



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Fourth Sunday after Easter

Sunday Report



Today was the Fourth Sunday after Easter, the central event of the Christian year, the celebration of our Lord, "Christ the Lord is Risen!" Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a lovely 48°F under blue skies, which climbed to an dang warm 80°F under clear calm blue skies. The lovely weather brought three to worship our Lord.

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

Someone asked, where do the quotes come from? The answer is from the people who uttered them. But, how did you find them? Oh, that. Mostly from Rev Bryan Dabney, a few from other place, but mostly from Bryan. He always has a few great ones to share. So, on to the On Point quotes -



If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse. Though I were perfect, yet would I not know my soul: I would despise my life. Job 9:20-21

O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help. I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes? I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath. Hosea 13:9-11

And he said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.** St. Matthew 19:17

And he said unto them, **Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.** St. Luke 20:25

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us , who can be against us? Romans 8:31

Let us never measure our religion by that of others, and think we are doing enough if we have gone beyond our neighbors. This is another snare of the devil. Let us mind our own business...At our very best we are far worse than we ought to be. There will always be room for improvement in us. We shall be debtors to Christ's mercy and grace to the very last. Then let us leave off looking at others and comparing ourselves with others. We shall find enough to do if we look at our own hearts.

JC Ryle
19th century Anglican bishop and author (*Holiness*, p. 122).

To be satisfied with one's lot is better than to desire something which one is not fitted to receive.

Aesop
6th century BC Greek philosopher and author.

The overwhelming majority of American citizens are very much like the Colonial citizens of the 1760s and 1770s; they wish merely to be left alone to live their lives without government interference. We have no desire to initiate conflict, and will avoid it if at all possible. We have always been slow to anger. Even on April 19, 1775, it took the British massacre of Parker's dispersing militia on Lexington Green and the British assault on the Acton Minutemen at Concord's North Bridge and the British forming up to launch a third unprovoked attack on Colonials following the column before the citizenry committed to taking the fight to General Gage's gun-grabbing forces, triggering the bloody war that led to our Republic. I personally do not expect the next revolution to break out in this nation until the government itself once again launches an unprovoked attack on the liberty of the People, but many thousands of Americans feel that the actions of this Administration, this polimedia, are already waging that war against the citizenry. It only takes the breaching of the peace by either side—a present-day Waco, or perhaps a single assassination of an anti-Liberty politician or media figure—to let slip a cascade of actions and retaliations that will lead to a slide into anarchy.

Bob Owens
21st century American commentator (*Bloody Calculus*, 4-4-13).

America's financial and social systems only function today because of one thing—government spending. The government is 'officially' indebted in the amount of \$16 trillion. Unofficially, the number is closer to \$120 trillion. These massive liabilities have been accrued mainly through entitlement programs and state welfare. These programs are the only thing keeping the illusion of a normal economy alive. The lesson here is that no one, not even the government, has the ability to 'spend their way out of debt.' And no one, including central bankers, has the ability to cure economic collapse by printing money out of thin air. But the bankers already know this... In the end, the madness of debt spending is going to annihilate this country anyway. Fiat printing and infinite QE will eventually result in the dumping of our currency as the world reserve, causing devaluation and hyperstagflation. There is no silver bullet solution. There will be a struggle, and there will be a consequence. It is unavoidable. All we have to decide now is how we will respond when the inevitable disaster comes.

Brandon Smith

21st century American commentator

(*Waking Dreams End Unpleasantly*, 26 February 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 church service is read by an ordained minister.

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

The Propers for today are found on Page 174-175, with the Collect first:

The Fourth Sunday after Easter.

The Collect.

O ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

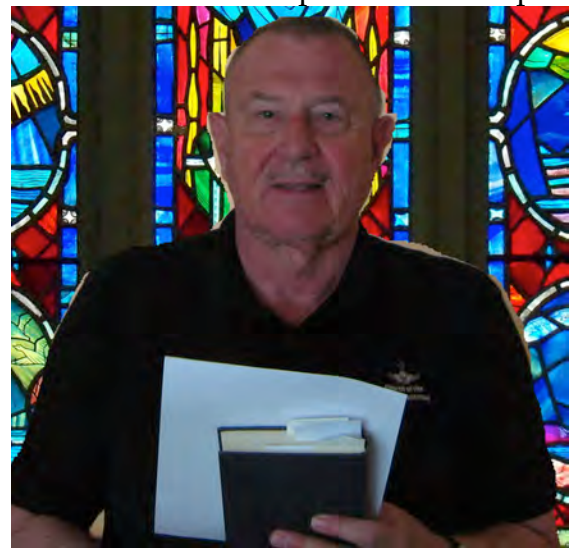
Dru Arnold read this morning's Epistle, which came from the First Chapter of the Epistle of Saint James beginning at the Seventeenth Verse. James tells us we are the pinnacle of God's creation, destined to be the stewards of His world. This position has its privileges, but even more important it has its responsibilities. Most of the time, we seem to concentrate on what we like, the privileges, and forget about those responsibilities which require work, putting off instant gratification, persistence and sometimes courage. As Saint Paul so often tells us, we must become new people, putting aside our old ways, considerate of what we should do and let ourselves become open to His Word:



EVERY good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

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

You must recognize we are imperfect creatures with free will. For us to do God's Will, not ours, we need help. We need that bit of good leaven, which will let our hearts rise to the occasion. We need the Holy Ghost in our hearts and souls. Listen as John tells us:

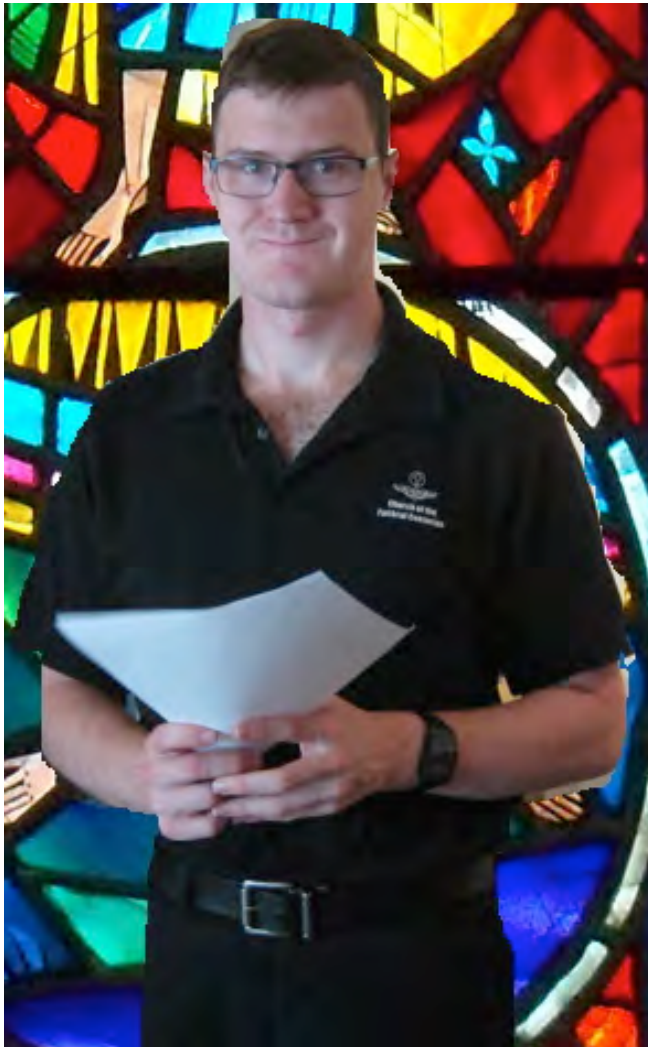


JESUS said unto his disciples, Now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness,

and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto 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 alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found...

The very first phrase is critical to understanding our relationship with the world. We want to follow our own hearts and they will lead us down the path to Donkey Island and eventually the pit. This explains the “unruly wills and affections of sinful men.” Our natural wills and affections are towards sinful things and not that of God. God’s commandments to us are to re-

shape our affections from things of mammon, to things of eternity. We have one hope; that we will listen to the instruction God freely offers us. If we will just do what He asks we will find true joy. Our life will be better when we follow His directions and if we will allow God to rule us and desire His help, we will be able to attain the state of happiness we will then deserve. He knows what is right and what is wrong for us. He does not want us to lead Puritanical lives with no fun allowed whatsoever, but we must have fun the right way and not the wrong way. We need God’s help (this is one of the places the Holy Ghost comes in) to be able to want for ourselves that which He Wants for us. If we can desire what He Wants, our ability to follow His Instructions will be much enhanced.

We are God's creatures, first among all His Creation with all the privileges (which we like) and all the responsibility (which we are not so keen on) which come with that status. All good comes from God, who is always with us; always the same; a true bearing in world in a constant state of flux. His Word is refreshing constant, in this world where things are changing every few years it seems, but His Word will never change. It's meaning never changes, as God never changes. We need to listen to not only Him, but those around us, think before we speak, think more before we act in haste. We must put ourselves to good and separate ourselves from evil and superfluity of naughtiness so we can hear His Word, which will save our souls.

So, how can we hear?

When Jesus got ready to leave this world for His, He told the disciples that He would send them the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, to keep them in Him and to help them understand what they had so far been unable to truly grasp. Unless we allow the Holy Ghost to enter into our hearts, we will never truly understand that which is from God. We must allow the Holy Ghost to enter in to our hearts and souls so we can understand what God has for us. It is that simple. Open your heart, pray for God to send Him into that open heart.

For with the Holy Ghost's help, you can hear, understand and act on The Word.

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



Rev Roger Jessup – Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Orthodox Church

Today we are blessed to have a great piece by Rev Roger Jessup, of St Joseph of



Arimathea Anglican Orthodox Church, Chesterfield, VA. For those of you who have heard Rev Roger speak and preach, you can hear his wonderful melodious voice in this writing, for those who have not, you have missed a treat. On the other hand, you will read it about three times faster than Roger said it.

Antinomian¹ Ignorance

A prayer we often pray in agreement is to be delivered from contempt of thy Holy Word and commandments.

Many church groupings in our day live in that sin and do not pray to be delivered.

Every sermon recorded in the New Testament is either taken from the Old Testament or from the now partially corrupted books found between the Old

and New Testaments. Unfortunately for their eternal destiny, many professed Christians today believe that they can remain willfully ignorant of God's Holy Word and Commandment and not be judged of God.

Our Lord himself told us: "**Verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**" {St. Matt. 5:18 & St. Luke}: "**It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.**"

This is not to say that certain rites specific to Messiah did not find fulfillment in the work of Jesus. There is no longer the need of animal sacrifice to cover our sins. Our sins are removed by a lively faith in the shed blood of Jesus. In the Epistle to the Hebrew Church we are warned: that failure to accept that sacrifice leads to endless loss. Our names can be removed from the Book of Life; by not seeking and accepting that sacrifice 'once offered' {Hebrews 10:26 + 27}.

¹ Antinomianism in Christianity is the belief that under the gospel dispensation of grace, moral law is of no use or obligation because faith alone is necessary to salvation. Antinomianism and one protestant doctrine of sola fide (justification through faith alone) are historically related. Commonly seen as the theological opposite to antinomianism is the notion that obedience to a code of religious law earns salvation, such as Legalism or Works righteousness or Judaizing.

The term "antinomianism" emerged soon after the Protestant Reformation (c.1517) and has historically been used mainly as a pejorative against Christian thinkers or sects who carried their belief in justification by faith further than was customary. Examples are Martin Luther's critique of antinomianism and the Antinomian Controversy of the 17th century Massachusetts Bay Colony. Although the term is 16th century, the topic has its roots in Christian views on the old covenant extending back to the 1st century. It can also be extended to any individual who rejects a socially established morality. However, few groups, outside of anarchism such as Christian anarchism or Jewish anarchism, explicitly call themselves "antinomian".

Methodist commentator Adam Clarke said, "The Gospel proclaims liberty from the ceremonial law: but binds you still faster under the moral law. To be freed from the ceremonial law is the Gospel liberty; to pretend freedom from the moral law is Antinomianism."

It was my privilege to know a number of Christians who loved the word of God. They did not moan that it was impossible to understand the only literal translation of the received text thus far to make it into the English Language; but they invested not only in a Bible but also in an unabridged dictionary. Why go to such trouble? "**Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**" {Psalm 119:11}. Daily they read their Bibles and then were still before God-meditating on the scripture. Instead of arguing with others they prayed for the Holy Ghost to change and strengthen them that might not sin against the LORD. These people were from many different theological back- grounds; yet, they had something more in common. They each could testify that the Cross of Jesus the Christ was personal to them. No one had to beg them to come to church, to dress with decorum, or to show mercy to the less fortunate.

God has been quite specific in setting forth those things he finds acceptable; and in setting forth those things which he hates. He invites us to accept mercy and grace to be in fact-not in name only-the elect people of God. Grace is not only imputed when we believe; but through prevailing prayer Grace is imparted . This impartation of Grace is why many Christians were blameless; never perfect as God is perfect; but a holy people of faith manifested in works of love, righteousness, and character.

A religion that does not seek to transform us into the mind of Christ, might be a seemingly stress free way to live; but will it do when you are dying? In the article of death, will you see Jesus or will you be afraid (Heb. 10:26-27)?

Seek to know the word of God as set forth in the Received Text (Textus Receptus), those manuscripts which agree with each other and were translated into the King James Version. Do not be lazy for your soul may well be at issue. Many of the Books called Holy Bible contain grave error. Their defenders are quick to say these are the oldest manuscripts. They survived because they were rejected by the early undivided church; the manuscripts of the Received Text were handled daily and worn out by use; then hand copied over many times. Thousands of them exist and agree with each other although many are only fragments. If God enables I hope to look at many neglected teachings in future articles.

Rev Roger

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

Fourth Sunday after Easter
28 April 2013, Anno Domini

The Fourth Sunday after Easter.

The Collect.

O ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



44 *Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that*

sent me. 45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. 46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak. (John 12:44-50)

We have often referred to Christ as the Light of the World and all that the Light means. A Light reveals the true path of security and righteousness. That is what Christ did for us, and He made it possible for us to have the scales removed from our eyes and hearts that we might be benefitted by that Light which He is. The Way itself is a Way laid out by God the Father. All that Christ did or said was in conformity to that commandment given Him by His Father in Heaven. His death and resurrection made the path available to us, as well.

It would be impossible to believe on Christ and omit the Father. That which the Father is, so is Christ; and that which Christ is, so is the Father. The Triune God of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are truly One in Mind and Purpose. It would not be possible for Christ to act in a manner, or speak in a style, that was not in complete agreement with the Mind of God the Father. We believe in God the Father because we have believed on His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ – "... like Father, like Son!" *He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.* There is no line of separation, either in Power or Majesty, between God the Father and God the Son. Of no other man could this be said without blasphemy.

We are called Christians because we are, presumably, the children of God in Christ. Just as there are many who are not Israel who are of Israel, so it is true that there is a very large percentage who call themselves Christians but do not approach the qualifications to be so called. *45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.* Do you KNOW God the Father? If so, are you bound to His Will by those iron-bars of love that compel obedience to His Commandments and reverence for His only Begotten Son? Jesus was so closely bound in love to the Father that He was precisely like the Father. There could not be daylight between His Will and that of the Father. When folks saw Christ, whether they knew it or not, they were seeing the selfsame likeness of the Father. This presents to us a great question: When people see us, are we so close in Mind and Purpose with that of Christ that they see Jesus? I read a touching illustration of a poor little boy who was standing before a storefront window admiring a pair of shoes. It was winter, and the boy had only wrappings for shoes. A kind lady saw the boy and invited him into the store. She bought him a new pair of shoes along with socks and gloves (it was winter time). When she bade the boy Godspeed and began to leave, he called out behind her: "Say, Ma'am, are you the wife of Jesus?" Should we not all behave in such a way that innocent little minds will think that we are very much like Jesus?

The Way is already laid out from Eternity Past. But who shall be blessed to find that Way in a sin-darkened world? *13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life,*

and few there be that find it. (Matt 7:13-14) Forgive me if I quote these verses too often, but the meaning is so crucial to our understanding that they must be emblazoned in blood on our hearts and minds. That Road that leads DOWN to destruction owes its ease and comfort to its downward plane. It is wide and filled with far greater numbers than the Narrow Way that leads up life eternal. Why would anyone desire to belong to a small and struggling conglomeration of churches called the AOC? They travel a difficult incline, and the Way they travel is considered, by the more sophisticated of the churches, as Narrow-Minded. Yes, we are Narrow Minded, and I pray that we can keep that Narrow focus on our Lord and savior and not opulent buildings, salaries, and prestige. Those are reserved for the Broad Way that leads down.

But the world is dark and gloomy. How can we find the Way that leads to life eternal? **46 *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*** Jesus came to us in love, and only to those in whom His love is finally reciprocated. He comes as a Light to SHOW us the Way. Those who reject the Light need no judge, for the darkness itself is an overwhelming judgment and relegates their eternity to the fires of Hell. Oh, sorry, Mr. Episcopalian and Mr. Joel Osteen follower – I forgot that the word Hell is a no-no. It makes people unhappy (Osteen). If we are lost in sin, no one can do us a better favor than to teach us of our depravity before God that leads to a remorseful unhappiness that can only be resolved by a direct fleeing to the Throne of Grace. If we have the Light of Christ to illumine our dark souls, then we will see the Way and will follow it.

Does God judge a man and condemn him to Hell? God's judgment is His Word. It is the Word that will judge us. God has very fairly and openly taught us of His Will in His Word. If we reject that counsel, we have chosen to make our beds in Hell. It was OUR decision! **47 *And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.*** The world was already lost when Christ came. He simply came bearing the fruits and wisdom of salvation. He came teaching us of the Way, and the Truth and the Life. If we choose to ignore that truth, we simply remain in our lost and damned condition. Even if the world, in its fallen state, were allowed to enter Heaven, it would be the most miserable of all conditions. The world could not obey and reverence the Lord who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. They would still love their sins, and there would again follow war in Heaven. That war has already been fought and Satan was cast down along with his errant angels.

Isn't it a sad state of affairs when you decide to invest in an enterprise against the anguished pleadings of your friends, and then lose all in the gamble? Your friends would have every right to say, "I told you so!" Jesus has, indeed, told us so. **48 *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*** When we label an openly homosexual practitioner as a profligate sinner, whose judgment is that? It is the judgment of the Word of God and not our own judgment. God's Word is a two edged sword to either convict of sin for the purpose of salvation, or to condemn of sin for the purpose of legal damnation.

Jesus came as an Emissary of Heaven. There were moments when He was so tired He could hardly lift another foot, yet He kept going from before sunrise until after sunset in teaching and preaching – souls were at stake! He was often thirsty and hungry, wet and cold, yet He kept going for us – all the way to Calvary's crown. As an Emissary and Likeness of the Father, He came with all of the Authority of Heaven.

Emissaries do not make treaties and agreements out of their own imaginations, but in accordance with the Will of the governing authority. In Christ's case, that governing Authority was God the Father. **49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.** What commandment did God give to His Son that seemed different from the Ten given at Sinai? **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another** (John 13:34) What function does this valuable essence of love offer? It writes all of the other Commandments upon our hearts in the red blood of love so that it is love that compels our obedience and not fear. **2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: 3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.** (2 Cor 3:2-3) Did you catch that brilliant ray of streaming truth, friends? When the world looks at us, they should see the Word of God written upon our hearts. We are the letters (epistles) of God written. No longer written with an iron pen on Tables of Stone, but God's Law is written with the ink of Love on the fleshy Tables of our Hearts. I love God's Word, don't you?

50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak. Which single commandment leads to life everlasting? It is the same Commandment called 'NEW' given by Christ in John 13:34 above. Love is the one essence that survives death and is victor over ever hateful thing. Christ Himself is LOVE personified. He is our Ark against the coming calamity just as the Ark of Noah was for those eight souls spared from the ravages of the Deluge. Look with me, in conclusion of today's sermon, at these beautiful truths given in Romans:

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:36-39) This tells us that the Holy LOVE of which Christ spoke survives every challenge – even death!

Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sermon

Bishop Dennis is a brilliant speaker. He is able to take biblical precepts and make them perfectly understandable, even to me. Oft he provides the text of his sermons and I take the utmost pleasure in passing them on:



The Resurrection of You

Psalm 116, Job 19:21-27, John 12:44-50

Fourth Sunday after Easter

April 28, 2013

The future is a dim and shadowy thing to us. Even Biblical references to it are often given in symbolism that is hard to understand. But some of the major future events are given in plain and bold language. One, for example, is the Return of Christ. It is stated in our reading from John this morning, for when Christ refers to "the last day," He means the time after His

Second Coming, when all shall stand before God to give an account of our lives. Other verses are clearer. "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come again," says Acts 1:11. He is "the Lord, which is, and was, and which is to come, says Revelation 1:8." "Behold, I come" says Christ Himself in Revelation 21:12. The Return of Christ is so clearly stated in Scripture it is one of the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith. Thus we affirm it every Sunday, in the Nicene Creed, "He shall come again with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead," or in the Apostles' Creed, "From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead." A second future event, stated with equal clarity and boldness, is the resurrection of the dead. Not only is Christ raised from the dead, but you and I, and all people will also be raised. It is in that resurrected state that our Lord says in John 12:48 people will be judged on the last day. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 tells us "the dead in Christ shall rise first." Job 19:26 says, though worms destroy my body "yet in my flesh shall I see God." Here again is such a foundational element of Biblical faith that God's Church has felt constrained to affirm it every Sunday for two thousand years. "I believe... in the resurrection of the body," "I look for the resurrection of the dead: And the life of the world to come." So, as we near the end of the Easter season, I want to speak this morning about your resurrection.

Those who belong to Christ actually have two resurrections. The first is a resurrection of the spirit within us. Romans 6:23 tells us "the wages of sin is death." This death is twofold. First it is the lake of fire found in Revelation 21:8, which is to live forever in the condition of dying a horrible death. Second, it is a spiritual separation from God here and now in this life. Thus Ephesians 2:1, telling Christians about our spiritual condition before we were rescued by Christ, says we were "dead in trespasses and sins." Ephesians 2:12 explains this death in terrifying terms. It is to be "without Christ... strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." This is the natural condition of all sinners, and, Romans 3:23 states what we all know to be true, "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

So, the Christian's first resurrection is to be raised from the condition of spiritual death to a condition of spiritual life. Ephesians 2:1 calls this being quickened, meaning, made alive: "you hath He quickened, who were dead in your trespasses and sins." In other places the Bible calls it being "born again" as in John. 3:3, or "regeneration" as in Titus 3:5; "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." One of my favourite passages on this subject is Romans 6:4: "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." So your first resurrection, if you are a Christian, is that resurrection from the grave and death of sin, to life in Jesus Christ. We actually prayed for this today in the Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Easter; "Grant unto thy people, that ... our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The second resurrection is the physical resurrection of our bodies. This is somewhat puzzling to many. How can a physical body that has long since been destroyed be put back together and raised again? It becomes especially complicated when we think that, over the millennia of time, the elements and chemicals of earth may actually become parts of many human bodies. How can God raise up two bodies of the same material? My answer is, that's God's problem, and I'm sure the One who could be in Heaven, and, at the same time, living on earth in a human body, can raise us up and put us back together again if He wants to. I am confident, therefore, that as Job said, "though

worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God" (Job 19:26).

When does this physical resurrection occur? Martha gives the answer in John 11:24. Speaking to Christ about Lazarus, she says, " I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Revelation 20:12 confirms this. After the defeat of Satan, after the millennial reign, at the last day the dead are raised to stand before God. And when is the last day? It is the day Christ returns. On that day "the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16-17).

What will the resurrected body be like? The Bible give us some clues. Philippians 4:20-21 says it will "be fashioned like unto his glorious body." Our resurrected body will be like Christ's resurrected body. So it will be a real body as Christ's is. It will be recognisable. We will recognise each other as the disciples were able to recognise Christ. It will not be susceptible to age, disease, or death. Finally, it will be able to stand in the presence of God. God told Moses no man could see Him and live. That was in our Friday morning reading in Exodus 33. But our glorified, resurrected bodies will be made to be in the immediate presence of God. "So shall we ever be with the Lord."

The physical resurrection of our bodies is part of that blessed hope that belongs to every Christian. There is much more to life than what we see with our physical eyes now. There is a world beyond this world which we can only see with the eyes of faith. But one day our physical eyes will see it. One day our feet will walk on its streets. One day our knees will bow in the immediate presence of God. One day, in our flesh, shall we see God.

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+Dennis Campbell

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Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon

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



Fourth Sunday after Easter

Some years back, I was involved in a discussion group on matters of faith where one of the participants espoused the false notions that there was no true religion, and that there were many ways to God. While it is quite understandable to hear such pronouncements from various pagan practitioners; it is rather disheartening to hear such from those who profess to be Christians. These souls actually believe that they, as well as the vast host of the unregenerated, will one day

gain admission through “the Pearly Gates” simply because, as an Episcopal deacon once pronounced in a sermon, “We're all covered”. In truth, they are delusional. You will not gain admission into God’s kingdom simply because you said the right prayers or the right creed. And you most certainly will not gain access to God’s heavenly precincts on your own merits and deservings. The only way for anyone to gain salvation from death, hell and the grave is through a true and lively faith in Jesus Christ as one’s personal Saviour and Lord, and by living one’s life in obedience to his will.

In our gospel lesson (St. John 16:5-14), our Lord promised the disciples that he would send the Holy Ghost the Comforter to reprove the world of sin (v.8). To reprove a thing means to call attention to it in the form of a rebuke. It means identifying sin as anything— thought, word, or deed— as objectionable to God. Sin cannot hide from the light of God’s Spirit as he will make it manifest and open— shed of its disguise— for all to see.

The Holy Ghost also directs us in the use of God's word written. For within its sacred pages, we have been supplied with examples for our edification (v.13). Consider the following passages for they reveal both the error as well as the consequence for sin:

In Numbers 25:1-9, the Hebrews turned away from the Lord God to worship the Moabite gods at Peor and were punished with a plague.

In Judges 2:11-15, it is noted that following the death of Joshua, the Israelites did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the gods of the Canaanites, Ammonites and Moabites. Because of this, God gave them over to those people to punish them until such time as they repented and called again upon his name.

In I Kings 16:28-33 and 17:1, we find Ahab, king of Israel, worshiping and serving Baal and Astarte which resulted in a curse on his kingdom as well as upon himself and his entire dynasty.

In II Kings 21:13, 15, Manasseh, king of Judah, rebuilt the high places where foreign deities were worshiped and built altars for all the hosts of heaven in the house of the LORD. Because of this, the Lord God promised: I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down...because they have done that which was evil in my sight and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.

Several of the prophets spoke against the idolatry of the children of Israel. In Isaiah 44:9-20, the prophet penned a scathing piece concerning the utter futility of idol worship. He detailed how a man fashioned a deity from the trunk of a tree. The prophet— in a clearly mocking tone— observed how an idolater used part of the wood to warm his home and cook his food, while with the other portion he made a god to bow before. Isaiah saw, first hand, how the people of Judah had been redeemed from the hand of the Assyrians by the LORD under King Hezekiah, as well as how quickly they turned their backs on him. He called the people to return to a proper worship of the LORD, but his pronouncements fell on deaf ears— just as the LORD had told him (Isaiah 6:9-13).

The prophet Jeremiah also saw the evil of the children of Israel. Speaking under the influence of the Holy Ghost he said, I will utter my judgments against them touching all

their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods and worshiped the works of their own hands (1:16).

These are, of course, only a few of the numerous examples found within the pages of Scripture. But lest you think “that was then, this is now”, beware! The Christian Church also has a checkered past of heresies and intermural squabbles. Within the New Testament we find the following:

St. Paul (in Acts 20:28-31), warned the Ephesians elders to: Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers...for I know this, that after my departing, shall grievous wolves enter among you...also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Again in Galatians (1:6-9), the apostle warned: I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him who called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another; but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed... if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

He also advised the Colossians (2:8), Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

And to the youthful Timothy (II St. Timothy 4:2-4) he wrote: Preach the word! Be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

St. Peter noted in his second epistle (2:1): But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them.

Several years ago, I read a position paper by one benighted soul who wrote, “God is like an ocean who washes up on different shores in different forms.” If that were even remotely true, then God would have not commanded the children of Israel to avoid the religious practices of the various nations surrounding them. Remember, the Holy Ghost guides us into all truth, so such an idea did not come from on high, but from our adversary who had succeeded in leading that poor soul away from God.

God’s works are apparent to all who would but open their eyes to behold them. Some are easily understood while others are amazingly complex and mysterious. As he informed Isaiah (55:8), his ways are not like ours, neither are his thoughts like our thoughts. Yet, God would not have us ignorant as he has given us his word written to serve as a light unto our path and a lamp unto our feet. Within its pages, the truth about God and ourselves is clearly set forth. Ergo, all who are of his elect and beloved, as St. John noted in his first epistle (2:3), will heed the words of Scripture.

God revealed himself to the Hebrews in the wilderness via the works of Moses and Joshua. He gave his promise of redemption through the prophets, and he confirmed said promises through the miracles and teachings of his only begotten Son. Needless to

say, the world was not satisfied. Truth be known, the world will never be satisfied because its master will not permit such, and therein lies the rub. Consider the following questions: Are you a child of God, or are you a child of the god of this world? Do you hear and heed the gospel message, or do you turn to pagan teachings and practices for relief? Do you believe God has sent the Comforter into the world to reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment? or, Do you deny the judgment of God in favor of a more inclusive approach to salvation?

All who are of God will heed the urging of Holy Ghost and will turn from their wickedness and live. God's Spirit is not to be taken lightly, nor his work and standing as a principal figure in the Godhead diminished. We should bear in mind that true Christians are Trinitarian in their belief. A true Christian accepts the mystery of the triune nature of God. True Christians understand that the workings of the Holy Ghost are for their edification. They will not quench the Spirit of God but keep their vessels—their bodies—as clean and swept as they can for they know who resides within them.

We have been called of God to embrace the Saviour. We have been summoned to the marriage feast of the Lamb. Our attendance at that long-called for gathering of the saints can only be realized through our acceptance of him who is our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. He has called us to obedience, and in that obedience we have come to worship the Godhead looking for and praying for the coming of that day when he returns. May God grant you his peace and blessing in believing on his only begotten Son.

Let us pray,

FATHER, help us at all times to love those things which thou lovest and to seek those things which are above where you sit; for this we ask in the name of him who now sits at your right hand interceding for us, even our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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
5 May 2013	Fifth Sunday after Easter
12 May 2013	Sunday after Ascension Day
19 May 2012	Opportunity Available – Whitsunday or Pentecost
26 May 2012	Opportunity Available – Trinity Sunday – Memorial Day Weekend
2 June 2012	Opportunity Available – First Sunday after Trinity
9 June 2012	Opportunity Available – Second Sunday after Trinity
16 June 2012	Opportunity Available – Third Sunday after Trinity
23 June 2012	Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday after Trinity
30 June 2012	Opportunity Available – Fifth Sunday after Trinity

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 week before last.

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 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.

Testing and Treatment

Sarah wife of Rev Geordie (AOC – UK) has an appointment for a cat scan and biopsy around 10 May 2013, to see what is causing the symptoms which may be cancer; the NHS has taken its time. Sarah is giving up lecturing at college, this will cause a bit of a financial hardship, but is best for her and all concerned. Sarah and Geordie have full trust in the Lord, but welcome your prayer. She is very, very tired and in pain, but given everything is bearing up well. Sarah and Geordie give thanks for each of your prayers.

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.

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

Casey Anna Reid, (granddaughter of Rev Rick Reid, Rector of St Peter's), had successful surgery on Friday morning 26 April 2013, at Catawba Valley Medical Center to have her skin tag removed. The surgery was a success and she is resting at home. Please give thanks for the surgical team paying attention and doing their very best. Give thanks for the great result and for rapid healing with no ill effects from the anesthesia.

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. Please 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

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.

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
5 May 2012	Dru Arnold – Fifth Sunday after Easter – Rogation Sunday
9 May 2013	Dru Arnold – Ascension Day
12 May 2012	Dru Arnold – Sunday after the Ascension
19 May 2012	Dru Arnold – Whitsunday – Pentecost
26 May 2012	Dru Arnold – Trinity Sunday
2 June 2012	Dru Arnold –First Sunday after Trinity

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

5 May 2013 – Fifth Sunday After Easter - Rogation Sunday – 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**

12 May 2013 – Sunday after Ascension Sunday – 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**

19 May 2013 – Pentecost, commonly called Whitsunday – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

26 May 2013 – Trinity Sunday – 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**

26 May 2013 – Trinity Sunday – 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**

27 May 2013 – Memorial Day – 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**

2 June 2013 – First Sunday after Trinity– 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 June 2013 – Second Sunday after Trinity– 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**

16 June 2013 – Third Sunday after Trinity– Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

23 June 2013 – Fourth Sunday after Trinity– 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**

30 June 2013 – Fifth Sunday after Trinity– 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**

4 July 2013 – Independence Day– 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**