



# Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

## Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday Report



Today was the Second Sunday in Lent. The over night low was 31°F, but by sunrise the temperature on Mount Olympus was a lovely 42°F under the bright blue skies of a Santa Ana wind<sup>1</sup>. By the time church ended, the temperature had climbed to 45°F, not bad for February considering we had snow on Wednesday and Thursday. The nice weather brought three people to church.

### *Gathering Song*

Jack Arnold played *Amazing Grace* for the gathering song.

### *Amazing Grace*

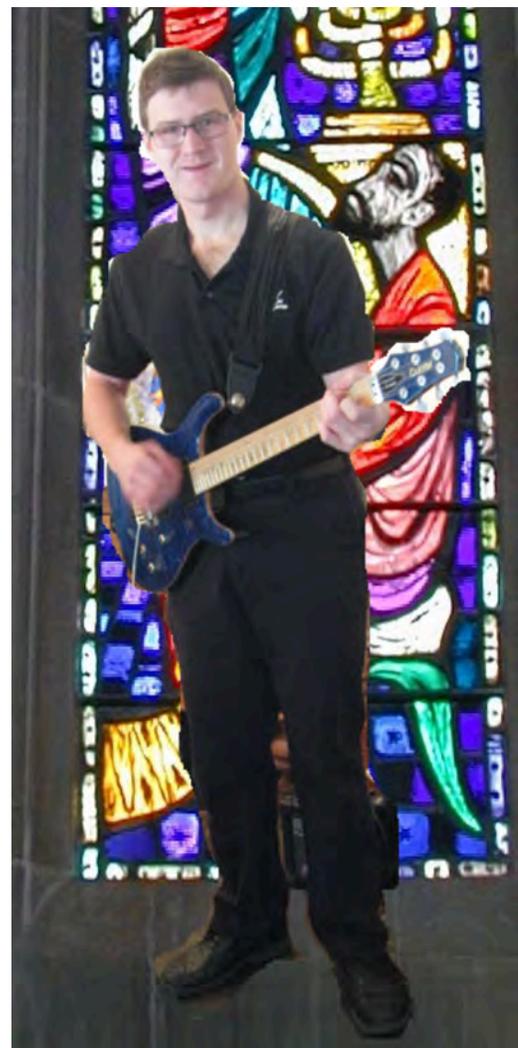
Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. *Amazing Grace* is one of Hap's absolute favorites.



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<sup>1</sup> Santa Ana winds are what we call it here in Southern California when the usual onshore breeze is replaced by a wind from the East. If it is Northeast, it is cold (by our standards) and if it is directly East, it is warm. The temperature is nice, the wind irritating.

### *Prayer of Sir Francis Drake – Shared by Bishop Jerry Ogles*

On the afternoon of the day the English fleet sailed forth to meet the invincible Spanish Armada, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Francis Drake offered this prayer up to God for his men and himself. Note the tenor and charity of it:

**M**OST merciful and loving Father, we beseech thee most humbly, even with all our hearts, to pour out upon our enemies with a bountiful hand whatsoever things thou knowest may do them good; and chiefly a sound and



uncorrupt mind, wherethrough they may know thee and seek thee in true charity, with their whole hearts, and love us thy children, for thy sake. Let not their hating of us turn to their harm, neither let us in any wise hurt them. Seeing that we cannot do them good for want of ability, Lord, we desire their amendment, and not their punishment. Separate them not from us by punishing them, but join and knit them to us by thy favourable dealing with them. And seeing we be all ordained to be citizens of the one everlasting city, let us begin to enter in that way here already by mutual love, which may bring us right forth hither; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Miraculously, the out-gunned and inferior British fleet was victorious over a naval force of unquestioned superiority. The forces of nature (and of nature's God) combined to deal a decisive defeat to the would-be invaders of England. Perhaps the only difference in the outcome was due to the prayer of Sir Francis Drake. What think ye?

### *Propers*

Each Sunday there are Propers: special prayers and readings from the Bible. There is a Collect for the Day; that is a single thought prayer, most written either before the re-founding of the Church of England in the 1540s or written by Bishop Thomas Cranmer, the first Archbishop of Canterbury after the re-founding.

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. The Epistle is normally a reading from one of the various Epistles, or letters, in the New Testament. The Gospel is a reading from one of the Holy Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Collect is said by the minister as a prayer, the Epistle can be read by either a designated reader (as we do in our church) or by one of the ministers and the Holy Gospel, which during the service in our church is read by an ordained minister or our Deacon Striker.

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 127-128, with the Collect first:

### The Second Sunday in Lent.

*The Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And due to the rubric, the Collect for the Day is followed by the Collect for Ash Wednesday, which is found on Page 124:

### The first day of Lent, commonly called Ash Wednesday.

*The Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ This Collect is to be said every day in Lent, after the Collect appointed for the day, until Palm Sunday.

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from the Fourth Chapter of Paul's First letter to the Thessalonians beginning at the First Verse. Apparently the Corinthians were not the only church founded in a Red Light District. In this letter Paul is telling the people to refrain from random sex and get married. Paul is starting into the beginning of his New Man concept. We are called to be as God wants us to be, not as we would be without His guidance and help. God does this, not that we would miss fun, but rather that we would enjoy happiness.



**W**E beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and

more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: that no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his Holy Spirit.

Hap Arnold read this morning's Gospel which comes from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, the Fifteenth Chapter, beginning at the Twenty-First Verse.

**J**ESUS went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.



This story surfaces again in the Book of Common Prayer in the Prayer of Humble Access, in the Book of Common Prayer, Page 82:

**W**E do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

### *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:

... we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul ...

In the Collect, we acknowledge to God that we cannot direct our own lives, if we listen to our "inner self" we are without guidance. Consider the airplane flying, it orders its movements according to Polaris, the Pole Star of True North. If a pilot flies guided by his "inner self" he soon knows only where he is: at the controls, and little else. Like the pilot who needs to know where the True North is so he can orient himself, we need God's guidance to move

towards our goal of eternal life with Him. It should also be noted that our life here will be a lot more pleasant if we stay on course. Recently, I read something of Rev Rick Reid's which said at the end of our lives, the words will be "Thy will be done." The question is will it be us saying it or God? We need to listen to God and do His Will. His guidance will bring us on a path to success in our lives, if we listen to His guidance. We have to initiate the contact/relationship with Him. He does not do it on His own. He waits for an opening into our hearts. We have to let him into our hearts in order to let him guide us. If we do not do this, then how can we expect to have Him guide us, if we are not open and ready to receive Him and His Guidance? We have to be willing and ready in order to receive His Guidance, than we have to act upon the information His Guidance gives us.

Thus, when Paul tell us to keep our bodies under control of our minds and our minds to be guided by God only, he helps move us on course. We are to be true and honest in all our dealings, both physical and fiscal and to live our faith. For only by living our faith can we demonstrate that we in fact have faith. For professed faith with no actions when you are able to act is not real. You must actualize what you claim to believe. One must convert their stated beliefs into their actions, in order for their belief/faith to have any reasonable meaning. Without actions, the faith that one believes is not truly real, if it is not acted upon. If you claim to believe one way and act another, you are by definition a hypocrite. We are called to be as God wants us to be, not as we would be without His guidance and help. God does this, not that we would miss fun, but rather that we would enjoy happiness.

Matthew gives us a fine example of faith that demonstrates how we must be guided by our faith in our Lord. The woman who cries unto Jesus is a Gentile, just like us. Just like us she longs for His Mercy. In her case, she asks only for the mercy rejected by

others, the crumbs of the Master's Table<sup>2</sup>. This is the essence of our faith, we are not worth to dine at His Table, no more than dogs are meet to dine at our table. Yet, what is left over is more than enough for us. And we are content with that, knowing what miserable creatures we are. And, even more important, even knowing what miserable creatures we are, Jesus offers to share His Table with us. He is not content for us to grovel for His crumbs. If he offers his love for us, surely we should love Him back, by acting upon our faith? If we do not act for Him, then we do not truly believe in Him. In order to truly believe, you must act upon the faith that you have.

It is also important to understand that if one loves God, He still has the exact same amount of love available for any other person or group. His love is infinite, even if it wasn't love multiplies in use!

Recognize how poorly you do with your guidance, accept His Guidance, stay on course and accept the fruits of that action.

### 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**

The Second Sunday in Lent  
24 February 2013, Anno Domini

#### **The Second Sunday in Lent.**

*The Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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¶ This Collect is to be said every day in Lent, after the Collect appointed for the day, until Palm Sunday.

<sup>2</sup> Sound familiar? Check out the Prayer of Humble Access, Holy Communion, BCP Page 82.

One great acknowledgment that stands out in today's Collect for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent is this: Since our father Adam partook of the ill-natured tree in the midst of the Garden, Man must still find himself constantly relying upon that OTHER Tree in the midst of the Garden at Eden which he rejected – the Tree of Life. Because of that rejection, we are full of sin and incapable of helping ourselves. We even return to, stop and listen to, and partake of the ill-fated fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It is only the Mercy and Grace offered by the Tree of Life that keeps us from constantly appealing to the serpent of the other tree. This Collect originates in the Gregorian Sacramentary. For a fuller study and brief meditation on the Collects, I recommend *The Collects of Thomas Cranmer*, by C. Frederick Barbee and Paul F.M. Zahl. (Erdmans, 1999)

*21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.** 25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. 26 But he answered and said, **It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.** 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, **O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.** And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. (Matt 15:21-28)*

Jesus has just been confronted by the scribes and Pharisees (blind leaders of the blind) who have come to Him with a petty complaint involving hand-washing. These men ruled their charges by red-tape and the jot and tittle of the law, and not out of love. There is one cardinal principle is preaching that may be the most neglected, not only by the former Pharisees, but the contemporary ones as well. That principle is clearly elucidated in 1 Peter 5:2. *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3. Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.* (1 Peter 5:2-4) So Jesus, wearied of the harassment from the mean fellows, resorts to the far reaching coastline of Tyre and Sidon (Phoenicia on the Mediterranean) for a time of peace and quiet. There is also a certain woman in His thoughts that needs to see Him and is awaiting His arrival there. This dear soul has no idea that the Son of David will travel to her distant home, but the Son of David knows, and He comes.

The beauty and comfort of God's providential care for us, even while we were yet strangers, knows no limits on time and distance. Perhaps, ere you came to Christ, you, too, were a great distance away among a people of Godless character; yet, Christ was aware of your plight and His Holy Spirit, swift as a Dove, came to you and answered your great need. He knew you LONG before you knew Him – even while you were yet in your mother's womb where He MADE you! Such a wonderful visit of Christ the great Healer and Physician was beyond the realm of possibility in the imagination of the Syro-Phoenician woman. Yet, there was something in her heart that made her believe that God would provide. Already, she had more faith as a Gentile than the Jewish rulers had as the lost sheep of Israel. The reassuring thing about faith in God is this: We need not understand the ways and means of God's answering our prayers, but only to know that He certainly WILL! The ear of faith, to, is very keen to

hear every whispered detail of the Way of the Lord's Coming whether it be on the road from Galilee, or from Jerusalem. The direction is not so important, but the fact that He will come after all. There is a parallel account of this event in the Gospel of St Mark 7:24-30.

We look in upon Jesus immediately after His confrontation over hand-washing with the Pharisees: 21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. Please do not argue that Christ knew not whom He would meet at His destination for I will not believe it. Christ always knew whom He would meet and whom He would heal in every case. He knew a woman of Samaria would come to Jacob's Well at the noonday hour long before the woman experienced her thirst. So He waited there while the disciples went for bread. You may be the most incorrigible and egregious of sinners, judged so by infidel and Christian alike, but Christ may have already established a point in time when He will seek you out in a land far removed from the familiar people of God. This woman may not be an egregious sinner. In fact, I believe that she is a good and faithful mother to the treasure of her bosom, but she has not yet met Christ – and that meeting will make all the difference in her life. Now He is coming. The news is whispered about the villages and among travelers along the dusty roads. His fame has even reached the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, and the woman has heard with bated breath. HOPE is the dominant quality that informs her germinating faith in a Figure she has yet to meet. The Gospel of St Mark tells us that Jesus went into a house to rest near the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, but "*could not be hid.*" (7:24) No truer statement can be uttered about Jesus – He cannot be hidden from the searching eye, for all that seek Him shall find Him. (Luke 11:9 et al) There is a Syro-Phoenician woman that is seeking, and she shall find Him at all costs. This is always the cause that brings us to Christ – NEED! Many need, but fail to satisfy that need in coming to Him.

22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David. There are three important points to be made in this one statement: 1) The woman did not casually call out for help as if her need, or her expectation, was minor. She CRIED out because her NEED, motivated by a mother's love for a dear little girl, was GREAT! "my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil". 2) She named no great need in her cry – only a request for mercy. If she has mercy from Christ, she has all else of her need. 3) She recognized Jesus as the Messiah. That is the meaning of her expression "O Lord, thou Son of David." She did not call Him 'a' son of David, but the prophesied Son of David. When we go to Christ in prayer, do we fully realize He is? This woman KNEW before ever she met Christ. She knew out of NEED and FAITH. Perhaps feeling herself so much so unworthy as the publican who came with the Pharisee to the Temple that day and would not approach so near, she called from a distance unto Christ. Actually, our first call to Christ is always from a distance, for we call out of our bondage and need. It is just as the hymnist, William Sleeper, has written in the hymn we sang today:

*Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night,  
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;  
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,  
Jesus, I come to Thee;  
Out of my sickness, into Thy health,  
Out of my want and into Thy wealth,  
Out of my sin and into Thyself,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.*

**23 But he answered her not a word.** Was Jesus being unkind to this precious mother? Of course he was not! Jesus showed nothing but the deepest compassion for others in need. Jesus does not answer for two reasons: 1) He desires to allow the woman's faith to increase, by and by, through her persistence. If we pray ceaselessly and, yet, have not gotten an answer, do we cease to call upon the Lord? God would have us pray with persistence. As we pray continually, our eyes are opened more and more to the Mind of God – our prayers thereby become more and more in accord with His own Will to grant. Do you recall in our previous studies how those who are closest to Christ often prevent those who need Him most from coming? ***And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.*** Do we value our comfort and leisure so highly that we forbid others who have a great need from coming to the source of that comfort we have? Are we too cozy in our little buildings of stone walls and high spires? The salt that is not often shaken will harden so that it cannot be dispensed from the shaker.

**24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.** Every Word of Christ is with power yet this is one of those 'BUTS' which deserve heeding. This woman is from the Canaanite race of Gentiles that the Jews despise. Christ is drawing out of a deep well, the refreshing waters of faith this woman has. He does it not only for her own benefit, but for the benefit of his Jewish disciples to learn of compassion. He is saying to the poor mother, "Look, I know you have a need, but I am not sent to any other than the lost sheep of Israel. If you become a child of the Promised Seed, you, too, shall be in the fold of Israel." The statement of Jesus is looked upon with particular interest by His disciples. Jesus is slowly drawing the woman closer to Himself, and to His Love-Brimmed Heart. **25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.** Yes, we see that the Love of Jesus does draw her nearer, don't we? She finally is not afraid to worship the Savior of her soul. She asked for the deepest desire of her heart, and that desire derives from a love that is inexpressible for her daughter.

Please note thoughtfully the kind and loving response of Jesus to the woman: **26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.** At first glimpse, this may sound a bit harsh to such a loving mother, but it is laden with love. The word Jesus uses here to describe her relationship to the children of God (Israel) is not the term for the cursed and hated dog of the ghettos, but the Greek word, kunarion, pronounced '**koo-nar'-ee-on**', meaning 'puppy' or 'pet-dog.' The puppy dog is a pet and is fed by the children by secretly dropping crumbs of food down to them. Perhaps we, as children of God, fail too often to drop these crumbs of the Bread of Life down to those who are starving for love and nourishment. Jesus, from eternity past, has loved this woman and her little daughter; but He needs to show her the manner in which she must come to Him. **27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.** These words were evoked by Christ for the benefit of those standing nearby. He already knew these words were written in the red blood of love on the woman's heart for her daughter. Had she not needed a healing for her daughter, she may never have sought Christ out.

**28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.** What has Jesus told the woman? He has told her (in other words): "Woman, you have known who I am. You have come seeking me out of a faith

born of love. You have persisted in your prayers, so much so, that YOUR will is precisely the Will of God. It is by THAT latter Will that your faith has healed your daughter. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. God is Light, and His Finger travels with Light Speed. There was no lingering spirit-possession of the daughter – not at all. She was healed that very hour (moment).

So what valuable lessons have we learned from this most blessed mother of ancient Phoenicia?

1. Love will call us into a higher place – even to a seeking after God.
2. We must seek the Lord diligently even in places that are perceived unlikely such as the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.
3. We must call out in earnest to Christ not holding back.
4. We must clearly state our need in prayer.
5. We must be persistent in prayer even if we only hear silence at first from the Throne of God.
6. We must not only petition, but listen for the Will of God to be
7. We must worship God even while we are pleading our cause as did the distraught mother.
8. We must give evidence of our Faith to both God and man.

Have we exercised this example in prayer? Put it to the test. God is faithful always to answer if our wills are consistent with His Own.

### *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:



#### **Keep**

Psalm 86, 142, 1 Kings 8:35-43, Colossians 3:8-17

Second Sunday in Lent

February 24, 2013

There is a beautiful old word that was a favourite of Christians in past generations. It is not used very often today, I hope that is not because people no longer believe in it. The word is "Providence." Providence is the activity of the Provider. It refers to God providing for our needs. From Him we receive our creation, preservation, all the blessings of this life, and all the means of grace. All things needful for happiness in this life, and the next come to us freely as gifts from God. Providence also refers to God's direction and protection of us. It refers to His guiding our lives toward His intended goal. Under His Providential guidance, as St. Paul wrote in Romans 8:28; "all things work together for good to those who love God."

Providence is one of the many doctrines addressed in today's Scriptures and Collects. Instead of "Providence," the Collect uses the word, "keep," and, it seems to me that it uses it in the sense of the Old Testament Hebrew word that is often translated as both guard and keep. It refers to God to guarding and protecting us, both physically and spiritually. I think there is another meaning to the word, "keep," and that is to fence. So to ask God to keep us is to ask Him to build a fence around us that will keep us in the

place where we ought to stay, and out of the places we should not go.

As we looked at the reading in 1 Kings 8, I saw Solomon asking God to keep Israel out of places she should not go. That prayer is coupled with another petition, repeated several times in the chapter, a prayer for forgiveness, a prayer that when Israel does sin, does stray into those places she should not go, God will have mercy upon her, cause her to turn to Him and seek Him in His holy Temple, and bring her back to faith and to God. "Hear Thou in Heaven," Solomon prayed, "and forgive the sin of Thy people."

Looking at the reading in Colossians 3, I see a prayer about keeping us in the place where we should always be. The passage expounds and explains the meaning of two earlier verses, not officially included in the Lectionary, but which I read today because they are integral to understanding and practicing the message of Colossians 3. They are verses 9 and 10 which tell us we have put off the old and put on the new. The old refers to the unGodly thoughts and actions identified in verses 5 and 8, things like fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, covetousness, anger, wrath malice, blasphemy, and filthy communication. These are not the only unGodly things we are to put off, if we are Christians, but they are certainly some of them, and we are to take them off and throw them away like ragged, maggot infested garments. We are to throw them in the trash, and not allow them to characterise our lives anymore. In fact, these things are so wicked that we are not even to give the appearance of endorsing them. In their places we are to put on the pure, new, and holy garments of the righteousness of Christ. So, instead of fornication, we are to put on chastity. Instead of inordinate affection, which is a burning desire to have something, it could be a boat, a horse, or a lifestyle of self indulgence and luxury, we are to put on self control, moderation, self discipline, and even a certain amount of self denial, in the realisation that even good things are not always expedient.

Please don't misunderstand me here. I am not saying we should not enjoy the fruits of our labours. We should enjoy them. God wants us to enjoy them. I am saying that having wealth and possessions and pleasures is like living with lions, there is an element of danger in them. There is always the chance that they will consume you.

Paul goes on to exhort us to put on, that is to dress in and have as our defining characteristics, things like mercy. You know what mercy is. Mercy is what you want from God on the day you stand before Him and He reviews all your sins. Let mercy characterise us here and now. You know what kindness is, it is what you want God to have when you see that you cannot atone for your own sins, or make yourself acceptable to Him. You know what forbearance is, it's what you want us to have when you say or do something foolish or inappropriate, or even mean. Be kind to one another. Let forbearance characterize you.

Look at the way Paul contrasts the old things with the new. The old is characterised by fornication; the new by charity, love. The old is given to covetousness, the new is given to longsuffering. The old is given to wrath and malice, the new is given to kindness, forbearance, and forgiveness. The old is given to filthy communication, the new speaks in Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in the heart. The old is controlled by inordinate affections and covetousness, the new, and for this we will go back to the very first verse of the chapter, for it is the main point of this whole passage; the new seeks those things which are above. It has set its affections on the things of God, not of earth (Col. 3:1-2). It lives in a state of continually mortifying, or crucifying

sinful desires, and living for Christ in this life.

I'm trying to say today, that these things of Godliness, things like forbearance, kindness, forgiveness, and love need to become habits in our lives. They need to become the habitual ways we respond to situations and people in life. That won't happen unless we intentionally cultivate them. We must train these things into ourselves until they become habit. And then we must continually reinforce that training day in and day out for the rest of our lives. Otherwise we will slip back into the old, unGodly habits of anger, inordinate affections, and filthy communications. These old habits are natural to us. they are like weeds in a garden, they grow naturally, and we have to fight them to control them. It is Godliness that is foreign to us. Like flowers and vegetables, Godliness must be planted and nurtured, or it won't grow. We all know it just takes a couple of weeks of neglect to turn a beautiful garden into a weed bed. Let us not neglect to cultivate Godliness in us.

Today, pondering the doctrine of the Providence of God, we are asking Him to use His power for our benefit. We're asking Him to keep us from all things that hurt body and soul, which also means to keep us in those things that aid and heal us. The words of Psalm 86:11 express this prayer well. Let us close with theme.

**T**EACH me thy way, O Lord, and I will walk in thy truth. O knit my heart unto thee, that I may fear thy name.

--

+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 Second Sunday in Lent**

In I Corinthians 6:9-20, the apostle Paul reminded the Christians at Corinth of their sordid past when he penned the following: Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? He then went on to set forth those sins which they once took pleasure in doing one of which was the sin of idolatry. In another epistle, the apostle commended the Thessalonian brethren for their exemplary conduct in that they had turned to God from idols (I Thessalonians 1:1-10). The tenets of our faith dictate that having more than one God is sinful, and that worshiping graven images is forbidden. Just as Israel's covenant with the LORD specifically barred them from fashioning images for the purpose of worship, so we Christians must also abide by this restriction as well. Consider the following verses from Exodus, I am the LORD thy God... thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any

graven image... thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them... (20:2a, 3-4a, 5a).

Consider also the words of the prophet Isaiah (44:9-10, 14-17) on this subject: They that make a graven image are all of them vanity... Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing?... He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak... Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baked bread; yea, he maketh a god and worshippeth it; he maketh a graven image, and falleth down thereto. He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: and the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou are my god.

In his first epistle to the Corinthians (10:19-21), St. Paul equated idolatry with worthlessness, and paganism with demonism when he wrote, What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and the table of devils.... It should be noted that in the apostle's day, the prohibition against idolatry included the worship of the emperor as a living god. Thus the behavior for which the apostle applauded the Thessalonians— on account of their patent rejection of all idolatry in favor of the worship of the one, true and living God— can be juxtaposed to those of the Corinthian church who needed a reminder that they too must turn from worshipping idols.

Alas, though initially rejected by early Christians in the first and second centuries A.D., by the fifth century idolatry was once again popular but this time within the precincts of the body of Christ. Dr. Jesse Hurlbut once noted that, "while the triumph of Christianity resulted in much that was good, inevitably the alliance of the [Roman] state and the church also brought in its train many evils... As a result... we do not see Christianity transforming the world to its own ideal, but the world dominating the church (Story of the Christian Church pp. 62-63) ."

And so the paganism of the Ancient World, which was thought displaced by the Christian church, soon reappeared as a corporate member of it. The Rev. E.M. Bounds once observed concerning this sort of behavior, "When the church itself, the bride of Christ, is seduced from her purity [by Satan], she degenerates into worldly ritualism... The Devil is a hydra-headed monster who is multifaceted in his plans and wisdom as well as in atrocities. His supreme effort is to gain control of the church, not to destroy its organization, but to pervert its divine purpose (Guide to Spiritual Warfare p.41-42)."

Now consider our adversary's handiwork within the fold Christ. In 431 A.D., the Council of Ephesus officially gave the title of "Mother of God" to the Virgin Mary. This very title had once belonged to the goddess Cybele whom the Greeks called "Meter Theon" or "mother of the gods". It should be noted that Ephesus was once the seat of worship for Diana, or Artemis, who was also a mother goddess. The Temple of Diana of Ephesus was one of the seven wonders of the Ancient World. Now while it is true that the council did not mean to convey a pagan understanding of Mary— only that she was the bearer of God in the flesh— still the irony of that event is inescapable. For in the very city where the apostle Paul (Acts 19:26), hath persuaded and turned away much

people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands, a church council had unwittingly supplied future church leaders with the proverbial “green light” to advocate that very aspect of paganism which the apostle had so forthrightly condemned some four centuries before.

But there is more, for one of the seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation (2:18-29) was the church at Thyatira which, as the Rev. Matthew Henry explained, “...allowed [a spirit of wicked teaching named Jezebel] to seduce the people of that city. [This spirit and its charges] attempted to draw the servants of God into fornication and to offer sacrifices to idols.” The warning by our Lord of this coming acceptance of idolatry should have been “a fire bell in the night” as it ought to have stirred the faithful leadership of the church into action against this sort of behavior. Sadly, by the fifth century, there was not much interest in keeping pagan practices out of the church as very many within the body of Christ were merely unconverted pagans masking themselves as Christians.

In our contemporary world, idolatry has become more sophisticated. The widespread cults of personality in religion have taken center-stage in the hearts of the naive. These “so-to-speak” preachers have put aside the notion of God’s coming judgment for sin and the need for repentance in favor of a false universalism. They teach only about God’s love and omit his desire for justice. They lure their prey into their dairy stalls—which they call churches—to be milked of their hard earned wages, while at the same time feeding them a gospel devoid of the whole truth of God and rendering them fit for the slaughterhouse of Hell when they die. An attendant teaching of these wolves in sheep’s clothing includes the false gospel of prosperity: where God will make every “so-to-speak” true believer materially rich, and physically well. And such carries with it the equally false notion that if you do not receive such blessings, then you do not possess the proper level of faith to empower God to work in your life. What a kick in the teeth to an otherwise faithful believer who is struggling with financial or health problems. Imagine telling a person in those circumstances that they are not measuring up to God because they are ill, or in debt, or facing any number of difficulties. They might as well take the advice of Job’s wife to, curse God and die (Job 2:9).

Then there are those outside of the church who hold up a variety of secular figures as their gods and goddesses. They hang on every word they say, and they buy their sponsored products as if they were talismans. The pagans of the Ancient World idolized the strong, the powerful, the outwardly beautiful and the rich, and nothing in man’s character over the millennia has changed one iota. Modern idolaters also have their own temples much as the ancients had theirs. Consider any of the various domed stadiums and open-air coliseums where they cheer their demigods utilizing both the liturgical as well as the extemporaneous forms of praise. They have set up within their hearts votive altars for the objects of their worship. They even mark their bodies up with their signs and symbols which indicates not their mere support of those things, but of their ownership by them. In the future the Antichrist will require all who might buy or sell to possess his mark in their foreheads or in their right hand (Revelation 13:16-17). It seems the unregenerated are being prepped today for that future event. Indeed, all these things are ample evidence for their condemnation before a holy and righteous God should the unregenerate not repent and be forgiven of this terrible sin. For if one does take the mark of the Beast, there will be no repentance (Revelation 14:9-11).

But it would be erroneous to believe that the venues for idolatry are limited only to the secular realm, or to those of the various religious cults. Sadly, there are otherwise faithful Christians who have succumbed to a rather insidious form of idolatry which is in their midst, and yet is seemingly invisible to them. Their idols are found in the ever-increasing number of “sanctinasiiums” where the profane rhythms of the world are presented in a manner hardly distinguishable from a secular concert. Their idols are self-worship, self-glorification, and self-aggrandizement. They are all about feeling their faith; so if they do not feel something— if their senses are not motivated— then they believe they have not worshipped.

But Christian worship is supposed to be about focusing on God and not on ourselves. We are supposed to come before God with reverence and holiness. We are supposed to come before him confessing our sins and seeking his pardon. We are supposed to come into his presence with thanksgiving and praise; not in clamor or in irreverence, but in all holiness. As the apostle Paul observed, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance [self-control] against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another (Galatians 5:22-26). Our job as Christians has always been to witness to such persons as our Lord gives us leave to do. We ought to warn them of the consequences of their idolatry. God has given us his word written for our edification that we might be recipients of his grace rather than subjects of his wrath, and we in turn are obliged to share that knowledge with others. The Bible tells us that we are to give worship to no person, thing or ideal other than the Godhead. We have been warned throughout the pages of Scripture that those who do will have their hearts darkened and their reservation confirmed in that eternal lake of fire where all who are estranged from God will have their final and everlasting abode. Christians be warned! Flee from all idolatry. Flee from those churches who preach an acceptance of those things which will bring you into condemnation. Avoid the traditions of men both old and new that are in opposition to the expressed will of God. Stick to the word of God and keep away from any thing or any person that would be exalted above the Godhead, or would displace him in your heart and life. Be warned my brethren, stay away from idols!

Let us pray,

**F**ATHER God, instill in each of us the desire to read thy most holy word and inwardly digest the same; that in so doing, we will adhere to its teachings and witness such to others regarding its truths; for this we ask in the name of thy Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Have a blessed week, Bryan+ 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:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
3 March 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – Third Sunday in Lent</b>
10 March 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>
17 March 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>
24 March 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – Palm Sunday</b>
31 March 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – Easter Sunday</b>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Each member of the team will pray for the desired outcome at 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](mailto:jack@faithfulcenturion.org) or Dru - [dru@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto: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**

*Maffucci Family* is traveling to family that are having problems. Pray for their safe trip and resolution of the problems.

### **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.

### **Anniversary**

*Dru and Hap Arnold* celebrated their 26<sup>h</sup> anniversary 21 February 2013. It should be noted while Hap had more than enough notice, first Ground Hog Day and Dru's birthday (see below) on 2 February 2013, Valentine's Day 14 February 2013, and P&I Renewal Day on 20 February 2013, and numerous comments by him in the interim about the upcoming event, he still did not remember in the morning until prompted. For some reason, it is always the male who is responsible for remembering.

### **Birthday**

*Dru Arnold* celebrated her 58<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.

*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; he made it thorough radiation, albeit with some swallowing problems. There is more chemotherapy ahead. Please pray that he will gain strength to allow treatment to continue and that he will tolerate the treatment. Please give thanks for the cancerous area shrinking and pray it will continue to dissipate. His breathing seems better, please join him in giving thanks for that and pray for no more breathing problems. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Brian and his fiancé Mel, 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***

*Monica* is having a cataract removed. Pray she will put her trust in God and remain calm throughout this procedure.

*Rick* is recovering from hip replacement surgery in the middle of February 2013.

### ***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.

*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**

*David* had a heart attack mid February 2013, during which his heart stopped for about 60 seconds. After several days in the hospital and a stent, he is now home. Please give thanks for his survival and pray for his complete recovery. Please pray also that he and his family might put their worries on our Lord's back so he can work hard towards recovery.

*Nora* had a stroke mid February 2013. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Nora. Please pray also that she and her family might put their worries on our Lord's back so she can work hard towards recovery.

*Linda* has been hospitalized for several days with a gastrointestinal problem. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Linda.

*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**

*Christy* just lost her sister in an automobile accident; this follows closely the loss of two family. Please pray she can let our Lord Jesus Christ carry all her sorry, worry and care at this extremely difficult and stressful time.

*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**

*Rev LTC Al Ryan* has been appointed Deacon-In-Charge of the mission parish of St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church, Anglican Church in America (ACA) parish in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. It is a small but growing mission, which has been plagued by clergy change. Al, the diocesan pilot, has been appointed for one year, during which time he is to help them identify what their needs are for a vicar. He has done this before and asks you to pray for God's help one more time; not only for himself, but for the parish.

### *Armed Forces & Contractors*

Airman Donny Patton (Kadena AB, Japan), Jordan (USMC – Fleet Marine Force - Pacific), Trevor (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator), Trevor (USN – Whidbey Island, EF-18 Pilot), Kurt Thomas (USN – Guam)

### *Persecuted*

Around the world, Christians are under attack, not only in the Muslim world, but from Hindus and others in India. Also, they are under continual attack in the name of “Separation of Church and State” in the western world, as it becomes actively atheist or pro-devil buddy. Please pray for God’s guidance and protection for all persecuted Christians and those around them.

### *Various Special Requests*

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

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

### *Remembrance of those who have gone before us*

*Kenneth Wayne Ogles* was killed in action on 16 February 1967, in the Ia Drang Valley, in the Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam, with the First Platoon of C Company, the First Battalion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, First Cavalry Division at the age of 19. Kenneth joined the National Guard at age 17 and immediately transferred to the active Army’s First Cavalry Division. He wanted to make a difference, to do his duty to God and Country and protect the innocent people of South Vietnam. He gave all that we might be free. Please join us in remembering his service and sacrifice, as well as the hurt that it cost the entire Ogles family, the sacrifice and pain is no less 46 years later. Remember Kenneth the next time someone wants you to give a little freedom for the promise of safety or comfort.



### *Question that only you can ask*

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

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

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

### *Lent*

Lent is a time for Christians to study, 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.

What about fasting, self-denial and all that stuff?

Jesus told us that if we fast we are not to make a show of it, like hypocrites do. A fast is different from a hunger strike: a fast should be 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 should be *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. The whole idea is to help you concentrate on God. That works for some people. For lots of others, it is a distraction from what should be done Lent – PREPARATION.

More positively, you can “fast” or re-direct 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. That brings us to – Mite Boxes!

### *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 13 February 2012; Easter Sunday is 31 March 2013. 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.

### *Epistleers*

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>
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*

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**

