



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

# First Sunday after Easter

Sunday Report



Today was the First Sunday after Easter, the central event of the Christian year, the celebration of our Lord, "Christ the Lord is Risen!" Our sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a beautiful 40°F under beautiful sunny skies, just like all week. By the time church started the mercury had climbed to 62°F, the warmest in weeks! With the Rev Deacon Jack in Guam, we were happy to have two people for service!

## *Gathering Song*

With our musician in Guam, Dru Arnold played *Hymn 243 – I sing a song of the saints of God* for the gathering song.

## *Hymn 243 – I sing a song of the saints of God*

I sing a song of the saints of God,  
Patient and brave and true,  
Who toiled and fought and lived and died  
For the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,  
And one was a shepherdess on the green;  
They were all of them saints of God, and I mean,  
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,  
And his love made them strong;  
And they followed the right for Jesus' sake  
The whole of their good lives long.  
And one was a soldier, and one was a beast,  
And one was slain by a fierce wild priest;  
And there's not any reason, no, not the least,  
Why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past,  
There are hundreds of thousands still.  
The world is bright with the joyous saints  
Who love to do Jesus' will.  
You can meet them in school, or in planes, or at sea,  
In church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;  
For the saints of God are just folk like me,  
And I mean to be one too.



Hymn 243 is Hap's favorite as it was his father's favorite. Sadly, this means he cannot sing it without tears, but we made it though nonetheless. The hymn has an important message for us today.

### *On Point*

Those nations whose faith and institutions are centered on God shall never suffer the ravages of war and desolation. How shall our own nation fare as we cast aside, day by day, every vestige of that abiding faith that made us a most cherished nation among the nations of the earth? If America can be saved, that salvation shall not occur through political measures. It is the common heart of America that must be turned back to her God and Benefactor. If America can now be retrieved from sure ruin, it must happen one heart at a time.

Jerry L. Ogles  
Anglican Orthodox Presiding Bishop

Big government is not a 'necessary evil'. It is just evil. Like the ring of Sauron, it lures in the weak with promises of power, but this power is a ruse. Each side of our false left/right paradigm, Democrat and Republican, thinks that if only THEY were the bearers of the ring they would 'finally use it for good'. But once in their possession, they are overtaken, overwhelmed, and corrupted by personal temptation.

Brandon Smith  
American commentator

*Big Government: An Unnecessary Evil That Should Be Abolished*, 31 March 2013

### *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 170-171, with the Collect first:

#### **The First Sunday after Easter.**

*The Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

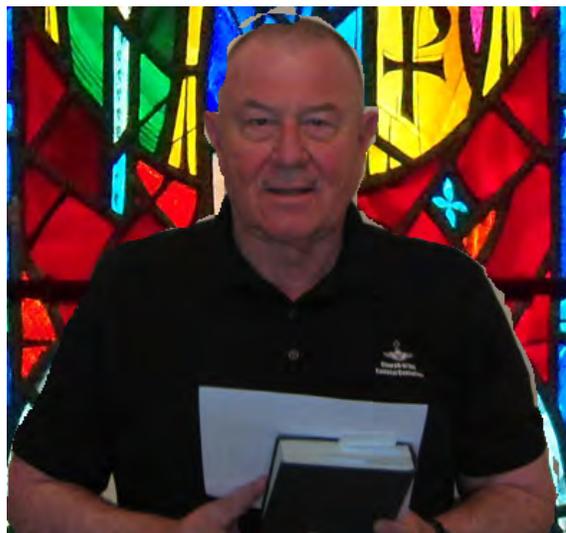
Dru Arnold read the Epistle which came from the First General Epistle of Saint John, beginning at the Fourth Verse of the Fifth Chapter:

**W**HATSOEVER is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood<sup>1</sup>: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.



Hap Arnold read the Gospel for this Sunday which came from the Twentieth Chapter of the Gospel of Saint John beginning at the Nineteenth verse:

**T**he same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.



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<sup>1</sup> See Rev Bryan's sermon for comments on The Johannine Comma later in the Sunday Report.

## *Sermon – Hap Arnold - Time and Action*

Jack is in Guam this Sunday, he wrote most of this sermon before he left. Hap made a few modifications.



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

We are in the Easter Season which consists of Easter and the following four Sundays, until we get to Rogation Sunday. This is a time we should work on centering our lives on the central figure in our religion, Jesus Christ.

Consider these words from the Collect:

... Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth ...

God sent Jesus to be The Christ, The Messiah, The Savior, The Lamb to be sacrificed for our sin. He gave His earthly Life, He went down into Hell, that we might be justified before God at our accounting. Not that we might be perfect, but that we might be accounted perfect at our judgment day. Yet we are not made perfect. Just because we are going to be accounted as perfect does not mean we are. Thus we must ask God's help that we can put away the infection, or leaven, of evil in our hearts so that we can serve the Living God here. Without His Help, we cannot remove the hate and evil from our hearts. We need His Help so we can move forward.

Paul continually tells us we must be reborn as a new person in God. We must put on the New Man and put the Old Man behind us. We must endeavor to leave our old habits behind as we strive to make new practices into habits. We cannot follow the direction of Jesus towards God without the help of the Holy Ghost. The Trinity in practice. If you believe in Jesus, you must believe in God and you can do neither without the help of the Holy Ghost. Without the Holy Ghost, we are like men who desperately need glasses to see. Without the Holy Ghost as our correcting lens, we cannot see what He wants us to see in order to act.

When Jesus came to the disciples on Sunday evening, He breathed the Holy Ghost into their hearts. He gave the disciples the power to pass His Forgiveness on to their followers. As ministers of God, we follow the disciples, but we have not the power to forgive, except as we find in the Lord's Prayer, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We do have the ability to tell you that if you repent, that is "to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life," then God will forgive you. Through our Lord, if you repent, He has forgiven you.

The key word here is repent! We must “go and sin no more!”, as Christ told the lady who was an adulterer. We repent not only in word, but we must repent in our deeds also, so that we can truly show the world that we have faith. If we do not repent, then we do not have faith in Him. We must have faith in Him, so therefore, we must truly and earnestly repent of our sins and do our utmost best to “go and sin no more.” That is all that He asks, is us to actually DO our best, not just say that we are doing our best.

So what to take from all this?

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3.16

If you get that, you have the Holy Ghost in your heart. If you open your heart, He will breathe the breath that sends The Comforter to you. Then you shall have the knowledge to act the way He wants you to act. You will have surefire knowledge of the course that He wants you to take.

When the time comes, how will you ACT?

It is by our actions we are known.

### Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

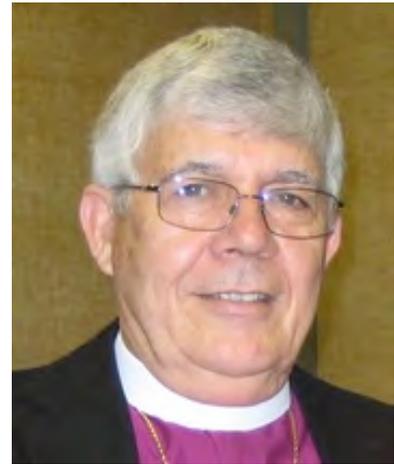
#### *Bishop Ogles' Sermon*

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**

First Sunday after Easter  
7 April 2013, Anno Domini

*15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my lambs.** 16 He saith to him again the second time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.** 17 He saith unto him the third time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.** 18 **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not.** 19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, **Follow me.** 20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? 21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? 22 Jesus saith unto him, **If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.** 23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, **If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?** 24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. 25 And*



there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen. (John 21:15-25)

### The First Sunday after Easter.

*The Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In completing today's devotional in the Gospel of St John, we come to a glorious sunset on the Gospels – a sunset that gathers all the beauty and color of Christ into one intimate moment with His disciples – and with us. The Gospel of John is my favorite book out of all the other sixty-five books of the Bible and, although they are all equally important in expressing a vital message to us, I nonetheless feel so warmed and strengthened in reading John's accounts of these remarkable titles: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* (1:1), *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.* (1:29), *This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory.* (2:11), *Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.* (2:16), *There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus bynight.* (3:1-2), *The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.* (3:8), *And he must needs go through Samaria.* (4:4), *There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.* (4:7), *Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.* (5:8), *The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.* ( 5:25), *And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea.* (6:18-19), *I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.* (6:35), *And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst.* (8:3), *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.* (8:12), and the fountain of beautiful stones continues flowing throughout the remainder of John's Gospel. I ambitiously believed that I could summarize the beauty in less verses, but see that I cannot for the book is too full –so, I fell short of my purpose.

Though John closes with a sunset of glorious beauty and truth, we are sure to have the privilege to revisit the Day Star and Son of Righteousness at any moment simply by opening our Bibles and learning of Him! The great glory of a sunset is that the Sun must set ere we can witness an even more brilliant dawn and Sunrise.

Though today's text is about all of the disciples, including you and me – it is more centered on that one disciple most grieved by his denunciation of Christ and whose guilt bears down upon his shoulders like a huge and powerful stone. He boasted of going the distance with Christ, but Peter had fallen asleep thrice in the Garden the night of Jesus' betrayal, and it was Peter who conspicuously denied the Lord of Heaven three times during the night of Christ's mock trial. You will recall on the last denial, the cock crew as Christ had prophesied, and the Lord turned and looked at Peter. *And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of*

*the Lord, how he had said unto him, **Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.** And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.* (Luke 22:60-62) Can you imagine those tears of grief shed by Peter? Do you believe Peter wept only briefly and felt restored? I think not! Peter dwelt upon his denials for the three days that Christ was in the Tomb, and all of the following week, before seeing the Lord on the Shores of Galilee. There was a dark and heavy stone in Peter's heart that had not yet been rolled away. Do you know that when we wound the Lord grievously that His love is constant still? The Lord made a special provision for Peter in the Angel's message at the open Tomb: *And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.* (Mark 16:5-7) Did you note, fellow lover's of God, that the Angel tells them to carry the message to Peter in particular. Why? Because Christ wanted Peter to know that He remembered him in love, and held a special regard for his hurt.

Peter and the other disciples have come to the shoreline of the tranquil Sea of Galilee for a breakfast of the Lord's own preparing. As they sit and eat, Peter may have felt a guilt that prevented his looking into the eyes of the Lord whom he loved. **15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?** "Do you love me, Peter, not simply with a brotherly love as you feel for your true friends and brothers, but with a greater love of sacrifice and care for the Good Shepherd of the Sheep?" It is apparent that Peter knew not where such a question was leading, but it certainly was a leading question. **He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.** It is impossible to love the Shepherd without, at the same time, loving the little lambs for whom He gave His life. Do we, friends?

**16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.** Peter may be a bit perplexed at the repetitive question, but he answers Christ in the spirit of knowing that nothing is hidden from the Lord. It must be pointed out here that lambs who are well-fed will become grown sheep. For the Christian life to be full of beauty and service, it is important that we reach the little children for Christ so that they may become grown children for Christ.

**17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.** Yes, Peter was grieved the third time Jesus asked this question for the memories flooded his soul of his third denial outside the court of the High Priest. But, in spite of Peter's weakness, he KNEW that Christ could see his heart full of love for Him.

You will note in the three questioned addressed to Peter, the Lord did not refer to the disciple's title in the same manner as He did in Matthew 16:18 (***Thou art Peter***) – a Stone of the Rock of Israel. I believe that Christ did not annul that title; He only withheld its use due to the need for Peter to be reconciled and fully converted.

**18 *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.*** This statement reveals that Peter, being fully converted, will indeed do that which he boasted of doing earlier before his courage failed him. ***But I have prayed for thee, that***

*thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.* (Luke 22:32-34) Peter's mind was attentive to every Word now that flows from the lips of Christ. He knew, deep in his grieving heart, that Christ had forgiven him and extended the honor for Peter to die a like death as his Lord. Peter will die the same death, and drink from the same Cup, as our dear Lord and Savior. **19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.**

**20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?** We are often no sooner restored to our favored place in Christ than the devil sets into our hearts a bit of covetousness or greed. Peter is following Christ to a place apart from the others who are gathered around the fire when he glances back and sees following that one disciple that love compels to follow Jesus regardless the summons. Though humility restrains him from mentioning his own name in the Gospel he records, I will tell it – **it is John**, and I love him for his humility and love!

**21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?** Peter knows that Christ has forgiven his failures and restored him as an apostle, but he also knows of the special measure of love the Lord holds for the younger John. Peter, out of a tinge of jealousy, asked if this man perhaps will be as blessed as Peter is with Christ. "**What shall HE do?**" Such a question is not pleasing to our Lord. None are worthy of their calling (me very assuredly most of all). But when God calls us to a service, He will enable us to perform it. If, in the heat of battle, a field commander orders a battalion forward to the line of battle, it would be most inappropriate for that battalion commander so ordered to ask, "But what of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion? What will they do?" What another battalion, or officer, will do under command of the Field Commander is of no concern to the one receiving orders. His only duty is to obey the order addressed to him. What God has commanded of you will fill your plate enough without concerning yourself over the calling of another. **22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.**

**23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?** We learn from this last verse that we are not to read meaning into the Words of Christ which does not exist. God's Word is simple, and direct, and needs no addition of meaning by our feeble hands.

**24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.** All who know Christ, then and now, know of the veracity of this testimony given in the Gospel of St John and recorded by the very hand of John. It is very important to be a Bible scholar and to learn the words and meaning of scripture diligently, but it is even more important to know that the testimony of God's Word is true and above question.

**25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.** As we admitted in the devotion for John 20, the books, banks, mines, and seas of the world could never hold all of the works of Christ as Creator, Redeemer, Savior, and Lord. He created the seas, the dry land, the vegetation, the animal life, and you and me. He created the Sun, Moon, and Stars. His works precede,

and will succeed, the Creation in Eternity. Is it improbable that man could ever account for all of these mysteries and sciences put into play by the same Finger that wrote upon the sands outside the Temple when a woman taken in adultery was maliciously brought to Christ?

John concludes His Gospel with his customary `Amen' with which he concludes most of his other writings. Have we said AMEN to all that God has said? Have we read and studied His whole Counsel to us? If we would have more of the Light of the World, we must read for effect so that the Holy Ghost will have something wherewith to REMIND us. A flashlight needs a casing and a light bulb (the WORD), but it also needs the battery (Holy Ghost) to make the Light (Christ) of the bulb fully illumine our hearts. Have you done, friend?

### *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.



Bryan talks about the Johannine Comma and gives another excellent reason why if we ever revise the Book of Common Prayer we use only the King James Version for all our Scriptural readings and quotations. You will enjoy this!

### **First Sunday after Easter**

Consider the text of the Epistle for today (I St. John 5:4-12) as found in the Book of Common Prayer. Now let us read the text as it is found in our pew bibles. Did you notice any difference between the two readings? What we have before us is a mystery that is some seventeen centuries old. It is referred to in academic circles as The Johannine Comma because it begins with a comma toward the end of verse 6 and picks up just after the first comma in verse 8. The missing words are found in the Authorized Version, but they have been omitted in all the newer versions save the New King James because, as the argument goes, they are not found in the earliest manuscripts.

But wait a minute, is not the King James Version based on a sound translation of the Greek, Latin and Hebrew? And if that is so, why then would these missing words, i.e. "the Comma," not be in the older manuscripts? Liberal scholarship claims they were perhaps added by an overzealous monk and really should not be included in the epistle text. Well, in my book, if modernist scholars and seminarians are against it that is a good sign that it is likely a valid portion of Scripture, and not the add-on which they believe it to be. Still, we should be cautious in our handling of God's word so let's consider the reasons for its inclusion.

In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, an English professor of divinity and seminary dean named John William Burgon supported the inclusion of "the Comma" based upon:

1. Evidence of its use in antiquity;
2. Affirming testimony of some twenty or more witnesses from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century through the 6<sup>th</sup> century such as Tertullian, Cyprian, Athanasius and Augustine as well as Jerome;

3. Uniformity of its presentation which transcends a singular locality, as its witness is spoken of by writers in North Africa, Asia Minor, Southwest Asia, and in Europe and at differing times;
4. The disputed words fit within the context of I St. John 5 which deals with the concept of the Trinity of God; and finally,
5. It involves the particulars of the Greek language— grammar, syntax and the like— as the wording of I St. John 5:4-12 begs for its inclusion.

Now these language difficulties are noticeable only to those who have been schooled in Classical Greek. But for those of us who are not so well versed, an omission of “the Comma” will leave us without an important supporting text on behalf of the Trinity. Suffice to say as one writer noted, “Its all Greek to me,” nevertheless such things do matter.

Turn in our bibles to I St. John 5:4-12 and let us now examine the text in question.

For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith (v.4). The beloved apostle reminded his listeners that only those persons who are born again are in victory over this current sphere of existence. The characteristic of a person who has been regenerated is that he or she has received the gift of faith. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). Without faith we cannot hope to have access to the Godhead. With faith comes that support for our belief in God and acceptance of his word and commandment.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God (v.5)? The key to salvation in God is our belief in Jesus Christ as his only begotten Son. The apostle posits this question to his hearers to challenge them: Do you believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God? Only through him is salvation attainable, for as the apostle Peter noted, there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth (v.6). Matthew Henry wrote concerning this passage, “We are inwardly and outwardly defiled by the pollution of sin in our nature. For our cleansing from this we need spiritual water. ... Upon his death, his side being pierced with a soldier’s spear, out of the wound there immediately issued water and blood. This the apostle saw. This water and blood are comprehensive of all that is necessary to salvation. By the water our souls are washed and purified. By the blood God is glorified, his law is honored. By the blood we are justified, reconciled, and present righteous to God.” And so, by the shedding of his own blood, our Lord provided the means by which mankind might be freed from Adam’s curse: For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive (I Corinthians 15:22). The Holy Ghost has carried forth that testimony to all who have been regenerated in the name of our Lord for as the apostle Paul reminds us that, The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God (Romans 8:16).

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one (v.7). This is the heart of Johannine Comma as it clearly describes the Godhead as being God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

And there are three that bear witness in the earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one (v.8). Read together, verses 7 and 8 are complements of each other, but verse 7 is the stronger and clearer expression of the Trinity of God. The emphasis of a record in heaven and a witness in the earth gives us a better understanding of the nature of the Trinity. In heaven, the Godhead is expressed differently than the witness of the Godhead on the earth. God the Father did not come in his glory to earth or everyone would have died. God the Son came upon the earth bearing the image of the one true and living God while also bearing his distinct nature as being fully man and fully God. In heaven the Holy Ghost is present with God the Father and God the Son while on earth he comes to all who are called of God to both indwell and witness to them. He descended from the Father onto the Son at his baptism on earth, while in heaven the Spirit can proceed from both the Father and Son as a personal companion to every true believer.

The remaining verses of our epistle lesson ought to give all those who have embraced those new bible versions a reason to reconsider their choice. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life (vv. 9-12). The new versions have sought to reduce the divinity as well as the character of the Godhead. The early heretics sought to depict Jesus Christ as being more man than God, while the modernists want to strip him completely of his divine nature because they do not accept Jesus Christ as being the only begotten Son of God. Ergo, the witness of men in their error-filled new bibles cannot measure up to the truth of God's witness in the King James Version. God has preserved his witness to us by using this important translation of the scriptures into our language. The witness of the Johannine Comma is the most succinct description of our God. Where the witness of men has sought to teach lies as truth, God has supplied his own witnesses which affirm the truth of his word written.

Satan has endeavored over the millennia to confound the truth of God, but as the Scriptures tell us, Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world (I St. John 4:4). God has prevailed in the past, God is prevailing at this present, and God will continue to prevail. We need only trust in his word written and give him thanks for the Holy Ghost who guides us into all truth and away from the error of the wicked (St. John 16:13; II St. Peter 3:15-18).

Let us pray,

**O** LORD our God, who hast kept thy word to mankind and hath provided us with thy most holy Spirit; grant us such a filling of him that we might better serve thee; grant us also that thy word would be so written on our hearts that we might become better witnesses of thee in this sin-darkened world; and this we ask in the name of him who is the incarnate Word, and who, with thee and the Holy Ghost, art ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

*Roy Morales-Kuhn, Pastor - Covenant of Grace Anglican Chapel - Anglican Orthodox Church, USA Sermon for Passion Sunday*

We are in the Easter Season, the time's comes from the central event of the season, in fact the central event of not only the Christian Year, but the History of the World. Since creation, there has been no event so critical to our lives than the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. By His Death, death was defeated for us for all time. Read as Pastor Roy talks about the FACT of Jesus' Resurrection.



First, a very short reading from the First General Epistle of Saint John, the Fifth Chapter, beginning at Fourth Verse:

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

I would like to reflect on the epistle of St. John as he writes about the reality of Easter. John writes of the promise to believers, that they become victors and overcomers of the world. The promise that whatever is born of God [will] overcome the world give believers a great hope. Being born of faith into God's family gives us the power to overcome the world. The question answer format that he uses in verses 4 & 5 serves to re-enforce the promise of the victory he writes about in those two previous verses. Who overcomes the world, he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God. Now John explains the symbolism of the water and the blood

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

The key significance of this passage is the spiritual fact of salvation. We come to the Father through the sacrifice of His only Son, that sacrifice includes the spilling of innocent blood. This blood of the perfect lamb, {Jesus Christ} foreshadowed many times in the Old Testament, is shed for the remission or forgiveness of sins, for all who accept God's perfect gift.

Now John reaches back in memory to the day of Christ's crucifixion, when as a witness of Christ's death on the cross, John saw Christ's pierced side issue blood and water. Everyone standing there at the cross knew that Jesus was dead. The water (serum)

separates from the heavier hemoglobin or red blood cells at the time of death. The blood and water signified Christ was dead. He would be taken down from the cross that afternoon before Sabbath started and prepared for burial. This witness of Christ's death takes away the argument of those who don't believe Christ died. The "swoon theory" people try to explain the resurrection by saying Christ never really died, he just fainted away, a death-like faint. That way these nay-sayer can explain what is a miracle as simple science. Christ really wasn't dead, he just fainted, was placed in the tomb and later revived and came out of the tomb, having never really died. There are way too many questions about the "swoon-theory"; who unwrapped Jesus that Easter morning? He was bound in yards of linen grave clothes, his head was wrapped up separately. Who rolled the heavy grave stone away? The blood and water description points to Christ's death, not a severe case of the vapors.

The water symbolizes the baptism of believers, the ingrafting of believers into the family of God by an outward sign of an inward event, that being the turning or converting of the heart of the sinner to God. When Christ was baptized who called witness to the event? The Father certifies his Son Jesus, the Holy Spirit descending as a dove and of course Christ as he comes up out of the river. John writes that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit bear witness to this event, not only in heaven but also on earth. Notice John signifies that the three are one, not only in verse seven but again in verse eight. Yes, I know that the word Trinity is not used, but the concept of Trinity is there, the mystery of Trinity is there, the reality the three are one, they bear witness to the fact, the record is in heaven; the witness is on earth.

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

In the last four verses of this passage from John's epistle, we read of the confirmation of our faith, we find the witness of God is greater than the witness of men, this witness testifies of God's Son. So now we understand we must make up our minds, we believe that God gave his Son for our salvation and by imputed power; eternal life, because this eternal life is in his Son Jesus. Very simple fact, he that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Do you have the Son of God? Then, you have life eternal.

**Let us pray:**

**A**LMIGHTY Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Chris our Lord. *Amen.*

**M**OST merciful God, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and hast promised forgiveness to all those who confess and forsake their sins; We come before thee in an humble sense of our own unworthiness, acknowledging our manifold transgressions of thy righteous laws.\* But, O gracious Father, who desirest not the death of a sinner, look upon us, we beseech thee, in mercy, and forgive us all our transgressions. Make us deeply sensible of the great evil of them; and work in us an hearty contrition; that we may obtain forgiveness at thy hands, who art ever ready to receive humble and penitent sinners; for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

For the Armed Services,

**O**LORD God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray thee, thine almighty arm to strengthen and protect the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, coastguardsmen and contractors of our country; Support them in the day of battle, and in the time of peace keep them safe from all evil; endue them with courage and loyalty; and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach. Preserve all who serve therein from the dangers of the sea, and from the violence of the enemy; that they may be a safeguard unto the United States of America, and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our land may in peace and quietness serve thee our God, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *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
14 April 2013	<b>Second Sunday after Easter</b>
21 April 2013	<b>Third Sunday after Easter</b>
28 April 2013	<b>Fourth Sunday after Easter</b>
5 May 2013	<b>Fifth Sunday after Easter</b>

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

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

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

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

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

No! The only qualification to be on the list is that you want our prayer team to pray for

you. We are Christians and are happy to pray for you, no matter who you are. If you want help from God, you are our kind of people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Updating the Team**

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

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

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

### **Travel**

*Ken and Sue Howe* are on travel to Massachusetts this week.

*Jack Arnold* is on travel this week to Guam to visit the Thomas family.

*Ernest Jacob*, Bishop Of Pakistan and Chancellor of Faith Theological Seminary is traveling to the meetings of AOC around Pakistan and attending the annual graduation of Faith Theological Seminary to be held on 15 March 2013.

*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 2014. 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.

### ***Departed***

*Lynn Hatler*, Bishop Jerry's sister, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, passed away the night of 23 March 2013, after complications during knee surgery. Please give thanks for Lynn's time here on earth and pray for comfort and strength for those she leaves behind. Please pray her family might keep all their trust in the Lord and let him carry their worry and concern on the temporary separation.

*Lou Soloff*, age 95, of New Jersey passed away on 14 March 2013. Lou has been a steadfast member of the AOC from its early founding and was instrumental in bringing her dear husband, Roy, to Christ through a patient perseverance in the Gospel study. Please give thanks for Lou's time here on earth and pray for comfort and strength for those she leaves behind.

### ***Nearing the end of their time here on earth***

*Reba* is nearing the end of her time here on earth. Please pray her transition from here to home will be peaceful and with little distress. Pray also for strength and guidance for her family who are here with her now and will of necessity remain behind; in particular for her daughter Lynn with whom she lives and her son in law Bill. Pray for the love of God to stay foremost in their hearts.

*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*

*Scott*, one of our Lord's ministers who collapsed a week ago and is in the ICU of a Medical Center since he had a pulmonary embolism, with a concurrent infection of several bacterial agents. He has stopped breathing on several occasions, and may have undergone brain damage. He currently is on DNR. Please pray for recovery so that he will continue to do his Lord's calling.

*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 before, and Larry responded very well. He was able to go home. His treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital was successful as far as averting the immediate life-threatening condition. He continues to have numerous severe health issues. His eyesight in one eye is almost gone, and it is fading in the other. He has heart problems, as well; these on top of his long-time depression problems. He faces medical bills far beyond insurance and other resources. He is no longer able to work and has had to close the title examination business he took over from his father about twenty years ago. He will be going on Social Security Disability Income, Medicare and Medicaid.

Fortunately, he was something of a leader in the local rock music community--he led a couple of bands, and his rather unconventional style of dancing gained him the sobriquet "Dancing Larry" in the clubs in the Northampton, MA, area. His friends are throwing a massive fund-raiser in Northampton 6 April 2013, in which some ten different bands will be performing--it will run from 7 PM until about 2 AM.

Please pray for the medical team treating him to pay attention and do their very best; that the many medical/surgical procedures he will need may succeed, that Larry be given strength and peace in these trials, and that "Larrypalooza" may succeed in providing him with the resources to afford the care he will need.

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.

## *Healing*

*Angela* had an ischemic stroke (clot). Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Angela. Please pray also that she and her family might put their worries on our Lord's back so she 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* is undergoing surgery the morning of 4 April 2013 at Cancer Treatment Centers of America. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and do their very best. Pray for James and his wife Dawn to be able to put their worry and concern on His Back.

*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.

*Mary Lou* has been suffering with seizures. She was in the hospital with a 24 hour monitor and is being sent home from the hospital with two medications and orders to return in 2 months for another MRI to review whatever is going on in her brain. 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.

*Inez* sustained a right brain ischemic stroke 18 March 2013, was hospitalized in time for the counter-stroke inoculation. She is coming out of her many problems however she has manifested a cardiac problem but seems to be stabilized and hopes soon to be going to a rehab center. 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.

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

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

*George* had foot surgery. Please give thanks for the surgery and pray for a full and rapid recovery.

*Nellie* is in the emergency room of a hospital in a great deal of pain. Please pray for peace of mind for her and guidance for the medical team looking for the cause and cure.

*Lauralee Meade* underwent a lumpectomy on Friday after Thanksgiving. A further anomaly has been discovered and she had additional preventative radiation treatment. Please pray for a complete remission of the cancer. Pray also Lauralee will maintain her great attitude and trust in God.

*Kevin Gerhart* discovered cancer on his neck. He underwent radiation and chemotherapy. Please pray for the medical team treating Kevin that they might pay attention, do their very best and find the source; that the treatment might be successful and he might live a long and healthy life to His honor and glory. Pray also for trust in God and peace of mind for Kevin, his wife and family.

*Bill, Sara's husband*, had a third abdominal surgery on 22 November 2011, to remove a tumor. Bill is doing better keeping the doctor's instructions, for which we are all grateful, including taking chemotherapy once a day for two more years. He has radically decreased the consumption of alcohol and eating at least mostly properly. Please pray for help for him to continue do all this. Please pray also that Bill might turn his heart outward to help those around him, as well as live a long and healthy life to the honor and glory of God. Pray also for peace of mind for Bill and his wife Sara.

*Kay Denton* (Mrs. Kay) hip has deteriorated to the point walking is a slow and painful

process, but she manages. Please pray for continued peace of mind for Mrs. Kay and her family. Give thanks for her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude.

*Steve Sundberg* had a heart attack after Easter 2011. After some time, the medical team treating him decided he was not a candidate for stents and a five-way heart bypass was performed the week of 6 June 2011. Please pray for his complete recovery and for his three children and family who are very worried about him, pray also for his trust in our Lord and for both him and his family to let God carry their worries while he recovers.

*Matt Alcantara*, age 15, has Osteosarcoma (bone cancer), a very rare and often lethal form of cancer with limited treatment options. This is a disease that is about 90 percent fatal in a couple of years. He has no hip joint on one side, but he walks and swims! Courage? Guts? You bet! Matt and his mom just came back from Houston at the Cancer Center for what was hoped to be a routine every four month bone scan. The scans were done on schedule, but a couple of new spots showed up. After Matt's San Diego doctors conferred with the Houston doctors to figure out what these spots mean, it turned out they are new and old injuries with no bad meaning. In effect they are CLEAN SCANS. Matt and his family ask you to give thanks for the super results. Please also give thanks for the great faith of Matt and his entire family. Their faith and trust is a wonderful example for each and every one of us. But, now is not the time to stop praying. Actually, it never is the time to stop praying!

*Judith Clingwall*, is afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). She is currently in Laurel Place, an extended care facility in Surrey, British Columbia. Judith's condition has worsened recently. She is no longer able to stand, in fact she has a lot of trouble sitting upright. Judith is depressed and wants to go home to watch her birds, which given everything seems unlikely at present. Please pray for her to take an active part in her own life, for her strength, peace of mind, trust in God and remission of the disease so she might return home to her family. Pray also for strength for her husband Martin as he deals with all the problems and stress of Judith's situation.

*Becky Madden* is paralyzed from the neck down as the result of a tragic shooting accident. Her husband is doing his best to take care of her; it is hard and he is learning the best he can. Please pray for further recovery for Becky, as well as strength and guidance for her husband.

*Vince (age 15)*, reoccurrence of Osteosarcoma, recent testing found a nickel sized tumor in his lungs. The doctors are consulting with a specialist in Houston. Please pray for guidance for the medical team and for peace of mind for Vince and his family.

*Obra Gray* continues to take day by day. Please continue to keep Obra in your prayers, and give him the strength of knowing the Lord is with him and will never forsake him. Obra needs security of what lies ahead of him, and only the Lord can grant the solace to answer his prayer.

### ***Thanksgiving and Continued Healing***

*Brian* finished the radiation treatment for his upper lung and bronchial area cancer, which seems to have gone well; the burning is dissipating which is very good. The best news is a CT Scan on Monday of Holy Week found no indication of the cancer. Please give thanks for this great news and pray for continued good

things to go on. There is more chemotherapy to finish, but Brian is gaining strength, please give thanks for this. Please also pray Brian will rest and not over extend himself. 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.

*Jeff* had successful surgery on Monday 4 March 2013, at Vanderbilt Medical Center to remove his esophagus as the doctors felt this is the only remedy for pre-cancerous and cancerous cells in his esophagus and stomach. Please give thanks for the successful surgery and pray that his pain level will go down and he will recover quickly. Pray for Jeff and his family to keep their faith in God and let him carry their worries.

*Monica* had a cataract removed. Pray she will recover quickly.

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

*Buzz Baron* had C5-6 surgery the morning of 3 March 2013, which went well. Please give thanks for the surgical team paying attention and doing their best and for a good result; pray also for a full and rapid recovery.

*Karen* had surgery the afternoon of 1 March 2013 to remove a spot on her lung; the surgery went well and the spot was benign. Please give thanks for the great result. Pray also for continued trust in God and peace of mind for Karen, as well as a rapid recovery.

*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.

*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.

### **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**

*Jeanette* has had many members of her family die from diabetes and several are near death now. *Jeanette* does not know the Lord and is despondent and perplexed about her family and herself. Please pray she can open her heart to allow the Holy Ghost in to bring her knowledge and understanding.

*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* asks you to pray he might be able to trust God will help him make the right decisions at the right time and not to worry uselessly, to change those things he can change, accept those things he cannot change, sleep well to be able to do the correct things with a clear head and that he will open his heart to the Holy Ghost.

### **Thanksgiving**

*David* has been able to return to the ministry after a heart attack mid February 2013, and stent insertion, he is now home. Please join David in giving thanks for his survival and recovery.

### **New Congregations**

*Deacon Wilson Menoia* has one of the new congregations in the Solomon Islands. The Rev. Mr. Menoia and his members in the Temotu Province were recently hit by the tsunami and you all prayed for and helped the members then. Now they are facing a tsunami of human beings (works of the Devil) and ask that you pray for them. They are 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 (Bagram AB, Afghanistan), Jordan (USMC – Fleet Marine Force - Pacific), Trevor (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator – Now in the Desert), Trevor (USN – Whidbey Island, EF-18 Pilot), Kurt Thomas (USN – Guam)

### *Persecuted*

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

### *Various Special Requests*

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

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

### *Question that only you can ask*

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

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

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

### *Epistleers*

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

Date	Reader
14 April 2012	Dru Arnold – Second Sunday after Easter
21 April 2012	Dru Arnold – Third Sunday after Easter
28 April 2012	Dru Arnold – Fourth Sunday after Easter
5 May 2012	Dru Arnold – Fifth Sunday after Easter

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

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**

5 May 2013 – Fifth 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**

9 May 2013 – The Ascension Day – Evening Prayer - Service start time 1900 (7:00 pm); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 1845 (6:45 pm); **Time 1900 (7:00 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**