



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

# The Fifth Sunday after Easter commonly called Rogation Sunday

*National Day of Prayer*

Sunday Report



Today was the Fifth Sunday after Easter, commonly called Rogation Sunday. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a reasonable 44°F under very scattered cloud cover, by church time, it was almost broken to overcast with a temperature of 56°F. The lovely weather brought three to worship our Lord.

## *Gathering Song*

Jack Arnold played *Just a closer walk with Thee* for the gathering song.

### **Just a closer walk with Thee**

I am weak, but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Take my hand, Lord Jesus, take my hand;  
Take my hand, Lord Jesus, take my hand;  
There's a race to be run, There's a victory to be won;  
Every hour, give me power to go through.

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er,  
Time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o'er  
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



### *Sign over the Door*

Whosoever thou art that entereth this church, remember it is the House of God; be reverent, be silent, be thoughtful & prayerful; and leave it not without a prayer to God for thyself, for him who ministers, and for those who worship here.

### *Rogation Sunday*

The fifth Sunday after Easter is commonly called Rogation Sunday from the words in the Gospel appointed for the day: "Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give to you". (The Latin is 'Rogare' - to ask.) In the strictly biblical context, the chief thing to ask for is the spirit of God to enable us to be true children of God.

In the Western Catholic Churches, including the older Anglican traditions particularly before the Reformation and in some higher churches afterwards, processions to bless the crops and to include "beating the bounds", developed from the old Roman rites of "Robigalia" ("robigo": Latin for "rust" or "mould"), when prayers would be offered to the deity for crops to be spared from mildew.

Today the emphasis has shifted. Asking for God's blessing on growing crops in fields and gardens, and on young lambs and calves remain. In the agricultural cycle, the main themes are seed sowing and the tending of the young plants and animals. This does not pre-suppose that all sowing takes place around Rogation. Sowing is done all the year round, as does the birth and rearing of the young. It is convenient to fix on one particular festival the time to remember these before God in a public way.

In the Northern Hemisphere, Rogation Sunday takes place in the springtime, when there is a renewing of the earth. In this country, it follows Easter, the season of resurrection. Renewal and resurrection therefore are also underlying themes of this occasion.

The main thing to remember is "Ask and ye shall receive."

### *National Day of Prayer*

This year's National Day of Prayer<sup>1</sup> was remarkable in that for the first time the President of the United States felt no need to make any kind of pretense that he was a Christian. He is apparently quite comfortable in the office to which he was elected and no longer needs make a show of being the Christian he is not. That makes our prayers for him all the more needed.

### **One Nation Under God, Indivisible, With Liberty and Justice For All**

Thursday, 2 May 2013

**M**OST Gracious Heavenly Father, from whom no dark or secret thing is hidden, lighten the hearts of our people and national leaders with the glorious Truth of thy pure Gospel. Restore in the public places our reverence for you and of thy providential hand in establishing us as a nation among the nations of the World. Let your Holy Light be dispersed from our High Towers and your Truth again expounded from the pulpits of America as in the days of our early establishment. Gather us together of all the nations of the earth under the shadow of your beneficent and everlasting Wings. May thy people of this land once more become a people of prayer

---

<sup>1</sup> 36 USC § 119 - Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, has called on the President to issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a "National Day of Prayer."

and devotion to Thee and of the pure religion that illumines the Church wherever she may appear. Protect us from the curse of arrogant Pride and lustful living, and Defend our homes from the ungodly exploits of the Adversary. Make us a nation mindful of thy Sovereignty and Obedient to thy Will. To thee we will give all glory and honor in the precious name of thy dear Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Jerry L. Ogles, DD  
Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Orthodox  
Communion Worldwide

*For Our Country.*

BCP 36

**A**LMIGHTY God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for The President of the United States, and all in Civil Authority.*

BCP 32

**A**LMIGHTY God, whose kingdom is everlasting and power infinite; Have mercy upon this whole land; and so rule the hearts of thy servants The President of the United States, *The Governors of the various States*, and all others in authority, that they, knowing whose ministers they are, may above all things seek thy honour and glory; and that we and all the People, duly considering whose authority they bear, may faithfully and obediently honour them, according to thy blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

*A prayer from George Washington*

**A**LMIGHTY God; we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government....And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

**NB** – What a similarity of wording of Washington, our Founding Documents, and the words of the Book of Common Prayer. This prayer could be a national Collect. Perhaps we should dispense with the swindlers, vote frauds, and socialists in Washington and seek diligently to find a man with the character of Washington.

*-brought forth by Bishop Jerry Ogles*

### *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 –

It is being said that the chief need of the Church today is to repent because of its lack of unity... we would suggest that before she repents of her disunity, she must repent of her apostasy. She must repent of her perversion of, and substitutes for, the faith once delivered to the saints. She must repent of setting up her own thinking and methods over against the divine revelation in Holy Scripture. Here lies the reason for her lack of spiritual power and inability to deliver a living message in the power of the Holy Ghost to a world ready to perish.

*Martin Lloyd Jones*  
20<sup>th</sup> century Welsh theologian and author.

When we are hard beset with this world, or with the severer trials within the Church, we find it a most blessed thing to pillow our head upon the bosom of our Saviour.

The Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon– 19<sup>th</sup> century English pastor and author (Morning and Evening, p. 594).

The nature of true repentance is clearly and unmistakably laid down in Scripture. It begins with the knowledge of sin. It goes on to work sorrow for sin. It leads to confession of sin before God. It shows itself before man by a thorough breaking off from sin. It results in producing a habit of deep hatred for all sin. Above all, it is inseparably connected with lively faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance like this is the characteristic of all true Christians.

*JC Ryle*  
19<sup>th</sup> century Anglican bishop and author.

The firewall we have against postmodernism (which is a fancy name for paganism) is an inerrant, authoritative Bible. Our sin problem finds its remedy through the gospel that is revealed in the Bible. We find morals and restraint from our sinful tendencies through the law of God revealed by God through the Biblical writers. Western Civilization used to be based on such ideas.

*Bob DeWaay*  
20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American Christian commentator.

The state is comprised of such a network of lies and contradictions, that it is unreasonable for us to expect truth to come from the mouths of its politicians and other officials. Indeed, one could almost take any statement uttered by such scoundrels, reverse its meaning, and arrive at the truth of what policies are being promoted. I am reminded of the phrase, popular in England, that “one should not accept something as true until it has been officially denied.”

*Butler Shaffer*  
20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American Libertarian professor and author  
(The New Babbage, 4-24-13).

How strangely will the tools of a tyrant pervert the plain meaning of words!

*Samuel Adams*  
18<sup>th</sup> century American patriot (from a letter to John Pitts 21 January 1776).

## 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 175-176, with the Collect first:

### The Collect for The Fifth Sunday after Easter, commonly called Rogation Sunday.

*The Collect.*

**O** LORD, from whom all good things do come; Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Dru Arnold read the Epistle which came from the First Chapter of the General Epistle of Saint James beginning at the Twenty-Second Verse. Saint James tells us not to just talk about being Christians, but to act on those beliefs and do things. We act in accordance with the principles set forth by Christ. We gain our salvation through the freely given gift of Grace by our Lord Jesus Christ. Once given, and accepted; if we truly accept the gift, it will be evident in our actions.

St. James reminds us we not only must:

- Talk the Talk;  
but
- Walk the Walk.

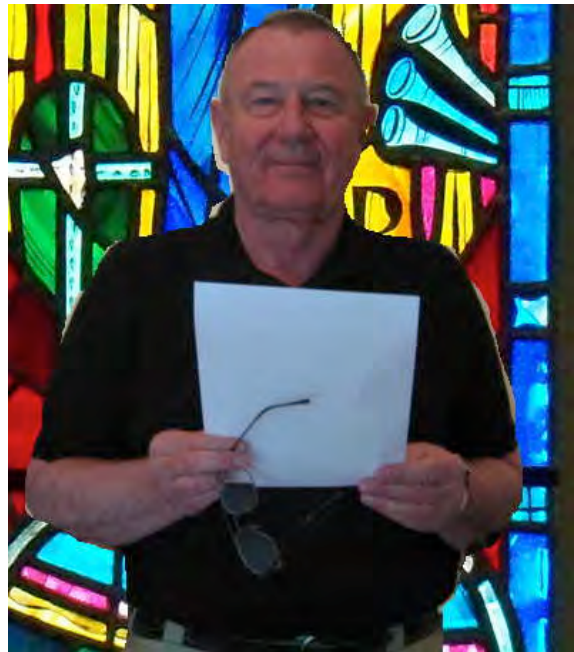
We do not gain eternal life and salvation by our good works here on earth, but only by the Grace of God, through His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Through Christ our sins are atoned for that we might go to heaven. True enough, but we demonstrate our attempt to follow his instructions by our works here on earth. Remember, it is by only by our actions we are we truly known.



**B**E ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Hap Arnold read today's Holy Gospel came from the Sixteenth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John beginning at the Twenty-Third Verse. Jesus told his disciples that when they pray to the Father, they should ask in His Name and what they asked for would be given. But, you must ask to receive. Jesus told us not to ask Him to pray to the Father, but rather that we pray directly to the Father, asking for what we will in His name, because God loves us because we love Jesus. This explains why many of our prayers end in, "we ask all this in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," or similar words. So, if we are to if we are not to ask Jesus to pray for us, why would we ask "saints" and such. We can talk directly to God and we are supposed to!



Jesus went on to say the forces of this world would scatter the disciples, they would be alone in the world. Yet like Jesus, they would not be abandoned by all; He would be with them, as would the Father. For as always, the Father is with them, as He is with Him; as He is with us.

**V**ERILY, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: for the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb. Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God. Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe? Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

## *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:

... by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same ...

As we near the Ascension and thus Pentecost and the arrival of the Holy Ghost, we ask for God's "holy inspiration we may think those things that are good", that is to say help from the Holy Ghost so we might direct our souls to the things we cannot see as good without His Help. Once we see them, we need His "merciful guiding may perform the same...". After all, what good is it to know what we should do, if we won't, can't or don't do it?

That brings us right to Saint James' point, we gain our salvation through the freely given gift of Grace by our Lord Jesus Christ. Once given, it must be accepted. If we truly accept the gift, it will be evident in our actions. If you are going to be a Christian, the key is right there – BE. Being requires action, not just diction. Many can talk the talk, but can they walk the walk too? Being a Christian requires doing both, which may be very difficult sometimes, but it must be done. If you are going to be a Christian, what you say is of little import to what you DO. Do your actions reflect God's image or that of the other guy? Who do you put first? Pretty basic questions that often we don't like the answer to. But they must be answered nevertheless, all the same.

We find a lot of help in John's words, he give us insight into things that none of the other disciples do. We need help. We pray for help. So, what about prayer? Let's start with who do we pray to?

Jesus is pretty clear. Don't pray to Him, pray to God. Feel free to use His Name. Pray to God in His Name. He tells us God loves us because we love Jesus. But, pray to God. I think that not many people have ever understood this part of scripture, as I have heard people pray to Jesus when he is not the correct person to address your prayers to. He specifically tells us to direct the prayers to His Father, who can better help us.

If that is the case, seems like it pretty much rules out praying to Saint Bob, does it not? And besides, why would we be praying to another human anyway, who we may or may not put any trust in. But if we pray to God, we can be certain that he will answer us, and even if we don't like the answer, we know that is the course we will have to take. It doesn't matter if we like God's answer or not, we still have to listen to it, and do

it anyway, knowing it will be the right path in the end.

So, pray to God, ask for what you want in Jesus Name. He always listens and He always delivers. The problem for us is that what He delivers is what we need, not necessarily what we want.

Need and want, they are both four letter words, oft used interchangeably, which do not mean the same thing.

God's Will is always done, we just don't understand. Accept what happens as acceptable, so long as you have done all you can. In the end, all that counts is where you go when you leave here. That depends on your actions in following Jesus' instructions. If you believe, you are safe. Now and forever.

- Talk the Talk;  
AND
- Walk the Walk.

It is an uphill trail. The easy downhill trail does not lead to the summit.

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**

#### ***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**

Fifth Sunday after Easter  
5 May 2013, Anno Domini

#### **The Collect for The Fifth Sunday after Easter, commonly called Rogation Sunday.**

*The Collect.*

**O** LORD, from whom all good things do come; Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



*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. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. 25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. 26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: 27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. 28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. 29 His disciples said unto him, Lo, now*



*speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb. 30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God. 31 Jesus answered them, **Do ye now believe?** 32 **Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.** 33 **These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.** (John 16:23-33)*

Language itself is an essential tool in learning and communications. Many today advocate to a downgrade in biblical literacy to the level of the street. But Christ teaches an aspiration to higher understanding and wisdom than common street language can afford. He spoke in parables and proverbs as a beginning point to 1) separate the vulgar goats from the eager lambs; and 2) to teach in similitudes and allegories those great heavenly truths that His hearers could not understand without deep thought and further learning. But He gave them a starting place through the use of parables and proverbs. As a good Teacher, Jesus taught from the known to the unknown – not from the unknown to the unknown as many modern theologians attempt to do out of pride and arrogance. He spoke in terms the people could understand in the simple ways that would lead to profound understandings as they grew in knowledge and truth. But Christ never lowered the holiness of his language. He used terms of respect and high regard for all whom He addressed. He never irreverently referred to His Father as ‘Dad’ or the Holy Ghost as ‘that helpful fellow.’ He used classical language in all of His speaking. We use such language on legal documents, why not when addressing the Supreme Law-Giver?

In the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> verses of our text today, Christ makes reference to a certain day. Which day is it? An ambassador makes treaties and agreements in the name of the sending authority. Christ came and fulfilled all the terms of our redemption. He completed that work on the cross at Calvary and, three days later, by rising from the Tomb. He is our Justifier. He is our Redeemer. He is our Savior. He is our Advocate. When Christ was physically present with the disciples, they felt free to ask of Him anything. Christ prayed to the Father for our benefit; but in His glorious ascension, we may approach the Father directly in petitioning for our needs. However, we must approach God the Father with a Letter of Introduction. That letter is Christ. Whatsoever we ask of the Father, we ask in the name of the One who has qualified us to ask.

Let me ask you, “What does the following mean from verse 23: ***Whatever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you?*** If we desire something out of our lust or greed, is God constrained to grant that prayer? Contrary to the charismatic religions, God is NOT at all going to grant those petitions. What Christ means by “***ask in my name.***” That means with my authority, with my concurring will, and in the same Gospel intent I have taught you. We will not ask for anything that does not comport with what God wills for us if we have taken on that Mind of Christ to think and to act. In the verses immediately preceding the Gospel text today, the disciples are desirous to have some mystery of Christ revealed, and that is something that Christ is always pleased to grant – that we KNOW Him better, and His will.

King David perfectly understood those things of God that are waiting in abundance for our sincere prayers of faith. “***The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.***” A little lamb may have no knowledge that he needs protection from the ravishing wolves of the mountain, but the Shepherd knows and provides that want. Want is a word that means ‘necessity!’ Whatever it is that we need to preserve our lives – physical and spiritual – day by day, the Good Shepherd supplies. We do not know, like the little lamb, all that we need, or all that may be harmful to us. But the Shepherd knows,

indeed. David also said: “.... *they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.* (Psalms 34:10) We shall LACK nothing that is a “good thing”. If we receive, not, perhaps it is because we ask amiss or out of a heart that regards iniquity. *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:* (Psalms 66:18) *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.* (James 4:3) Is our God a captive audience for our every desire? Is not prayer two-way communication? When we pray, are we careful to examine our hearts for the response God whispers? Is it OUR will for which we pray, or is it HIS will for which we pray?

Remember that Christ has opened the Holies of Holies up to us so that we may approach God directly without an intermediary other than that Holy and Sacrificed Son of God – Jesus Christ. At His death, was the Temple Veil not torn from TOP to BOTTOM – not bottom to top? Only God could make the invitation, and He did so symbolically by the tear in the Temple Veil.

When God gave us the Ten Commandments, we were not ready for the implementing Rule of Love that we must develop to understand those Ten Commandments. He allowed us to fumble and stagger under our futile attempt to be righteous under the Law. Once we had learned that we were powerless to gain heaven by our own righteous works, Christ came in the fullness of time to teach us that without LOVE, there could be no true obedience to God. We must Love God with our whole being, and our neighbors as ourselves. This was the implementing Rule of Love that will enable us to keep the Commandments – all of them – of God. Love is the OBJECT, the Commandments the EVIDENCE of that LOVE. “....*love covereth all sins.* (Prov 10:12) This is no invitation to hedonism, but we cannot obey the Commandments of God without those two implementing Commandments of Love for God and Love for our neighbor. No one will violate the Law of God if He keeps the First Law of obedience in Love of God, and the second in Love of neighbor. Christ came speaking in parables and proverbs as a fundamental approach to our ignorance of the spiritual law that attends the legal law. Now, He speaks clearly to our hearts once we have passed the barrier of ignorance to love. *25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.* The Ascension of Christ into the glory of Heaven was not a matter of despair to us, but a benefit and blessing. Rather than always speaking to us in human terms, He now speaks in spiritual and heavenly terms through the agency of His Holy Ghost – our Comforter. Instead of speaking in our ears, He now speaks in our hearts. The physical evidence of His death, Resurrection, and Ascension opened the audible channels of our hearts to hear truths that cannot be uttered in simple language. The end-proofs of His Divinity in rising and ascending are a stamp of authenticity to all else that He uttered while with us in the Body.

*26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: 27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.* All that we pray should be in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Ark and Advocate. He is right beside the Father and has His undivided attention. He constantly intercedes for us when we offer our Godly prayers. And those Godly prayers receive the same respect and consideration of God as if Jesus had asked it of Him. How can this be? Because God loves you in the same way He loves His only Begotten Son. If we love Jesus and claim that redemption He has made available to us, God the Father views us as His own Son because it is the covering Blood of His son that He beholds when He looks upon us.

We are strong in words and often, unfortunately, weak in courage and faith. One

who believes too quickly may also be disillusioned too suddenly. The disciples claim to believe all that Jesus has said and are steadfastly convinced of who He is. However, the following events of the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Christ disarms their courage and results in their fleeing from Christ in terror. How fickle is the heart of man. Those same ones who threw down palm branches shouting Hosanna just a couple of days earlier would be gathered on the paddock outside Pilate's judgment hall shouting '*Crucify Him. His blood be upon us and our children!*' How chilling!

Knowing the hearts of His disciples, Jesus knew precisely the hearts of those disciples then, just as He knows your heart today. *29 His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb. 30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.* You took a vow at your Confirmation, perhaps your Baptism and your Wedding of certain things. How tenaciously have you kept those bold expressions of fidelity and faith? We weaken over time in the face of threat, dangers, and temptations. It is for this reason that we need to consume our Daily Bread from Heaven in god's Word. When the soldiers marched into the Garden at Gethsemane to arrest Christ, when hundreds or thousands were gathered without the Hall of Pontius Pilate screaming for His death, when they saw the horror of the crucifixion – it was then that their hearts grew fearful and faithless. But those same disciples showed no such fear in the course of their lives AFTER the Resurrection and Ascension. They now had unchallengeable evidence of who Christ was, and their faith was firm even unto death. Peter denied Christ once he was physically separated from His Person. But once Peter had been blessed with the constant Spiritual Presence of Christ with the benefits of the Holy Ghost, he never again wavered. Do you have that assurance and courage?

Christ knew their weakness, and did not condemn them for it. He knew what they would later do, and how they would die for His Gospel. *31 Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe? 32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.* This prophecy was fulfilled within hours of its being spoken. But when one is left alone by all men, the Presence of God is of far greater worth than all the world. When you may be the ONLY one who stands upon the promises of God – when all others deny the Word – you will be standing on the Immovable Rock with God. When the dust settles, you will still be standing there while the world vanishes into the mist of doubt.

Why did Jesus speak so frankly of their coming failure? He did so to bolster their faith, and OURS. When we have been clearly told of all that may befall us in this life for our testimony of Jesus, we will be armed to withstand the withering gales of wickedness and deceit. Jesus ALWAYS knows more and better than we can know. He KNEW the coming betrayal and passion. He KNEW the burial and Resurrection. So He abides their ignorance until their faith is made invincible in the facts of His Resurrection and Ascension.

In spite of the heartaches and troubles the world may send your way, we have One who has conquered every power of the world and furling their flags. He tells us in prophecy of all troubles that may lie ahead. This is to bolster our faith when the moment comes and recall that Christ went before and won the victory for us. *33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* Unlike those who claim that Christians will be taken out before the hard times roll, Christ teaches us

otherwise. We can even see the pitiful and ungodly plight of Christians in China, in North Korea, in Vietnam, Pakistan, Iran, etc. Christ forearms us by forewarning us: **17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.** (Matt 10:17-20) Did you believe these times were limited to that of the Apostolic Age? Are these things not happening now in many parts of the world, and there is an odor of the same beginning to arise in our own Beloved Land. BEWARE!

### ***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:



**A Surprise Ending**  
Psalm 65, Ezekiel 34:25, Luke 11:1-13  
Rogation Sunday  
May 5, 2013

Most books and movies are fairly predictable. We know how they end before they even begin, but, once in a while we find one that has a surprise ending. This morning's reading from Luke 11 has a surprise ending.

It begins with the disciples asking Jesus to teach them to pray. At first this appears to be an odd request. These men prayed with Christ daily. He led them in the daily liturgical prayers said by all faithful Jews. They worshiped with Him in the synagogues where He prayed the Sabbath liturgy. And they heard Him pray daily in His own, private prayers. So they knew how to pray, because they learned from His example and leadership. Still, it was common for people to ask their rabbi to write a prayer they could memorise and make part of their own daily prayers. John had done this for his followers, and the disciples wanted Jesus to do the same for them. Beyond that, they must have realised their own prayers lacked something when they heard Jesus pray. They were human, and were sometimes slothful about prayer, sometimes their minds wandered during prayer. But Jesus delighted in prayer. The liturgy was a joy to Him. Seeking fellowship with the Father was natural to Him. The disciples wanted to learn to pray like that. But there is still more to their request. They realised their prayers were prayers of anticipation of the coming Messiah. But here is the Messiah standing before them. How should they pray now that the Messiah has come?

It is interesting to note that our Lord went to the Jewish Prayer Book, called the Siddur, and took its words to form what we now call, "The Lord's Prayer." It is interesting because there has been much talk about whether this prayer is a model prayer or a liturgical prayer. In other words, did Jesus give it to be a pattern for our prayers, so that we might know what to pray for and how to avoid over emphasising our whims and temporal desires, and under emphasising our more important spiritual needs and the glory of God? Or, did Jesus give this prayer to be memorised by the disciples and passed down to the Church to be said liturgically throughout the generations as we

prayed it earlier this morning? And the answer is, "yes." It is both. It is a pattern for our private prayers, and it is a liturgical prayer to be prayed in private and public worship.

As a model it encompasses all our needs. Everything we could ever pray for is in it. We can expand on it but never improve on it. When we pray, for example, "lead us not into temptation," we may expand on it by asking the Lord to keep us from the temptation of those sins to which we are personally most susceptible. So we might say something like, "'lead us not into temptation,' and especially protect me from the temptation to have a judgmental and unforgiving attitude."

I have noticed most people's prayers tend to concentrate on temporal needs, especially money and health. We do need to pray about these things, but the Lord's Prayer also teaches us to pray that God would be honoured by people, and that His will be done by people on earth as it is by saints and angels in Heaven. It especially teaches us to pray that we, I, will honour Him, and that I may do His will as it is done by those in Heaven.

As a liturgical prayer it used the words of the Jewish liturgy and applied them to the Church. In other words, it moved from the liturgy of anticipating the Messiah, and began a liturgy for use after the advent of the Messiah. It is the kind of liturgical prayer rabbis commonly wrote for their congregations to memorise and say daily and in the synagogue, and the disciples were asking Jesus, The Rabbi, to do the same for them. So Jesus gave this one to them and to the Church through them.

In verses 5-13 our Lord moves from giving the prayer to teaching about prayer, especially the relationship between faith and prayer. His point is to inspire us to trust God when we pray. Christ is not saying God is going to give us every trinket we ask for, just so we can indulge our whims and desires; and all you have to do is learn to ask for it in "faith," which they define as believing God will give it to you. That is not faith, and that is not what Jesus is teaching here, or anywhere else in the Bible. Jesus is teaching us to trust God to take care of us, and to make our prayers more about expressing our trust in Him than about asking Him for things. I notice the Lord's Prayer emphasises this. Rather than long pleadings for toys and salary raises, or even the basics of food and shelter, the Lord's prayer simply says, "give us this day our daily bread." There is great faith in this. It is a statement of faith. It is like saying, "Lord, I trust You with all my needs, and I trust You to supply them according to Your wisdom "as may be most expedient" for me."

In verses 5-8 Christ uses the example of a man who gives bread to a friend. The point being made is not that the friend does not want to get out of bed and give the bread, but will do it if you keep pounding on his door until he gives it just to get rid of you. Jesus is saying that is not what a friend does, and that is not what God does. A friend gives because he is a friend, and God gives because He is God. A friend gives because you have a need, and God gives because you have a need. He knows how to give good things, He knows how to give what we need, and He is willing to give it because He is the best real friend you have. Therefore, pray (knock) with this kind of faith.

So far everything has gone as we expected. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, and He gave them a prayer and taught them about prayer. Now comes the surprise ending. Jesus says God the Father knows how to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him. When did we start talking about the Holy Spirit? We started praying

about the Holy Spirit from the moment we started praying. This is so because the Holy Spirit is the earnest of all God plans to give to us. He is the down payment of the inheritance God has purchased for you through Christ. It is also true because everything the Christian believer does is accomplished in and by the Spirit. It is by the Spirit that we came to know and believe in Christ. It is in the Spirit that we live the Christian life. It is in the Spirit that we have fellowship with God, and understand the Scriptures, and receive the good of the means of grace. Primarily, what Christ began to do and teach in His earthy ministry, is continued now by the Holy Spirit. So to pray for the Holy Spirit is to ask to be a part of the work of Christ. It is to ask for all of the blessings of Christ, and to be made a part of His new people in the new era of the reign of Christ. May God grant us His Holy Spirit. Amen.

--

+Dennis Campbell

Bishop, Anglican Orthodox Church Diocese of Virginia  
Rector, Holy Trinity Anglican Orthodox Church  
Powhatan, Virginia  
[www.HolyTrinityAnglicanOrthodoxChurch.org](http://www.HolyTrinityAnglicanOrthodoxChurch.org)  
[www.lifeinthescrptures.blogspot.com](http://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.



#### **Fifth Sunday after Easter Rogation Sunday**

In John's Gospel, we have an account of our Lord's parting remarks prior to his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane (St. John 16:23-33). Even though his disciples had just expressed their belief in his divine nature (v.30), our Lord questioned their faith saying, Do ye believe? The meaning is patently obvious. He knew that their faith was weak and that it hung on only so long as he was in their presence. He was about to be taken from them in a few hours, and afterwards, they would flee from him in fear of their own lives. He even tells them so, but not to condemn them. No, such was to serve as a reminder for them later, that they might have his peace— God's peace— upon them, that they might be enabled to face the trials which lay ahead. He then concludes our lesson with these words: In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

But what did he mean by this last remark? The eminent Christian pastor and author, Matthew Henry, once opined that, "It is the will of Christ this his disciples should have peace within, whatever their troubles may be without. Peace in Christ is the only true peace, and in him alone believers have it."

Tribulation is often defined as trouble, suffering or affliction, and it also refers to anything which causes such to happen. Our Lord foresaw the troubles which lay before him, as St. Paul explained concerning his sacrifice, ...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds (Hebrews 12:2b-3). Our Lord saw

before him the joy of being once again seated next to the Father. He looked beyond the pain and shame of the cross to that glorious moment when he would come again into the heavenly precincts, having won the victory for his elect over the powers of sin and death.

Still the notion of tribulation, or trouble in this life, is unsettling because no one likes to be troubled in spirit, much less in the body. Sadly, few will appeal to God through Christ to take away their troubles. They are not willing to receive that peace which God offers to assist them in coping with whatever troubles they are facing. God calls his own to be patient, and to rest in him. God desires us to wait upon him for he has our best interests at heart. He knows what is good for us. Consider the words of Moses to the children of Israel at the shores of the Red Sea, Fear not. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD! (Exodus 14:13). God will indeed be there for us if we are willing to be there for him— by patiently waiting on him to act. Nevertheless, such is often difficult for us to do, especially when we are in the midst of tribulation. For it is in those moments that our human nature calls on us to do everything but wait upon the LORD.

Many more times than we would like to admit, a number of our troubles and afflictions were brought on as a result of our own negligence and trespass. Do we enquire of our own selves concerning whether or not we had a hand in their creation? Too often, God is slighted by those who set the stage for their own troubles and then blame him when he does not end their suffering.

Additionally, it might be of interest to note that God uses trouble and tribulation to bring about our growth in the faith. He tests us and guides us because he has a purpose for us. He also uses such to keep us humble. As Daniel (4:1-37) wrote of King Nebuchadnezzar, we are tempted by the wicked forces to see ourselves as the author of our own good fortune. We may stand and survey the comforts and successes of the moment as being of our own efforts as we resist giving God the glory. It is then, that God takes away those things which we have so pridefully attributed to our mere efforts. And as he strips away our vain thoughts, he also takes away those idols which we had erected to take his place in our hearts. He will bring us to our knees seeking his forgiveness for our sins.

Still, some are stiff-necked and will no doubt blame God for their troubles. But before one sets his or her mind on blaming God for their problems, ponder this: If God did not love you, he would let you march right on your merry way out of his divine protection and into an eternity of separation from him. Therefore, count it all for joy when you lose your idols. For if you are placing anything ahead of the Godhead, you are, my friend, in idolatry and God does not tolerate idolaters.

Our Lord told the disciples to be of good cheer because he had overcome the world. We need to be of the same mind. Being of good cheer does not mean when trouble and tribulation come that we say "Oh goody. I am in tribulation." Rather we should remember that great good which lies before us in the God's kingdom, and be cheered in our hearts knowing that he has won for us the victory over all tribulation and trouble. If we are regenerated beings in Christ, we will have the seal of God upon our foreheads.

When he comes again, we will hear his voice and instantly recognize it. What joy there will be for all born-again believers in Jesus Christ. It will be beyond expression other than a shout. The pains and sorrows of this life will fade away never to return to our memory as God will wipe away every tear and comfort and bind up our various hurts so that we are perfected in body and in spirit.

God did not intend for his own to suffer from the ill effects of sin. Nevertheless, we are told that in this world we will have tribulation and trouble. Therefore, keep yourselves wholly unto the Lord, and lean not on the flesh. Keep your spiritual armor on and in good condition. I remember when I was a soldier, I was told that my weapon and equipment would save my life, and that of my fellow soldiers. We were admonished at every turn to clean and care for them daily. Tarnish and rust were our enemies as much as any adversary we would likely face. The same is true for the regenerate believer. As St. Paul noted in II Corinthians 13:5, Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? Self-judgment follows self-examination. As the old expression goes, "Better make sure that you are on the right side of the river" is sage advice for a regenerate Christian. The unregenerate and the reprobate do not have a clue about where they are in relation to God. So when tribulations come, they are overwhelmed by them. Nevertheless we know that when we face such, we have a friend in Jesus Christ who will assist and guide us through the valley of the shadow of death to green pastures and still waters. What a God. What a Saviour.

Let us pray,

**F**ATHER, give us minds and hearts that are truly inclined to do thy will; and that via our witness, others might see and be turned into thy fold; for this we ask in the name of our Lord and 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:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
12 May 2013	<b>Sunday after Ascension Day</b>
19 May 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Whitsunday or Pentecost</b>
26 May 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Trinity Sunday – Memorial Day Weekend</b>
2 June 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – First Sunday after Trinity</b>
9 June 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Second Sunday after Trinity</b>
16 June 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Third Sunday after Trinity</b>
23 June 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday after Trinity</b>
30 June 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Fifth Sunday after Trinity</b>

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

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

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

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



blessings we have been granted.

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

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

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

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

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

You can email one of the prayer team leaders: Jack - jack@faithfulcenturion.org 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**

The entire Langstaff family from Perth is on an *Around the World in 90 Days* tour. Right now they are in Greece, not Greece as it was first typed. Details here:

<http://langytravel.blogspot.com>

**Anniversary**

Rick and Virginia Reid celebrated their 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary two weeks ago.

**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**

Crew of USAF Tanker 63-8877 (Fairchild crew of three in a McConnell tanker) was killed in a mishap in Kyrgyzstan on 3 May 2013. A potent reminder of the cost of the freedom that some value so little. May the families be able to let God carry their sorrow. May we each share it and value it.



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.

### **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*

*Betsy* sprained her ankle this week. She asks that you pray for the ankle to heal quickly so she can make it to church next week.

*Oscar* discovered some time ago he had blood clots in his leg and lung. He has been treated for them and has not been cured. He now will be facing surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.

*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) has had a chest infection, perhaps viral, but seems to be getting better. She actually sent an iMessage last week, but did not hang around for a response a minute later! Her son and family are on their way to see her soon! 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 almost gone 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 seems to be getting better now, for the first time this past Friday he is beginning to feel okay, a major improvement from horrible. Please join him in giving thanks for this! Please also pray Brian will rest and not over extend himself. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Brian and his fiancé Mel, so he can rest and gain strength; pray for the medical team treating him to continue to pay close attention and do their very best; pray also 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**

*Rev Rick Reid* is starting a new AOC congregation in Newton, North Carolina. The parish will be named Saint Andrews Anglican Church. The first Sunday will be 5 May 2013. Please pray that Rick will be able to bring God's Word to the people in and near Newton.

*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.

### ***Priest, Minister or Pastor – What is in a title?***

Our rector, or head of the parish, prefers the office title of minister. Many Anglican clergy prefer the title priest and a few go by the ubiquitous pastor. As to "Father", the AOC disallows the use of the title Father. Why? Check out what Saint Matthew tells us Jesus said in Chapter 23:

- 8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.**

- 9 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.
- 10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

When one addresses clergy members, outside a formal setting, your average high church clergy member loves to be called Father, as in "Hello, Father Smith." Your average low church clergy member, having read the Bible and being a bit concerned about Matthew 23 and the like, finds the titles off putting and also finds while they do give an air, it is not one that is a useful one, more like putting on airs, so to speak.

Does it make a difference? Does a rose by any other name not smell the same?

Obviously it does make a difference, for those who like to be called priest and father often believe they are intermediary priests with special powers and some even believe they are making a sacrifice at Holy Communion. Those who go by Bob, Rev Bob or Mr. Smith, normally understand fully they have no special powers, only special responsibilities, which if carried out give special results; they grok in fullness there was one sacrifice, one time, for all mankind, for all time. There is no sacrifice made at Holy Communion, though we are part of the original sacrifice, we make none. The sacrifice has been made and is made for us.

Our rector goes by Hap, or if you feel very formal or are in a heap of trouble, LTC Arnold, or since he is a telephone colonel, when speaking to him Colonel Arnold. We know who the minister is. Frankly, titles get in the way.

What about that priest, minister or pastor thing? Hap far prefers minister.

Why?

Because his job is to minister to the needs of our congregation, as well as those he encounters, and spread the Word.

What about priest?

Hap is one, it is the title of the office. It is an okay term, but there is too much of the sacrificing and medieval church there. Those who would tell you the word comes from presbyter are reaching in the present day use.

What about pastor?

Pastor comes from the Latin word for shepherd. Not a bad concept. The only problem with the title pastor is all those taco shops selling Tacos al Pastor! Personal preference is for minister, but frankly he does not care much one way or the other.

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

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

*Epistleers*

We post the list of Epistle Readers in the Sunday Report each week so you can either

plan your attendance or your pre-reading as the spirit so moves you.

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

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**