understand. Evil is multiplying at phenomenal levels

in our day. Is it any wonder that Christ asked the question: ".....*when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?* (Luke 18:8)

Christ KNEW of His coming suffering. He was going up to Jerusalem for His last earthly visit. Yet He never tarried or demurred from going. Christ was intent on a perfect obedience to His father, and He knew there could be no forgiveness without sacrifice. He tells us that we, too, have a cross to bear. It is not a silver, gold, or ivory cross, but rather a cross made of crude and splintered timber. That cross has two axes – one vertical pointing from Heaven (God) to earth (us); and the other horizontal pointing across the plane of all humanity. In geometry we are told that an axis is a fixed reference in conjunction with other points which define its direction. The cross has two fixed references: 1) from a point (God) in Heaven to another point (man) on earth. It illustrates that God, on the vertical beam, has offered a means whereby fallen man can be redeemed from the just wrath that his sin entails by the coming down of God the Son to sacrifice Himself in Love. The horizontal beam illustrates that sacrificial love (as clearly described in the Epistle today from 1 Corinthians 13) that we who are redeemed must bear for one another in obedience to God. We have a rude cross to bear and, if it does not weigh upon our shoulders, perhaps it is because we have not taken it up. *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.* (Luke 9:23)

God sometimes brings things into our lives which we do not presently understand. Our understanding may be deferred until such time that we can most profitably grasp the meaning. 31. *Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.* 32 *For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on:* 33 *And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.* 34 *And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.* You will have to admit that this is reasonably clear language, yet His disciples did not understand. They had witnessed the great power of God at the hands of the only Begotten Son of God. They had seen the dead restored to life simply at the sound of His Voice. They had seen sight restored to the blind, the crippled made to walk, the adulteress forgiven, an issue of blood arrested at the touch of His garment, the stormy sea made calm at His command, and the wretched lepers touched by His wholesome hand and cured! How could the Jewish rulers and Romans commit such a hateful crime on one so full of power? The answer, of course, is that they **COULD NOT!** It was God who allowed His only Begotten Son to be crucified as a willing sacrifice for our redemption. Perhaps God has also told us things through His Word that we have understood amiss, yet, in time, we come to a full and precise understanding of the meaning after God has allowed His Holy Ghost to testify thereof to our hearts.

It is often God's intention that a temporary curtain be dropped over our eyes as a gossamer veil so that we only see vaguely until such time as the full picture is exposed. It is doubtful that Mary, the mother of Jesus, well understood all that her Son represented and taught. She seemed to be absent from most of His teachings. She failed, perhaps through remorse, to come to the Garden Tomb with the other Mary's. Perhaps she would have come had she believed she would see her Risen Lord! But now, you and I know something that the disciples did not know when Christ spoke the above words. How will we respond? Your cross is waiting for you. If you take it up, you, too, will feel the lash of the Roman (government) sanction against you. You, too, will be spat

upon and rejected in the public square. Do you still desire to bear the cross? Or do you prefer to carry a pretty rosary (much lighter to bear and far more appealing) to illustrate your piety?

Do you remember a time when you were a beggar? Has your memory faded in remembering that you one day grew into a realization that your baptism and covenant made for you by your parents must be confirmed in a living faith? Did you proudly receive that faith as something you deserved, or did you plead with your Lord for forgiveness and reception? Were you not blind from the past days of your life until you sat, as a beggar, beside the road awaiting the approach of the Lord Jesus Christ. Did you hail to Him without shame – even in a public place? Did you disregard the nay-sayers who flocked about Him and shout your appeal for mercy – not vision? Well, my friend, it is very likely that you, too, were a blind beggar by the dusty roadside of Christ. You had heard of Him perhaps on your mother's knee. You believed it as far as you were able, but it did not make complete sense to your youthful mind that you were made whole through the death of a Messiah. Now you KNOW! Now you have begun to feel a nagging emptiness in the very chambers of your heart. How to fill the void? There is only one supply that can fill that emptiness – the Lord Jesus Christ! And you heard of His approach. You waited silently until His countenance could be clearly seen, then, you shouted from the top of your voice, "*Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.*" Those of the modern church who were closest to Christ attempted to silence you and prevent your coming. After all, you were only a beggar and unworthy of the company of saints, right? *And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace.* But your NEED was far greater than their DOUBT and DISCOURAGEMENT! The world would always prefer that you not come to Christ! But you could not hold your peace! *but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.* Notice that the MERCY of God is all that we need to lift the scales from our eyes. His Mercy always precedes His grace.

Expectantly, you stand waiting, your eyes closed to the Light of the World! Suddenly, there was a change in the air. The discordant voices were silent as the Voice of Heaven spoke – what was spoken, you may not have known, but you felt in your heart that a tremendous experience was about to be had. *And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him* Did you not know, my dear people, that your appeal for mercy will bring Christ to a full stop before you. When a man stands still, it usually means he has quit his journey, but when Christ stands still – whether on a dusty road leading into Jericho or beneath a sycamore tree into which Zacchaeus climbed – something miraculous is about to happen. Even the air is made calm and full of electrifying expectation. If you have appealed to Christ for mercy, He has stopped to hear your petition! Suddenly, you feel his servants (perhaps His true ministers) pulling at your arms and bringing you into a wide place. Though your vision is dark, there is nothing amiss with your ears for you hear the most majestic and loving voice you have ever imagined speak to YOU! *What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?* When we first appealed to Christ for mercy and begged for healing, were we not somewhat taken aback by the power of His Voice? Perhaps the beggar had hailed many passers-by for succor, and only a few had ever responded. None had asked that the beggar be brought to them as did this Man. When He spoke, perhaps His Voice overpowered you in love and power. You didn't REALLY believe such an important personage would stop and listen to your grievance, did you? Notice that Jesus did not say, "What wilt thou that I do FOR you," but, *What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?* If Jesus merely heals our sight, He has done something FOR us only; but if He makes us into new creatures

through His redeeming power, we have had a change made **TO** us.

You eagerly search for a response to this most appealing voice. Finally, you know that you have His full attention. He has granted mercy already, so you press forward with a desire that has plagued you all the years that you have sat by the roadside in the darkness of a bright day: *Lord, that I may receive my sight*. Now, you anxiously wait. Have you imposed too much on the great King to have your request granted? Do you not know that a great King is complimented by a great request? The great request is recognition of His great power to grant. *And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee*. Notice Jesus granted the beggars lesser request first – his sight. But the greater favor came as the best wine came last at Cana of Galilee – **SALVATION!** Our greatest miracle from the Lord will always be His forgiveness and reception of us into His Kingdom!

Now, good friends, what did you do when Christ healed **YOU**? Did your heart immediately break out in praises and joy? Did you immediately follow Him wheresoever He led? Did your exuberance at your salvation spill over into the crowd (world) around you? If not, perhaps you still pine away in blindness, for look at the response of the poor blind beggar: *And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God*.

GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE!

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 Quinquagesima

Our world today has much in common with the world from which Christianity grew. It was a time when only a tiny minority of men possessed great wealth and power. It was a time of strife between nations, as well as between nationalities. Prior to the birth of our Lord, there had been the death of an order of governance—the Roman Republic—and the rise of another—the Roman Imperium. And though the classical world was dominated by idolatry and paganism; as the first century A.D. passed into history, it also witnessed the coming of those heretical sects which divided the Christian faith, creating confusion and distress within the body of Christ.

Concerning that very thing, St. Paul warned the Ephesian elders to, Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them (Acts 20:28-30).

It has ever been the duty of Christ's shepherds, to contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares... ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and

our Lord Jesus Christ (St. Jude 3b-4). An important aspect of that duty regards warning fellow Christians about any person or heretical association that puts forth the name of Christ without adhering to his teachings.

The Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry website has a wealth of material concerning various cults and New Age religions which are not really new at all as they were based on Classical Gnosticism. According to Dr. Jesse Hurlbut, the Gnostics of the first century A.D. "... believed that out of the supreme God emanated a large number of inferior deities, some beneficent, other malignant... that [Christ was] one of those 'emanations'... and they interpreted the Scriptures in an allegorical manner, making every statement mean whatever the interpreter saw fit." In our modern world there are also religious groups who possess similar beliefs, in particular are the Universalists and their associated bodies. The editors of CARM have noted that the Universalists deny the existence of the Trinity, the personage of the Holy Ghost, the eternal punishment of the wicked, as well as the atoning work of our Lord on the cross. They also employ Bible tenets without using their intended meanings as found in Scripture. While claiming the name of Christ, their principles are framed in the form of, "I want...etc.". In short, it is the church of "ME". A "ME" church styles its precepts in terms of the individual, and so they will postulate that, "It is the world the way I want it; the church the way I want it; relationships the way I want them; and of course, morality the way I want it."

Now, this sort of belief is older than most might imagine. In fact, it is older than man himself because it originated with the Devil. In Isaiah 14:12-14, the prophet was given to write, How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations. For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God... I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. This last phrase, I will be like the most High, was passed on to humanity at the fall in the Garden of Eden. When Satan entered the serpent and seduced Eve to sin, he lured her in with these words, Ye shall not die; for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil (Genesis 3:4b-5). Ever after, God expected mankind to do good because he had the knowledge of both good and evil. But the desire to be as gods has been and remains one of the principal motivators which has led men and women to rebel against the will and wishes of the one true God.

Within the pages of Scriptures, God has set forth the dismal record of profane man's efforts to create religious paths to suit himself. Consider the following:

Cain offered God what he wanted God to have as a sacrifice and not what God desired of Cain to bring before him (Genesis 4:1-7).

The children of Israel had Aaron fashion an idol to satisfy their fleshly minds (Exodus 32:1-7).

On account of their specious reasoning, Korah and Dathan opposed the leadership of Moses in spite of the fact that God had expressly called him to lead the people (Numbers 16:1-3).

The wicked and willful nature of man is exemplified in the Judges 21:25 wherein it was written,... every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Unregenerate men, after having received gifts from God, will nevertheless turn to their own reasoning in order to justify their ungodly intentions rather than trusting in God's promises much as Jeroboam did (I Kings 12:26-33).

Foolish humanity has been deceived by the Devil into creating gods for themselves as if those works of their own hands were somehow superior to the workings of God (Isaiah 44:8-20).

The false choices of the unregenerate concerning faith and practice will result in God's wrath being poured out upon them. If our worship does not follow his commands then we are in danger of becoming castaway (Jeremiah 7:17-20; 9:12-14; 23:25-36; Ezekiel 8:1-18; Daniel 9:13).

Those who would substitute the commandments of men for those of our righteous and holy God are vain in their imaginations, and will be despoiled (St. Matthew 15:1-9; Romans 1:21; Colossians 2:8, 18-23).

The foolish nature of unrighteous man is that he has opened himself up to spiritual deception by the dark forces of evil. In such a state he may use the name of Christ while denying the true meaning of Christ as the Saviour and Redeemer kinsman of mankind (I St. John 4:1-14; 5:1-13).

The error of the wicked will eventually become so complete that they will not entertain the desire to repent when faced with the very wrath of God (II Thessalonians 2:1-12; Revelation 9:20).

Some may ask, "Do those who are now in such a state possess the opportunity to repent and turn unto God in the name of Jesus Christ?" Of course they do. As long as they are in this life, repentance and acceptance are open to all who have sinned against God's word and commandments. There will however be a time in the future when their decision will be finalized. Such will occur when the Antichrist comes with his mark. All who accept it will face an eternity of torment (Revelation 14:9-11).

So what should all true and faithful Christians do to avoid the church of "ME"? First of all, one should avoid participation in church bodies that do not follow the truth of God's word. St. Paul has warned us that we, Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (II Corinthians 6:14). The unequal yoke exists because the Devil isn't interested in simple parity with God. He desires supremacy. And so, the believer cannot find safety or comfort for his soul among those who reject the very God who supplies such things. Those who find themselves in fellowship with an unrighteous religious body ought to forthwith get themselves hence. As the apostle Paul advised in II Corinthians 6:17, Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. God is saying to you in very clear language: "GET OUT NOW!" For each day you remain within that fold, you are likely to fall prey to further deception and never leave to the detriment of your immortal soul.

Secondly, beware of false prophets and false teachers who appear to be righteous but are inwardly ravaging wolves (St. Matthew 7:15b). False ministers are also described as hirelings because they are insincere. When temptation and trial come, they disappear (St. John 10:12). They have surrendered long ago to our adversary and will not stand up for the truth of God because they know it not. The false religions are shepherded by folks such as these who are Satan's messengers seeking to trap as many unsuspecting souls as they can. As our Lord called on us to be fishers of men (St. Matthew 4:19), so the evil one has trained up his agents of deception to ensnare men.

Thirdly, avoid the sins of the flesh (I Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:3-7). The apostle Paul noted in Romans 1:32 that those, who knowing the judgment of God, that they

which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. So, one does not have to commit a particular sin to be guilty of it. One need only approve of those who do commit the same. God will judge your agreement or tolerance of evil as an acceptance of evil.

Fourthly, put on the whole armor of God and stand ready for battle against the forces of darkness (Ephesians 6:10-18). Whether you want to believe it or not, we are involved in a great spiritual war, and we all have to choose a side. If you choose to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, then you will face persecution and tribulation; but you will triumph with our Lord at his coming and receive the gift of everlasting life in his kingdom. If you reject his free gift of salvation, you will, by default, wind up in the camp of the Devil and be lost to perdition forever. Donning the whole armor of God will protect you in this fight. There is no surrender, no negotiation, no discussion, and no pity on those who have chosen poorly. You cannot placate God, and you certainly cannot placate the Devil except to purchase a momentary pleasure, which will result in an eternity of heartache and misery (Revelation 20:11-15).

Finally, we must attempt to rescue those who have fallen into pit of false religion by contending for the faith through our witness on behalf of our Lord (St. Jude 3); by praying for and beseeching God to give them repentance that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will (II St. Timothy 2:26). We ought, as God gives us leave, to reach into the very fire and pull as many out as we are able (St. Jude 22-23). We must ask God for the protection of the Holy Ghost in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, for only by being filled with the Spirit of God can we do those things which he would have us do in his harvest.

The day of Christ is at hand and we need to be instant in season, out of season. We need to reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine (II St. Timothy 4:2). So be in prayer and read your bibles. Do not hesitate to ask of God for assistance. We have friends and loved-ones who are in danger and need to be warned. We cannot quit now regardless of how late the day is for only the Father knows the day and the hour of our Lord's return. We should not be about condemnation but about reclamation. Yes, we must warn the unregenerate about the terror of the Lord, but the central message to them ought to be about being made right with God and following his path to eternity. Therefore, be Bereans (Acts 17:10-11); be watchful (St. Luke 21:36); be ready (St. Matthew 24:44); and be armored (Ephesians 6:10). If we will keep the commandments of our Lord, we will be blessed in all our works, and we will stand a much better chance of winning the lost back from the fire. May our blessed God preserve each of you for ever.

Let us pray,

HOLY Father, pour upon us thy most holy Spirit, that being so filled we will fight the good fight of faith and help rescue those who have been ensnared by the false religions which Satan has established to cloud men's minds; for this we ask in the name of thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *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
17 February 2013	Opportunity Available – First Sunday in Lent
24 February 2013	Opportunity Available – Second Sunday in Lent
3 March 2013	Opportunity Available – Third Sunday in Lent
10 March 2013	Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday in Lent
17 March 2013	Opportunity Available – Fifth Sunday in Lent
24 March 2013	Opportunity Available – Palm Sunday
31 March 2013	Opportunity Available – Easter Sunday

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 last 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

H. Eugene Risch, of Clarkdale, Arizona, passed away recently, we were notified of his departure on 7 February 2013. A minister with the Anglican Episcopal Church, he had waged an ongoing battle with life-threatening illness over a period of, yet

he never has allowed the pain and suffering to stop him from continually serving the Lord. He used the experience of his suffering to magnify the glory of God to all who would hear. He was a man gifted with a rare and extensive knowledge and love of Holy Scripture. His wife, who remains behind, is a lovely lady worthy of the title. Please join us in commending his soul to our Lord and praying for comfort and succor of his loved ones, in particular his dear wife.

Richard Campbell passed away early the morning of 5 February 2013, after a heart attack and relatively brief illness. The last of his generation, he leaves an awesome legacy of good. Please give thanks for Richard's time here on earth and pray for comfort and strength for those he leaves behind.

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

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

Becky has fourth stage metastasized lung cancer and is not doing well with chemotherapy treatments. Please pray for Becky and her husband as they are together during this difficult time in their lives.

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.

Dester is suffering from unknown skin and diseases. Please guide the medical team treating him to find out what the problem is and cure it. Pray also for Dester to trust in the Lord.

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 an 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

Dr. Elizabeth Raj is teaching a biblical approach to the psychological problems facing many in our society today. She is battling against the growing influence of worldly psychology adopted by the churches themselves. Elizabeth constantly stresses answers are found between the covers of that precious Book, the Holy Bible. Please pray for encouragement, strength, fortitude and courage for her.

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 Quinquagesima?

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

The name Quinquagesima originates from Latin quinquagesimus (fiftieth), referring to the fifty days before Easter Sunday using inclusive counting, which counts both Sundays (normal counting would count only one of these).

Since the forty days of the Lenten fast included only weekdays, the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, succeeds Quinquagesima Sunday by only three days. The earliest

Quinquagesima Sunday can occur is February 1 and the latest is March 7. The Roman Church no longer observes much of the Christian Year, including Quinquagesima and the two immediately before it — Sexagesima and Septuagesima Sundays.

The contemporary service books of many claiming to be Anglican provinces do not use the term but it remains in the Book of Common Prayer.

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 or Fat Tuesday.

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
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
3 March 2013	Dru Arnold – Third Sunday in Lent
10 March 2013	Dru Arnold – Fourth Sunday in Lent
17 March 2013	Dru Arnold – Fifth Sunday in Lent
24 March 2013	Dru Arnold – Palm Sunday
31 March 2013	Dru Arnold – Easter Sunday

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

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**

3 March 2013 – Third 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**

10 March 2013 – Fourth 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**

17 March 2013 – Fifth 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**

24 March 2013 – Palm Sunday – 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**

31 March 2013 – Easter Sunday – Holy Communion – Mite Box Collection – What will we have? 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**

7 April 2013 – First Sunday After Easter – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

14 April 2013 – Second Sunday After Easter – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

21 April 2013 – Third Sunday After Easter – 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**

28 April 2013 – Fourth Sunday After Easter – 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**