



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Third Sunday after Easter

Sunday Report



Today was the Third 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 45°F under beautiful sunny skies, just like all week. By the time church started the mercury had climbed to 75°F; quite nice, thank you! With the Rev Deacon Jack back from Guam, we were happy to have three people for service!

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.



As everyone knows, we love *Amazing Grace*! It is a favorite among sinners.

On Point

The Bible reveals the Devil as a person— not a mere figure, not simply an influence. He is not only a personification, but also a real person... There is much truth that needs to be learned about the Devil... We need the light of that truth as a warning, as an incentive to vigilance, and as an inspiration to effort. We need the knowledge about the Enemy— his character, presence, and power— in order to rouse men to action. This knowledge is vital to victory.

E. M. Bounds

19th and 20th century American theologian and author
Guide To Spiritual Warfare, pp. 12-13

There are myriads of professing Christians... [who] Sunday after Sunday... allow the devil to catch away the good seed that is sown on the face of their hearts. Week after week they live on without faith, fear, knowledge or grace, feeling nothing, caring nothing, taking no more interest in religion than if Christ had never died on the cross at all. And in this state they often die and are buried and are lost for ever in hell. This is a mournful picture but only too true.

J. C. Ryle
19th century Anglican bishop and author

The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money.

Margaret Thatcher
20th century British Prime Minister

When all government, domestic and foreign, in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the center of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided of one government on another, and will become as venal and oppressive as the government from which we separated.

Thomas Jefferson
American patriot and president

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 173-174, with the Collect first:

The Third Sunday after Easter.

The Collect.

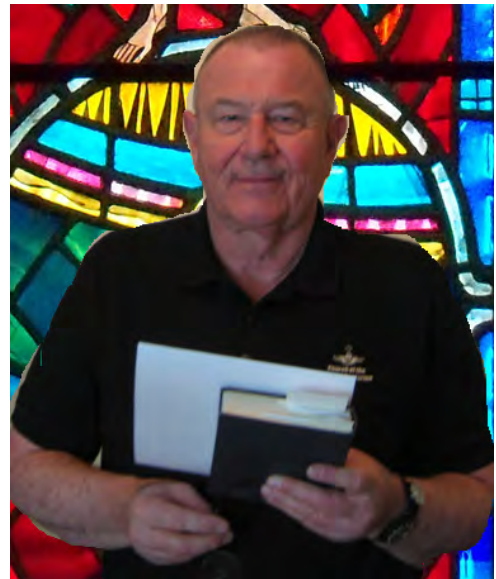
ALMIGHTY God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Dru Arnold read the Epistle which came from the Second Chapter of the First Epistle of Saint Peter beginning at the Eleventh Verse. Peter tells us to live a good life, to follow the directions Jesus left us, to make ourselves positive examples of citizen to others, to be leaders of our community, drawing people towards God. To live out the life Jesus commanded, to do nothing to draw ill repute on the Word of God. To be truly free and follow freedom to where God wants us to be, not to Donkey Island, where false freedom takes so many.



DEARLY beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Hap Arnold read today's Gospel which came from the in the Sixteenth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John beginning at the Sixteenth Verse.



Jesus warns his disciples of the events about to unfold. He is to be taken from them shortly by the painful death on the Cross for our redemption. He will not be with them here on earth. Yet, after three days time He will Rise from death, having overcome death for us. When He is gone from us we are sorrowful, just like the disciples. He came back from death for us. And yet He was to leave again, yet not be gone from us as the Father would send the Holy Ghost to make His abode in our hearts and bring Jesus to us.

JESUS said to his disciples, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father? They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith. Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye

shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

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.



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:

... who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same...

If we will listen to Him, God will always provide the light to show us where "We have erred, and strayed from *His* ways like lost sheep. *Where* we have followed

too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. *Where* we have offended against *His* holy laws. *Where* we have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done¹..." He does this so that we might return to His Path. He does not show us where we have erred for no reason, but rather that we might use His Light to return to the path that brings us to His World. Then we can shine that Light for others to see, that they might pick up their torches and bring His Light into the darkness of the world, be it the Western Civilized Word or the Eastern World. First we have to let His Light into our hearts before we can shine it to others that they may see the works of His Light. Then we shall transform the world from total darkness, to that of a total light. At least that is what we are always striving to work towards, even when evil is often thwarting our efforts to the maximum. If evil is thwarting our efforts than we all must put in 110% to stop evil and combat it across the world wherever it is. We must never, never, never, ever give up on this fight.

¹ General Confession – BCP Page 6

I met a Navy SEAL in Guam, who gave the most excellent sermon that we must be on the offense in the battle against Satan, never defense. The SEAL noted that Paul did not describe any sort of back plating whatsoever, hinting that Christianity was an offense based, not defense based religion. We must never our back towards the enemy, but rather face forward and attack. The best defense is a good offense as in every case. We must never cease our fight against Satan, for he is powerful here on earth, tricking many. We are often outnumbered in the fight. Numbers matter not. We must always fight with all we have every time. We must carry on; we must storm the beaches of Hell itself, and keep on persevering in good times and in bad times.

Paul tells us that if we follow Christ's example, we will live lives like His to the extent we can. We will do good, be law abiding, work hard, be generous to our fellow human beings, help where we can, pray for help when we can find no physical way to help. It may be hard to do any physical help, but if you are generous and prayerful, you can often do good even when physical help is next to impossible. Be good citizens, be good neighbors, take particular care of our Christian family. In short, do what Christ would do as far as it is in us. In order to make the world a better place, we first have to start with our selves then work out word, applying the principles of Christ to our lives. God does not ask us to be perfect; He does ask us to do our best to try to be perfect, to follow Jesus' lead to the extent we have it in us. Each of us is different, some are in truth better than others. God holds us each to the same standard, that is to do our best. Not to be better than any other particular person, but to do our best to follow His Instructions. Being better than someone else is of no account, what is of account is following His Instructions to the best of YOUR ability.

Don't think of trying to be better than your neighbor, think of being better than you are. Be better than you were yesterday, if you do this, then you will improve day by day, year by year.

In the Gospel according to Saint John, Jesus tells of His impending bodily death and resurrection. He reminds us that if we have eternal life, sorrow, even the sorrow of death is transient, for He has conquered death. His One Sacrifice, made One Time, for All Mankind, for All Time is that joy that no man can take from us. But, if we want to share in that eternal life, we need to see the error of our ways in the Light of His Light and take actions to follow Him.

Often it seems much easier to take the path of least resistance, to quit our work at the first sign of effort, to goof off when "no one" is looking. But in the end, the right thing to do is always the easiest. The most profitable. The one that will result in happiness. It might seem hard, but it will not be as hard as doing the "easy" thing.

The time is now, not tomorrow. The time has come, indeed. How will you ACT?

It is by our actions we are known.

Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

God • Honor • Country • Family
for all eternity

As we go off on our business, please recall this quote from GK Chesterton:

"Christianity has not been tried and found wanting;
it has been found difficult and not tried."

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

Third Sunday after Easter
21 April 2013, Anno Domini

The Third Sunday after Easter.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



16 A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. 17 Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father? 18 They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith. 19 Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? 20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. 21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. 22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. 23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. (John 16:16-23)

The Funeral Sermon of our Lord

Funeral sermons are often sad occasions. If the subject of the funeral is a true Christian, then the sorrow is unwarranted; however, the survivors will nonetheless mourn the loss of a friend or family member's companionship for a time. The occasion for this sermon is unique – it precedes the death of its subject, and it is delivered by the One to be deceased. Rather than a sermon to suggest sorrow and mourning, it is a sermon to encourage joy and faith. It is given on the night of the Lord's betrayal, and spoken by the Lord Himself. Rather than enumerating all of His kind acts and miracles, the Lord is already aware that His living testimony is sure and needs no restatement; however, He is also aware of the coming intense pain that His disciples will feel at His crucifixion. Their pain will be mingled with the dread and fear. There is no way that He can make them fully aware of that which is about to happen for such things had never happened before, nor will they ever happen again. So it might be understood that Christ will give present counsel upon which they may draw with future understanding.

That which is worthy of joy to the child of God will always be received with lamentation by the world. Contrariwise, that which is a matter of joy to the world will almost certainly be cause for dismay on the part of the committed Christian. Jesus clearly points this out in His words of the text. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.* The Psalm offers comfort to the believer: "...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. (Psalms 30:5) Jesus is explaining that He will be parted from the disciples this very night. He will be crucified and buried. In the interim of three days, they will not see Him, but then, they shall see Him. He will have been with the repentant thief of the cross in paradise as well as to conquer death and hell. He will see them again After His resurrection and before His ascension to the Father in Heaven. It should be noted that there is no record that Jesus ascended to Heaven before He had completed His earthly mission of life, death and resurrection.

We find compelling points of concurrence between the lectionary texts prescribed for today. The Psalter for the day points out many fascinating facets of that which Christ has explained. The Psalm for today is 68"1-20 in which these truths, consistent with New Testament Scripture, are revealed:

1. *Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.* (Psalms 68:1) did this not happen on Resurrection Morning?
2. *But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.* (Psalms 68:3) Did Jesus not instruct that they would rejoice at seeing Him on that Day of His Rising?
3. *God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah: The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.* (Psalms 68:7-8) Did not Christ precede us in death so that we who take up our cross daily and follow Him may also follow in His resurrection? *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.* (1 Cor 15:20-23) Did not the earth quake at the passing of Christ on the cross? Yes, indeed, according to Matthew 27:51, the earth did quake (shake) and the power of Heaven ripped the Temple Veil from Top to Bottom which no man could do. This opened the Holies of Holies to all who will throw themselves on the court of Mercy and Grace.
4. *The hill of God is as the hill of Bashan; an high hill as the hill of Bashan. Why leap ye, ye high hills? this is the hill which God desireth to dwell in; yea, the Lord will dwell in it for ever.* (Psalms 68:15-16) The Mountain of Bashan is another name for Mount Hermon – the source of the tributary waters of the Jordan River (another type of Christ). But Christ was crucified on another hill – Mt Calvary. Just as the refreshing waters flow down the slopes of Mt Hermon and feet into the life-giving Jordan Waters, so does the life-giving blood of Christ flow from that abundant Fountain filled with Blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins.

Though loved by all denominations, this hymn is a particular favorite of our good Baptist brethren. It is composed by William Cowper:

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away.
Washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away;
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more.
Be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more.

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.

Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I'll sing Thy power to save,
When this poor lisping, stammering tongue lies silent in the grave.
Lies silent in the grave, lies silent in the grave;
When this poor lisping, stammering tongue lies silent in the grave.

Lord, I believe Thou hast prepared, unworthy though I be,
For me a blood bought free reward, a golden harp for me!
'Tis strung and tuned for endless years, and formed by power divine,
To sound in God the Father's ears no other name but Thine.

5. What work was it that our Lord was about for those times that He was separated in death from the disciples? *Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them.* (Psalms 68:18) Did Christ not fulfill this prophecy during His time of the Tomb? *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)* (Eph 4:8-10) No matter how much we may desire to believe a sensational lie, we must believe the Lord first. *"Let God be true, but every man a liar!"* (Romans 3:4) Contrary to sensational and profit-making stories of people visiting Hell and Heaven and returning to tell of it, we must accept the undeniable Word of God: *And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.* (John 3:13) It is a choice – to believe or not to believe. But to disbelieve the Word of God places our souls in peril.

We have confirmations of beauty also in 2 Corinthians 5: *1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly*

desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. 5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. 6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) (2 Cor 5:1-7) Christ, having gone on before and led the way for our resurrection into life eternal has prepared not only a place for us, but a home for our nakedness that we shall be covered. That same Jesus who died for our sins also rose for our sakes on the third day: *14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.* (2 Cor 5:14-15)

Jesus sealed His testimony and His Last Will and Testament with His own Blood. Dare any man add to that divine testimony by fictional books or claims? Hear the somber warning of Heaven against fictional works of man that make claims contrary to Scripture: *If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.* (Rev 22:18-19) I pray that no reader of these Sermon Notes will place their souls in jeopardy by deliberate disregard of truth.

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:



Perseverance and Preservation

John 10:22-30

Third Sunday after Easter

April 21, 2013

By now you know about the connection our annual cycle of worship and prayer gives to the Scripture readings and sermons. We don't just wander through the Bible in our daily readings, and we aren't dependent on what ever strikes the minister's interest on Sundays. We follow a plan that takes us through the Bible in an orderly and sensible way every year. The result of this plan is that there is a connection between the daily Bible readings and the Sunday Bible readings. And there is a connection between the sermons, Sunday to Sunday, throughout the year. Last Sunday's sermon was about conversion. The main point of the sermon was to say that conversion means to be turned from a lifestyle of going astray from God, to a lifestyle of following God. As Jesus Himself said, "My sheep hear my voice... and they follow me" (Jn. 10:27). So we have become followers of Christ. I know we do not follow perfectly, we do stray sometimes. We still sin. But we repent and return to Christ because we have a lifestyle of following our Shepherd.

Converted people naturally have a question at this point; "How can I know I will continue the lifestyle of following?" This is an important question, and the heart of it is

this, how do I know I will not become unconverted? How do I know I will actually make it to Heaven? Can a person who is saved ever become unsaved?

This is not a silly question.

We who love Christ and trust Him as our Saviour are very much aware of the weakness of our faith and the strength of the temptations and enticements of the world the flesh and the devil. We know that the will to sin still lives in us, and we wonder if it will ever cause us to completely and finally stray away from Christ and back into eternal damnation. Therefore, today, looking at the words of Christ in John 10:27-30, I intend to talk about the eternal security of those who are in Christ.

Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice... and they follow me." From this I want to say, you know you are one of Christ's sheep if you hear His voice and follow Him. I am not talking about hearing an audible voice. I am not even talking about hearing a voice in your head. I am not talking about receiving signs or seeing visions or having miracles. I know of a TV preacher who thinks that, while he is praying, God tells him, someone is being healed of disease, someone in financial distress is going to receive money, or someone's marriage is being healed, or some other miracle is happening. I doubt it. I don't think God is telling him these things, I think he is imagining God telling him these things. So, how do we hear the voice of God? We hear the voice of God when we read the Bible. That's where you should go if you want to know what God is saying to you. And Christ's sheep read the Bible.

So what does the Bible say to those who are truly followers of Christ? It says, "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish." Eternal life means to live in fellowship and peace with God now and forever. We have looked at this often in the past, so I will not take the time to discuss it today. Today I only want to look at the origin of eternal life. Where does it come from? How do we obtain it? It comes to us from God. It is given to us as His gift. Jesus said, "I give unto them eternal life." Romans 6:23 confirms this, as though to make sure there is no confusion about it; "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." So you didn't earn it. You didn't make yourself so good you earned Heaven. God gives eternal life to His sheep. And notice the tense of that word "give." It is present tense and it describes continuing action in the present. So Christ is saying, "I give, and forever keep on giving, unto them eternal life." I stress the continuing action because if Christ keeps on giving eternal life to us, we possess it, and we keep on possessing it. He doesn't give us eternal life for a day or a millennium or a million trillion zillion millennia, He gives it forever and we possess it forever. Thanks be to God.

Therefore, as Jesus says, "they shall never perish." To perish means to die unforgiven, and suffer for your sins forever. "The wages of sin is death" says Romans 6:23. Revelation 21:8 describes that death as the lake of fire and brimstone, "which is the second death." But I want to emphasise what Jesus says of those who are His sheep, those who are truly converted, "they shall never perish." They will never see the lake of fire, never see the second death, never be separated from the love and salvation given to them by God. He will never take that gift back.

Next, Jesus says nothing is able to pluck us out of God's hand. He is intentionally using a word picture here. He gives the image of God holding us, firmly and gently in His almighty hand. The world, the flesh and the devil are trying to pluck us out, but God is too strong for them. They can't pluck us out of His hand. Even we sometimes kick and squirm and try to break out, but again, God's hand is too strong for us, and we remain in His grasp. He keeps on giving the gift of eternal life.

Two words are often used in discussions about eternal security. The first is perseverance. Bishop J. C. Ryle gave a good definition of the theological meaning of this word in his book, *Old Paths*. I heartily recommend this book as an essential read for every Christian. He wrote; "the Bible teaches that true believers, real genuine Christians, shall persevere in their religion to the end of their lives. They shall never perish. They shall never be lost. They shall never be cast away. Once in Christ they shall always be in Christ. Once made children of God by adoption and grace, they shall never cease to be His children and become children of the devil. Once endued with the grace of the Spirit, that grace shall never be taken from them. Once pardoned and forgiven, they shall never be deprived of their pardon. Once joined to Christ by living faith, their union shall never be broken off. Once called by God into the narrow way that leads to life, they shall never be allowed to fall into hell. In a word, every man, woman, and child on earth that receives saving grace, shall sooner or later receive eternal glory. Every soul that is once justified and washed in Christ's blood, shall at length be found safe at Christ's right hand in the day of judgement."

I do not say you will not sin, or doubt, or fear, or experience times when it feels like you are falling away from God. But you will never fall away completely. If you have truly been converted you will stay converted until you finally reach your home in Heaven. You will persevere in the faith.

The second word, and I actually like it better than the word perseverance, is "preservation." I like it better because some people make perseverance seem like it all depends on us, but preservation shows that it actually all depends on God. I return to John 10 to recall to your mind the continuing act of God in giving eternal life. He gives it now and continues to give it for all eternity. I recall again to your mind Christ's words in John 10 29, "no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." Christ is saying that our continuance in the faith and safe arrival in Heaven does not depend on our ability, to hang on to God; it depends on God's ability and willingness to hang on to us. In other words, we will continue in the faith and make it to Heaven because God preserves us. He holds us in His hand, and nothing can pluck us out of it.

Some people think God saves us something like this, He looks at the mass of lost sinners, and reaches His hand down to us, and says, "Come to My hand grab a finger and hold on, and you who can hold on until I bring My hand back to Heaven, you will be saved. That is not the Biblical teaching. According to the Bible, God looks upon the mass of sinful people, and reaches out His hand, and picks us up and holds us in His hand until He carries us safely to Heaven. We can only persevere because God preserves.

Merciful Father, preserve us. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

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www.lifeinthescrptures.blogspot.com--

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.



Third Sunday after Easter

In the Gospel lesson for today (St. John 16:16-22), we read where the disciples were perplexed as our Lord spoke to them of those things which would soon come to pass. They did not grasp at that moment that he was preparing them for their individual ministries which would follow his ascension. While in the near term they would face great sadness at his death on the cross; they would, afterwards, become witnesses of his resurrection. As a result of that event, they would receive an empowering joy that they were to carry to others.

Shortly before his ascension, our Lord gave the disciples the Great Commission: Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (St. Matthew 28:19-20). He expected the disciples to share the gospel of truth with others, and he also expects all who are born again of the Holy Ghost to do likewise until his return. Our Lord does not intend for us to keep our candles of faith hidden from view, but to be set forth in the open— upon a lampstand— for all to see. His command to let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven, was meant to communicate that resolve.

Jesus Christ came to give us life and that we would have it in abundance. The great joy which the Christian faith brings is everlasting salvation to all who believe on our Lord as the Messiah. He has gone away into heaven to prepare a place for us and will one day come again to bring us home. Once there, we will witness all that he has done for us prior to our arrival. Gratitude will overflow toward the Godhead, and our joy will be so great as to render us incapable of anything but humble tears and bowed heads before his presence. Our very natures will be transformed from the earthly to the ethereal. As St. Paul noted, For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known (I Corinthians 13:12).

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

Hear now the words of St. Peter as he was moved to speak by the Holy Ghost: For David speaketh concerning [Jesus Christ], I foresaw the Lord always before my face...therefore did my heart rejoice and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance (Acts 2:14-36).

The same is as true today as it was then: that whosoever believes on the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved. If we possess his saving grace, we know that we have been bought with a price. We have been redeemed from this body of sin and death.

From the beginning, God has sought to give mankind his joy; but humanity, operating under the influence of Satan, for the most part turned it down. Even so, the Scriptures supply us with examples of those, who through faithful obedience, found the joy of the LORD. Abraham, who was long past the age of fatherhood, experienced the joy of receiving his son Isaac from the LORD.

Joseph, the son of Jacob, was betrayed and sold into slavery by his own brothers and was taken into Egypt. But through the will of Divine Providence, he became second only to pharaoh, saving the Egyptian people as well as his own folk. He was obedient unto God who richly blessed him with a wife and sons, as well as reconciliation with his brothers and reunion with his father.

Wise old Job, remained faithful to the Lord even under the severest of testing and for his faith was rewarded with joy beyond measure. And the disciples wept over our Lord's death, but afterwards rejoiced exceedingly upon his resurrection.

To fully realize the joy of God, we must order our lives around his teachings. As St. Paul instructed Timothy, If a man therefore purge himself from [iniquity], he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use and prepared for every good work (II St. Timothy 2:21). God has given us in his word all that we need to begin our relationship with him, but it is just that, a beginning. There is more we must do.

We should understand that it is not enough to say we believe in God and in Jesus Christ for as St. James noted, devils also believe and tremble (2:19). Belief is only part of the equation. Belief accompanied by a lively faith instills in us a desire to know God and to discern his will for us. Are you willing to submit yourself to the Master's handiwork? Are you willing to allow him to transform you and make you into his image?

Ultimately, every Christian will meet our Master and Supreme Judge. He will have much to ask and we in turn will have much to answer for the things done in the flesh. Fortunately, we Christians will not suffer condemnation. St. Paul reminds us in Romans 8:1 that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. It should be the desire of every Christian to realize that purposeful will of God during our earthly pilgrimage so that at our journey's end, we may hear those wonderful words: Well done thou good and faithful servant. Thou hast done well among a few things, I shall give thee charge over many. Enter into the joy of thy LORD (St. Matthew 25:21).

God has provided his own with a wonderful place of everlasting joy. But such can be experienced only if we have an abiding faith in his only begotten Son. If we have Jesus Christ, we will have that joy in hearts forever. Therefore, go and tell others that too might come to experience his joy as well.

Let us pray,

DEAR Lord, assist us as we, by word and deed, communicate to others the gospel of the living Christ; that in their hearing, they will seek after him and receive that joy which only you, O Triune God, can give; for this we ask in the name of him who is our joy, even thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Amen., keep us steadfast as we watch for the coming of thine only begotten Son, that by the indwelling of thy most holy Spirit we might be kept safe from all wolves in sheep's clothing and all hirelings; for this we ask in the name of him who is the Good Shepherd, even Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

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
21 April 2013	Third Sunday after Easter
28 April 2013	Fourth Sunday after Easter
5 May 2013	Fifth Sunday after Easter

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

Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.

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

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

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

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

What is the commitment from the prayer team?

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

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

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

What should I ask for?

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

Updating the Team

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

Please note that on the yellow (maybe green or orange if you get an old one) cards at

church, you can ask that those to be prayed for have their names disseminated to the prayer team. Those names will be said in church and appear here. Or, you can ask that their names and purpose be kept confidential, then only Hap will know to pray for them.

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

Travel

No known travel this week.

Anniversary

Rick and Virginia Reid celebrated their 34th Anniversary last week.

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

Julia's passed away on 19 April 2013, after a hard fought battle with cancer. She is now home with her family who have gone before her. Give thanks for her life here and pray for those she leaves behind.

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.

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.

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 he may succeed in providing himself 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

Sarah learned she has cancer. She and her family are waiting for the full diagnosis and treatment plan. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust in the Lord for Sarah and her family.

Virginia pulled a muscle in her back last week and is in a great deal of pain. Please pray for a rapid relief of pain and full and quick recovery.

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.

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.

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.

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

James had surgery the morning of 4 April 2013 at Cancer Treatment Centers of America which appears to have gone well. The pathology report found the high grade carcinoma cancer was confined to the bladder. There was no sign of cancer in surrounding areas, tissues, organs, etc. The Sovereign King of heaven and earth has blessed Jim immensely; he will not have to endure chemo or radiation, he will continue with various tests and see the physicians. Please give thanks for

the good result and the work of the surgical team paying attention and doing their very best. Pray for James' continued recovery and for him and his wife Dawn to be able to put their worry and concern on His Back.

Brian has now finished the chemotherapy and 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 radiation currently scheduled, but Brian is gaining strength, please give thanks for this. Brian is having difficulty keeping an electrolyte balance, please pray for help with 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.

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. Pleaser pray for Lorna's healing and guidance on how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves.

Guidance

Steve Sundberg had a heart attack after Easter 2011, then a five-way heart by-pass. In addition to the bypass surgery, he has been through a horrible divorce and lost

his job after some 30 years service. Steve is very thrifty and a good investor so he is reasonably ok financially. The best thing is that he has trust in the Lord.

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

Jack Arnold gives thanks for safe travel to and from Guam to visit the Thomas family.

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.

Let God Build You a House - by Dallas Witmer

<http://www.reachingoutmag.com/issue-58/let-god-build-you-a-house/>

This article was sent by Rev Roger Jessup, of Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Orthodox Church in Chester, Virginia. It was written in 2009, but is even more to the point at this time.

The year 2009 dawns upon unprecedented divorce, abortion, domestic violence, perverse lifestyles, and other evidences of the breakdown of the home. This year also dawns upon increased evidences of hope.

This paradoxical situation exists because of nonconformed Christians leading lives a world apart from the sick, floundering society with which they do business every day. To use the words of Christ they are in the world, but not of it (John 17).

In their homes you find: happy, obedient children with parents who love each other; peace and order; dating young people pure in body and mind; youth who scorn the values, music, and idols of popular society. Instead of a generation gap, you here find youth perpetuating their parents' Biblical values.

Sound unreal? Sure you could never establish such a home? Let God build you a house. God once promised King David (in 2 Samuel 7:11) that for his faithfulness, He would "build him a house." In his case, God meant that He would guarantee him a continuing dynasty to rule over Israel. And while the kingdom lasted, David's offspring did indeed sit on his throne. Jesus Christ, in time, was born of the seed of David. Christ is King of kings forever.

The conditions for God's promise to David were that his children, like David their father, should carefully observe His laws. Upon the same conditions, God will help build you a house, and perpetuate your memory and values while time endures. But it will require the courage to make a clean break with contemporary society.

Maybe you thought it should only take being "born again" and joining some group that protests against abortion and perverse lifestyles. God doesn't promise His blessings for creeds, but for obedience. It will indeed take the new birth - a genuine conversion experience. And your determination to obey God's laws will settle your creed for you.

But if you really want God to build (or rebuild) your home, the thing to get ready for now is to change from one world to the other. Walk away from the values and lifestyles (not just the most sinful ones), friends, family, media, and systems that keep you bound to the wrong world and headed for its destiny. Walk into the disciplined brotherhood and fellowship of others who have genuinely been born again. Learn the Bible principles upon which successful homes are established. Develop the parenting skills that will perpetuate the best values and true faith until the Lord Jesus returns to take us into His eternal home.

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.

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
28 April 2012	Dru Arnold – Fourth Sunday after Easter
5 May 2012	Dru Arnold – Fifth Sunday after Easter
9 May 2013	Dru Arnold – Ascension Day

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

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**