



Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity



Sunday Report

Today was the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday. The weather was picture perfect; clear blue skies, calm winds and 50°F at sunrise, rising to 66°F by the end of church under skies. Pretty darn nice for the hottest days of the year! Once again, the gathering song gathered not one and we ended up with 3 people present for the service.

Gathering Song

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

Amazing Grace

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

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

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

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

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

On Point

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. Some from Bishop Jerry, many from Rev Bryan Dabney, a few from other places, some from Rev Geordie Menzies-Grierson, but overall mostly from Bryan. He always has a few great ones to share. On to the On Point quotes –



As a democracy is perfected, the office of the President represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day, the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be occupied by a downright fool and a perfectly narcissistic moron.

HL Mencken
The Baltimore Evening Sun, July 26, 1920

H.L. Mencken (1880 - 1956) was a journalist, satirist, critic and a Democrat. He wrote this editorial while working for the Baltimore Evening Sun. It appeared in the 26 July 1920 edition.

The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up. The best of them is as a brier: and the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

Micah 7:2-4

Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of host; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearkened unto me, saith the LORD.

Zechariah 1:4

. . . Jesus ... saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

St. Mark 5:19

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

St. Luke 12:40

But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

I Corinthians 8:9

Those that sow in the tears of godly sorrow shall reap in the joy of a sealed pardon and a settled peace.

Matthew Henry
17th and 18th century English pastor and author

If we desire to do good, let us never be ashamed of walking in the steps of our Lord Jesus Christ. Work ... for the souls of others. Press them to consider their ways. Compel them ... to yield themselves to God. Offer them salvation ... Do not present only one side of Christianity. Do not keep back 'the cross' of self-denial ... Explain fully what Christianity entails. Entreat men to repent and come to Christ; but bid them at the same time to 'count the cost.'

JC Ryle
19th century Anglican bishop and author
(Holiness, pp. 96-97)

The Bible makes it clear: There are no good men and there are no good women ... If you think you're good, it's only because you are so far out in the darkness you cannot see how bad you are.

Dr. D. James Kennedy
20th and 21st century American Presbyterian pastor, teacher and author
(*Skeptics Answered*, p. 156).

. . . So from what you see while you are alive, learn what will happen after you are dead. If you have gotten your wealth justly, use it, as did the blessed Job, for needful purposes; if unjustly, restore it to those who have been defrauded of it, as you would a thing captured in war, giving back either just what you took, or that with something added, as did Zacchaeus [St. Luke 19:8]. If you have no wealth, do not get any by wickedness. For as you go the inevitable way, your sin, a bitter portion, will follow you, while the enjoyment of your ill-gotten gains will be left behind for whom you know not. And then you will admire David because he says, He heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them [Psalm 39:6]. And observe also the rich man contrasted with Lazarus, of whom we have just read in the Gospels, — a narrative which is no fable composed to inspire terror, but a true picture transmitted to us of what is to be.

Asterius of Amasea
4th and 5th century bishop and author
(excerpt from his third sermon Against Covetousness)

Today the path of total dictatorship in the United States can be laid by strictly legal means, unseen and unheard by the Congress, the President, or the people. Outwardly we have a Constitutional government. We have operating within our government and political system, another body representing another form of government — a bureaucratic elite.

William Jenner
20th century American senator

The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves from tyranny in government.

Thomas Jefferson
American patriot and third president.

They who voluntarily put themselves under the power of a tyrant deserve whatever fate they receive.

Aesop
6th century BC Greek philosopher and author.

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. If you have a hard time remembering, "Do I read the Collect from last Sunday or next Sunday during the week?" Remember Sunday is the first day of the week. There are also two Bible readings, the Epistle and the Gospel. While they are "lessons", they are not the First Lesson and the Second Lesson, they are

the Epistle and the Gospel. 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 priest as a prayer, the Epistle can be read by either a designated reader (as we normally do in our church) or by one of the ministers and the Holy Gospel, which during the service in our church is read by an ordained minister.

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 Feast, 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 214-215, with the Collect first:

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity.

The Collect.

LORD, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

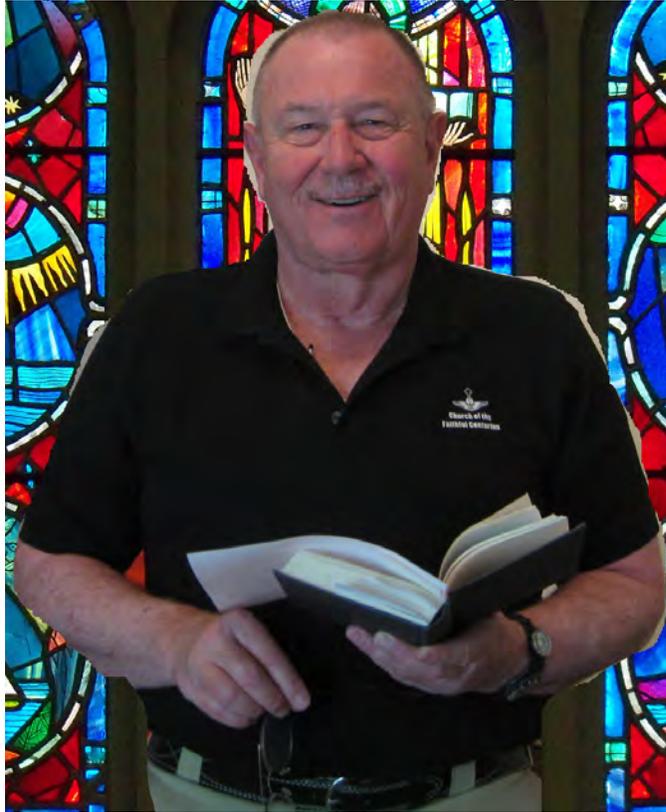
Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians beginning at the First Verse of the Fourth Chapter. Once again, Paul calls us to a new life, different from our old life. A life in which we act in a manner worthy of the better life to which we have been called by Christ and for which He gave His life. Paul, of all people, knows the importance of setting aside your old life, as Saul did, so that as Paul he asks us to put God first in our lives, to put ourselves last. He reminds us, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." The key to a successful life is to put the important things at the top of your To Do List. And, notice it is a To Do List, not a To Think About or To Wait a While List. What is more important than God?



I **THEREFORE**, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, for-bearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all¹.

¹ "you all", normally pronounced "ya'll", is clear proof Paul was from the South.

Hap Arnold read today's Holy Gospel which came from the Fourteenth Chapter of the



Gospel of St. Luke, beginning at the First Verse. The Gospel starts out reminding us the Law was designed to be flexible. The goal is to do God's will, not to "follow the letter of the law" as the Pharisees were so keen on. They brought before Him a man in need of healing as they sat to eat on the Sabbath Day. They watched to see what He would do. Putting the monkey on their back, He asked, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath Day?" Wishing to be in a position to criticize rather than answer, "they held their peace." He healed the man, then asked them, "Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the Sabbath Day?" They would not respond; for the answer was obvious.

Then "He put forth a parable to those" who had been invited to dine with him, after He had seen them joust for

the seats of honor. "When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest seat; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest place; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Do we put God first and let others raise us up, or do we put ourselves first and let others put us down?

IT came to pass, as Jesus went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him. And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy. And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go; and answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day? And they could not answer him again to these things. And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief seats; saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest seat; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest place; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Sermon – Reverend Deacon Jack Arnold - Time and Action

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



Consider the words of the Collect, "... thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works ..."

The first thing to consider when you look at today's Collect is a word: prevent. Prevent is a word that has many uses, and at least one has fallen out of general usage as time has gone on. This is one of the. In this case the word prevent means *to go before*. Before you object to archaic words, consider this is a current word, it just has a use you may not have been aware of and now you are! What a bonus for this week!

So, we ask God that His Grace, His Love, His Power, His Help may go before and after us to protect us and guide us that we might desire to do what He wants us to do. Pretty much a re-wording of a lot of the Collects. Why would that be? Pretty

simple, our biggest failing is we are wont to do what we want! We are creatures that have free will and are not wont to exercise it for God or good. That is a very dangerous combination, as my father says often. That is not the same as doing what will provide us with the best result. If we follow our natural inclination, we will not like the end result, that is eternal separation from God. We know, often very clearly, what we want. For example, this morning I started to lead the Order of Morning Prayer. My first inclination was to do it without looking at the rubrics. But after thinking a moment, I realized that this was a mistake, as the rubrics are there to guide the minister in leading the service. Like the rubrics, God knows, always very clearly, what we need. He is there, like the rubrics to guide us along our paths in our daily life. So, we need to ask God every day, every time, for help to do our duty.

So, what does Paul tell us in his letter to us? Once again, he calls us to a new life, different from our old life. We shed our old clothes, as it were, like reptiles shedding their old skin and put on the brand new armor of light, new helmet, new boots and new everything. A life in which we act in a manner worthy of the better life to which we have been called by Christ and for which He gave His life. We are to act in accordance with the new way in which life, to desist from sinning and to do good things for people and for Him. Paul, of all people, knows the importance of setting aside your old life, as Saul did, so that as Paul he asks us to put God first in our lives, to put ourselves last. He even changed his name to reflect his state as a new man under Our Lord's leadership. He reminds us, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." The key to a successful life is to put the important things at the top of your To Do List. And, notice it is a To Do List, not a

To Think About or To Wait a While List. It is not a I'll Get a Round To It List, or What I Don't Want to Do List. What is more important than God?

When Luke relates the parable of the feast, it is more than just a sitting diagram. I liken it to the tale of the publican and the Pharisee. When Christ talks about the man who exalts himself and sits too high at the wedding and thus must be abased. That would be the Pharisee. When Christ then talks about the man who sits low, and is raised to the higher station, I think of the publican, who smote his breast and would not even look up his eyes to heaven. We have to be the publican in our dealings with God, rather than our natural tendency of being the Pharisee. We should not be one of those selfish individuals who always causes grief for others because he is blind to his own faults and only thinks of himself. If we do what God asks, we will not become like those people. If we put God's will before ours, the welfare of those we encounter before ours, if we hold open the door as gentlepersons are wont to do for others, we will find we are doing what God would have us do and enjoying it.

Heaven is at the end of 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

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Saint Andrew's
Anglican Orthodox Church
22 September 2013, Anno Domini



The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity.

The Collect.

LORD, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AND it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him. ² And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy. ³ And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, *Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?* ⁴ And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go; ⁵ And answered them, saying, *Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?* ⁶ And they could not answer him again to these things. ⁷ And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them, ⁸ *When thou art bidden of any man to a*

wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; **9** And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. **10** But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. **11** For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (Luke 14:1-11)

It was the Sabbath Day.

We have been thinking and speaking of a miracle done on the Sabbath. It is evident that our Saviour had a preference for the Sabbath as a time for working miracles. How, then, is it with respect to ourselves — we who, many of us, would be glad to have a miracle wrought on our behalf, and yet have no right whatever to expect one? It is just thus — we are waiting for the Sabbath. In other words, it was intended, no doubt, to be taught us by our Saviour's practice, that there is a special time of rest coming, when all the various troubles that hamper and injure us will be utterly removed — our burdens unbound; our fevers cooled for ever; our weakness changed to strength; all our heaviness lightened; our blind eyes made clear; our deaf ears unstopped; our feet filled with vigorous leaping blood; and all that is within us lighted up with joy, even as the house was lighted up, and music and dancing sounded in it, when the prodigal came home. There is a Sabbath coming; and as Christ wrought His cures upon the Sabbath, when He was upon earth, we are taught to look on to a day of cure that is coming — that Sabbath, namely, of rest, into which we hope to enter hereafter. It may be needful for our perfection, and the perfection of our friends, that we should still be burdened; but we are quite sure that, after the round of the six days, there will come the seventh; we are quite sure, when the time of trial has ended, the boon of health will be granted. (the Rev T. T. Lynch.)

Jesus has been invited to the house of a prominent Pharisee one of the chief of them, we are told.

“And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him.”

Many other of the Pharisees were doubtless there for “*they watched him.*” How greatly would they have benefitted if they had watched Him to learn instead of to find fault.

Why was Jesus invited by one of those who hated Him and was constantly trying to destroy Him? They had invited Jesus to dinner with the intention of catching Him in an act of disobedience of the Sabbath – it was a ‘set up’ in the popular vernacular.

Why do you suppose Jesus accepted the invitation? Jesus was no recluse – He came to help all who would hear Him. He loved to be in social gatherings where men would listen – ALL men...even Pharisees; and he knew that He would reveal truth even to unbelievers.

“And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy.”

The cunning mind of the Pharisee bypassed no opportunity in providing a means of entrapment for Christ. Seemingly, just by coincidence, a man with a grave and serious malady is present – a man who probably had not been invited had it not fit comfortably in the plans of the Pharisees to present Jesus with a temptation.

These men are ruthless. They will use even the kindness and compassion of Jesus to try and condemn Him.

They have seated the man with the dropsy (congestive heart failure) in a place BEFORE Jesus. They know that He loves to heal and to do good regardless the occasion, but today is the Sabbath! They will use this as an occasion to condemn Christ of violating the Sabbath by doing healing works on this day.

But Jesus knows the heart of men, and He knows the evil thoughts of the hearts of those who sit watching Him.

*“And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, **Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?**”*

Jesus sets the circumstances to turn the tables on these miscreants. The question restated might read: “Is it ever unlawful to do good?” Did God provide man with the day of rest for the purpose of omitting even deeds of kindness?

The Pharisees and priests of Jesus day had added so many cumbersome proscriptions to the Sabbath observance and every other aspect of the law, that men could not bear them without misery – just the opposite of what God had intended.

Jesus was continually tempted in every way that we are tempted, but Jesus never gave into temptation except in certain cases.

What were those cases? When tempted to do good, as in the present case, Christ could not resist the temptation to act out of His compassion to heal and to comfort. This was not a temptation to sin, but a temptation by sinful men of Christ to do good. He always did!

You and I are tempted, on the other hand, to do bad things not pleasing to God. But in every temptation to do evil is found an opportunity to, instead, do good. Jesus sets the example for us in every case.

Because they have set their trap, the Pharisees do not respond to the pointed question of Christ: *“**And they held their peace.**”* Men will most often speak out when they can condemn or hurt, but will less often speak out on the part of righteousness. Political correctness restrains them from speaking righteousness but tends always to wickedness.

So Jesus poses the simple question which they decline to answer so as not to give away their plot. How many clergy, as well as laity, remain silent on issues of great importance? I have observed the silence, even on discussion groups of the church, remain stony silent on matters on which they should have strong opinion. The silence of those is like a scream in the night.

Those who are legalist often forget that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. (Mark 2:27)

The failure to accept the Sabbath in the manner and purpose for which it was given nullifies its benefits. The Christian Sabbath is not a once per week observance but a

daily one. Christ has given us an Eternal Sabbath (Rest).

“And he took him, and healed him, and let him go.” The whole will of Christ was to heal the man and not to make a spectacle of him. So Jesus, instead of having the man remain standing by for show, releases him to go his way. How different from the Pharisees who heartlessly brought the man to tempt Christ.

*“And answered them, saying, **Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?**”*

Had they forgotten the counsel of Proverbs 12:11 - *“A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.”*

An ox or a donkey were precious to men who depended on them to produce income. If one of the Pharisees own precious animals fell into a ditch on the Sabbath, he would certainly have rescued the animal, if not out of kindness, then out of greed.

He thus shuts them. Up to this startling alternative: "Not to do good, when it is in the power of our hand to do it, is to do evil; not to save life, when we can, is to kill"

“And they could not answer him again to these things. 7 And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them,”

Righteous words will shut the mouth of the wicked.

Jesus is an observer of men and women. He watched as the poor widow cast her all into the Temple treasury, and He has observed here how the guests of the Pharisee came into the room and chose the best seats and provisions. They sought to have their seating lend them honor when they should have allowed their honor to determine their seating. They lacked humility and were filled with false pride.

So Jesus tells them a story (Parable) to which they can relate in common life:

“When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.”

All of the counsels of Christ are full of spiritual and uplifting truths. This short Parable is no exception.

Jesus begins the story with a delicate allusion to a type of gathering that would be different from that of his present host of whom He has been invited. The venue is a wedding feast, but still a feast so that the same principle will apply.

When we are invited to a special event, do not exalt your importance by finding the highest place, or most visible place, to stand or sit. We will inevitably to be embarrassed by our presumptive pride when we are told, curtly, to move and

surrender your place to one having greater honor than you. The only place left at that time will be the place of least honor – the lowest room. *“And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.”*

He has given an example of how not to behave, but He does not leave us in doubt as to how we should behave: *“But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.”*

Notice the host refers to the man who is humble and takes the very lowest place of honor as Friend. He did not refer to the man who took the highest place as Friend. Men despise false pride and arrogance in others. If we humble ourselves, men will always elevate us in esteem. But greater is the reward in Heaven!

A college professor once hosted a tea for his graduating students. When they all presented themselves at his home, the professor had all the cups, in the right number, assembled on the table. The cups were all of different kinds. One was of stone, one of crystal, one of clay, and some were shaped curiously different from any before seen. When the professor invited the students to take a cup, the first took the crystal, the next the glass, the next the stone, the next the clay, and so forth.

As the professor watched them drink their tea that he had poured for them, he observed that they had each chosen the best cup at the table; but the purpose of a tea was not the kind of cup one drank from, but the tea which the cup contained. The quality of the tea is not changed by the quality of the cup which contains it. So with our worthiness before God. It is not some superficial position or appearance that is important, but what is inside.

What of you and me? Do we honor Christ in all good works during our eternal Sabbath Rest in Him?

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:



Christians Follow

Psalm 25, Jeremiah 13:15-21, 2 Timothy 2:19-26
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
September 22, 2013

One of the great treasures of the Anglicans is our annual cycle of Scripture and worship. We call it the Christian year because it marks time in Christian, rather than secular events and seasons. This is a custom followed from the Apostolic times of the New Testament Church, and from very ancient times in the history of God's dealings with man after the Fall. The first half of the year concentrates on faith, what Christians believe. The second half concentrates on faithfulness, what Christians do. To us, doctrine is not an academic pursuit for theologians. It is vitally related to life. As we learn in Scripture that God became flesh

and lived and died and rose again, we also learn what it means to live our daily lives in the love and obedience of God. Doctrine, then, leads us to ask with Francis Shaeffer, *How Should We then Live?*

Our recent sermons have been attempting to answer that question. We have said, "Christians Answer" meaning answer God's call. "Christians Continue" meaning we persevere in the faith because God preserves us. We said, "Christians Live" "Christians Love" "Christians Repent" "Christians Pray," "Christians See." Today I want to continue talking about what Christians do, and the title and subject of today's sermon is, "Christians Follow."

The Bible contains some of the most famous words of all time. This is not surprising, since it continues to be the best selling book of all time. Of the Bible's famous words, certainly some of the most famous are the words Christ spoke to His first disciples, "Follow me."

Our reading in 2 Timothy also contains the word "follow." "Flee youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Tim. 2:22). Having said that, let me now say that the Greek New Testament uses two different words in these two verses. When Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John on the shore of Galilee, His word in Greek meant, "come with me and be on the same road I travel." When He met Phillip, He used another Greek word that meant to join with Christ spiritually, to become a learner. I think no one has expressed this kind of following better than Ruth in the first chapter of her book, verses 16 and 17:

"Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, I will die, and there will I be buried."

I think this is the kind of following Jesus had in mind for His disciples, then and now, and forever

In Second Timothy 2:22, the Apostle Paul was writing to Timothy, who lived in Ephesus as the Bishop of the churches in that city and surrounding area. Timothy's task in Ephesus was to preach the word of God, and to ensure that the pastors of the particular congregations taught no other doctrine than the Gospel they received from Paul (1 Tim. 1:3). Timothy was also called to ordain ministers, and especially to consecrate Godly men as bishops to oversee the small groups of congregations in Ephesus and the surrounding villages. Thus, Paul, in First Timothy 3:1-7, gave the qualifications of bishops. Timothy probably read this passage at the consecration services to remind the new bishops that this is the will and word of Christ for His Church and His ministers.

Second Timothy is a more personal letter than First Timothy. Yet it also gives great instruction to Timothy as a minister of the Gospel, and was probably meant to be read to ministers, bishops, and congregations at ordinations and consecrations, and various other times and occasions. In 2 Timothy 2:22 we find our word of the day again, "follow." But this is a different word from the ones Jesus used in calling the disciples. This is a harder word. This is the kind of word that would be used in 1 Samuel 31:2 and 3, "and the Philistines **followed hard** upon Saul... and the battle went sore against Saul." It is the word used in Philippians 3:14, where the Apostle Paul is saying he has not reached perfection nor is he even close to it, but "reaching forth unto those things

which are before, I **press** toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." "Press" in that verse is the same word translated "follow" in 2 Timothy 2:22. It means to run down in hot pursuit as a pack of hounds runs down its prey. So, while Jesus calls us to a spiritual oneness, which He offers and gives to us as His gift, and is an important part of what it means to follow Him, He also wants us to pursue some things, not timidly, not half-heartedly, but to chase them down with all the intensity and purpose in our being, like the Hound of the Baskervilles.

There are no surprises in 2 Timothy 2:22. We almost knew what it was going to say before we read it, even for the very first time; righteousness, faith, charity, peace. Nor are there any secrets revealed by reading this verse in the original Greek. Even the word translated "charity" is the familiar word, *agape*. The words are well translated in our King James Bible as righteousness, faith, charity, and peace. No translation difficulties there. In fact I much prefer the King James translation of the Greek word, *agape* as "charity." The modern versions all translate it as "love" and love has become such an over used and emotionally centered word it has little meaning any more. Charity means a compassionate attitude that moves us to action for the best interest of others. That's what Christ wants us to follow.

What is surprising is that the Bible tells us to chase these things, to press them. I wonder how many of us seek righteousness in such a way it can be said we are chasing it like a pack of hounds. How many of us can say we press faith the way soldiers press a retreating enemy? How many can say with Paul, I press toward the mark when it comes to charity or peace? I admit that, to seek these things in this way is unnatural. It is not the way the natural man works, and it is not the way our human nature leads us to follow God. But we are not natural creatures any more. We have been born again into a super natural realm. A natural person suppresses the knowledge of God and seeks the fulfillment of his own natural lusts. Read Romans 1 this afternoon and reacquaint yourself with the Biblical teaching on this. Natural people follow their lusts like hounds chasing prey. Christians do not. Christians press toward God and Godliness. Christians follow God.

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Rev Rick Reid of Saint Peter's Sunday Sermon

We are happy to have a sermon from Reverend Rick Reid, minister of Saint Peter's, whose congregation is right at the Worldwide Headquarters of the Anglican Orthodox Church. Rev Rick has all the resources and challenges right at hand. I think you will enjoy his sermon.



Walking worthy of your Vocation

Trinity XVII Ephesians 4:1-6

In this morning's Epistle, Paul is writing to the church in Ephesus and urges the believers there to, "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians, (and the other churches in the region which this Epistle was to be distributed), with a strong appeal. His appeal is to "beseech" them. He strongly and, with conviction and experience, of one who knows, compels them to: "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called".

To walk worthy refers to living a godly life, it involves accomplishing God's Will.

The word "vocation" refers to one's calling. As a believer in Jesus Christ, and one who professes to be His, we should all live like God's children.

Paul goes on to define what walking worthy means (Eph. 4:2-3). Christians should live lives in lowliness and meekness with longsuffering. Lowliness is having a humble attitude. The opposite of humility is pride. Pride was the sin of Satan, which caused his fall.

Pride will destroy us and give us a totally unrealistic view of life, and of our relationship with others. It will separate us from God and from each other.

In Chapter 3 of Ephesians, Paul explains we are all equal in God's sight, and we are to have fellowship and to serve one another. You can only do that if you have a humble spirit.

It is easier to live a life of meekness and longsuffering if we do as Christ commanded us to do in Luke's Gospel (Luke 10:27), to: "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."

Paul also told us (In Ephesians 5:2) *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour "*

St. John said, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." (1 John 4:11)

We are also to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
(Eph. 4:3) (*Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*)

To "endeavor" means to try very hard to do something. Endeavoring means to earnestly put forth the effort to attempt and achieve something. It means to do one's utmost. The word is taken from the French word "devoir" which means "one's duty."

Our duty and calling is to earnestly work hard to keep the unity of the Spirit.

Keeping the "unity of the Spirit" means being in unity with the Holy Spirit and His goals and plans for our lives. It means willingly letting the Holy Spirit guide us. It means living "filled with the Holy Spirit"

If a believer is not living in God's will, and is not filled with the Spirit, then he is not in communion with God. He is in fact opposing God's plan for his life and thereby losing God's blessings. When you are outside God's will, a believer will never be happy, satisfied, or accomplish all that the Lord would have us to do.

We get our peace, joy and satisfaction from God. If we reject God's leadership, which is the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will never experience the wonderful life God has for us.

Paul also says "keep the unity in the bond of peace." When the love of God is truly in our hearts it will produce a unity with the Spirit in our lives.

Paul also told the Ephesians that we all have a common calling in Christ. (Eph. 4:4-6)
⁴*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*⁵*One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6.One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

So, there is one body. The body is the Body of Christ. We are all a part of that body. Paul also told the Corinthians in his first letter: "*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all **baptized** into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.*" (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

There is one Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God and His function in the God Head is to carry on the work of God. He provides the power and strength to do God's work in people's lives. The emphasis in this statement is that God has one purpose and the Holy Spirit is seeking to carry out God's will.

When we are not led of the Spirit...we are not one with God; we are outside His will. Paul says there is one, Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, and Father of all. He is stressing the need of unity in the body of Christ.

Some not living in the will of God. We love the world more than the Lord, and are sitting on the sidelines watching everything go by and hoping for the best.

One day our time here will end. Each of us will stand before the Lord in judgment. Some will be greatly rewarded, and what a wonderful thing it will be to see the Lord say to those faithful Saints, "Well done thy good and faithful servant." What a joy it will be for that believer to honor Christ by his good works.

We may think we are unique. In some ways we are, but in the case of salvation, whatever we think our unique situation might be, God is beseeching us to walk worthy of the salvation He suffered and died to give us.

The Lord is reaching out to all of us, desiring to strengthen us, and give us His wonderful blessings; all we have to do is receive them and act on them.

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.



Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

It would seem the rule rather than the exception that we will be confronted with those temptations which we, in former times, once indulged in to please our flesh. St. Paul understood this well. As he explained in our epistle lesson for today (II St. Timothy 2:19-26): But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these (iniquities), he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work (vv.20-21).

In another epistle he wrote, Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more (I Thessalonians 4:1). He then went on to speak of his hearers' sanctification after which he reminded them, that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel (v.4). So what did he mean by this admonition? Biblically speaking, a person's vessel is their physical body. Ordinarily, a vessel holds commodities and our vessels as Christians house the Holy Spirit of God. In his first epistle to the Corinthian church, St. Paul spoke along these lines when he said, Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are (3:16-17). And our Lord's testimony affirmed that understanding which the apostle set forth when he said, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come and make our abode with him (St. John 14:23).

In his epistle to the Ephesian church, St. Paul admonished his readers to, put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts and be renewed in the spirit of your mind and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (4:17-32).

The heresy of the Antinomians stressed the notion that once a person became a Christian, said individual was freed from the obligations of the moral law. The heresy of the Pelagians espoused the belief that Christians were born into a state of grace and did not need to do good works. These and other cleverly devised falsehoods were crafted by our adversary to lead as many souls away from the fold of sound Christian doctrine so that the ravaging wolves outside might rend and tear them.

St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesian church (6:1-18) advised those believers to properly arm themselves against such erroneous beliefs. As a soldier's armor protects him from being seriously injured in earthly combat, so our spiritual armor guards our vessels and promotes the furtherance of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in those to whom we witness. We cannot do ourselves or others any good if we have been injured or degraded by the adversary. Only by keeping our armor on and in good shape will we be able to fight the good fight in our Lord's service. With that in mind, let us take a

few moments to examine the apostle's prescription for armoring ourselves in this great cause.

First of all, the apostle informed us with whom we are wrestling. While it is true that we confront fellow mortals, we should understand that these human agents are only the visible representations of our true enemies in this fight. For behind our earthly enemies are the dark forces of Satanic power. Some will attack us with anger and vitriol, while others will subtly seek to overthrow us by appealing to our desires for goods, entertainment and the like. Our adversary knows each of us better than we know ourselves, so it would be wise to keep up your guard against such temptations.

Now, not all things that are pleasurable are anti-Christian, or evil. Still, we ought to be discerning in all things that we might avoid the evil and choose the good. We must stand girded with the truth of God's word. But to be so effectively garbed will require each of us to familiarize ourselves with the Scriptures. For it is only through the study of God's word that we are enabled to learn and thus adopt those behaviors that will affirm our relationship with God and keep us out of the camp of the wicked one. That is why it is imperative that we be properly supported spiritually to avoid being overthrown and made a castaway.

We should be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. The apostle wrote in his epistle to the Romans (12:18) that we should live peaceably with all men. The gospel we have been entrusted with is a gospel of peace. It is not an earthly panacea or cure-all which can be employed by the profane and the godless. It is of a spiritual nature which will one day result in everlasting joy for those of the household of faith. Being within God's peace means being satisfied within oneself that God will do as he has promised. And that settled nature is communicated to others around us in more ways than just through our words. As my father taught me, "actions speak louder than words." Through our living and preaching of the gospel, others will both hear and see, and perhaps will receive the blessing of God's grace.

We need to take up the shield of faith which quenches all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Satan's minions are constantly battering at our defenses. If subterfuge does not work, then they will attack us directly and in some cases, unexpectedly. But if we have our shield of faith in the atoning work of Christ, we will quench their malicious missiles.

We also need to put on the helmet of salvation. Your vessel needs protection from head to foot and the helmet will protect you from the sharp blows of the devil's assaults because we can rest assured that we are saved and that our armor is the best for it is from God.

And we need to take that weapon which enables us to strike our foe and that being the sword of the Spirit. The Spirit of God gives us the courage to go forward every day to fight off the forces of evil. It is a blade that is sharper than any two-edged sword for the Holy Spirit brings to us the will and word of God. The Devil seeks to use his weapons of lies and deceit but he is powerless against the Sword of the Spirit. St. James (4:7) tells us in his epistle to resist the devil and he will flee from us. Through our proper use of God's word and the empowerment of the Holy Ghost, we are able to both withstand and to strike against the powers of darkness. The truth of the word through the power of the Spirit spells defeat for Satan.

Finally we are able to bring to full utility our spiritual amour through the power of prayer. The effectual and fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (St. James 5:16). As we are temples of the Holy Spirit, our prayers directed heaven-ward are heard all the more as we have God's abiding Spirit operating within us, urging us to bring our prayers and petitions to his throne of grace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our prayers ought to be said in humble recognition that God is our Sovereign Lord and lover of our souls. Such humility ought to bring us to a state of being whereby we confess our sins and seek his divine forgiveness for them. In this manner our vessels will be cleansed of those things which the devil would use to corrupt us and put us at variance with God.

So when we consider what it means to possess our vessels in a godly manner, we will then purge out the leaven of malice and wickedness through our private confession to the Father in the name of his only begotten Son. God would rather we engage in self-discipline and self-judgment so that he does not have to chasten us for our unconfessed sins. Therefore learn to possess your vessel in sanctification and honour unto the LORD.

Let us pray,

FATHER, assist us in our efforts to properly possess our vessels which are temples of thy most holy Spirit; that we being guided daily in thy paths of righteousness, will avoid the devil's broad way which leadeth to destruction; and 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:

Date	Name
29 September 2013	Opportunity Available – St. Michael & all Angels - Superseding Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
6 October 2013	On the Road – Nineteenth 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 least once per day.

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

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

What should I ask for?

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

Updating the Team

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

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

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

Marriage

Brian and Mel Smith were married on 25 August 2013. Please pray that they might be brought together as one in God that their marriage might prosper.

Travel

Mark Wilson is on travel this week to be with his mother.

David McMillan is on travel this week to be with his father.

Johnnie, Paulette and Barbara are on travel this week.

Birthday

Gayle Charlesworth celebrated her birthday on 18 September 2013.

Shamim Gray celebrated her 46th birthday 4 September 2013.

Hope DeLong celebrated her birthday 30 August 2013.

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

Jason Naylor and his lovely wife Marla are currently stationed in Southwest Asia, probably through the end of 2013. Pray for their continued safety and a reasonably tolerable stay in that part of the world.

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 has just moved to Okinawa for a second short tour. Please pray for this new assignment 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

Thorsten Uekerman lost his father on 22 September 2013. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and pray for his family who remain behind, in particular his son Thorsten.

Gene passed on 20 September 2013, after a difficult last few days with lung problems. He had been so infected he has to be told when to breathe. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and pray for his family who remain behind.

Iva passed away 19 September 2013, after painful last days. Her family and friends are grateful for your prayers, thankful for her time here on earth and even more that she is at peace with our Lord.

Bernie Garcia, 56, passed away on 31 July 2013, as a result of complications of Hepatitis C. He was hoping for a liver transplant but because of circumstances was unable to receive one in time. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and pray for his family who remain behind, in particular his mom and dad, Mary and Gil Garcia.

Nearing the end of their time here on earth

Ester Whidett (Wilson), Mark Wilson's mother, has congestive heart failure and appears to be near the end of her time here on earth. Please pray for a peaceful transition from this world to home, for trust in the Lord, a vision of things to come, as well as peace of mind for Ester and her family, in particular her son Mark.

Colonel Drue McMillan is nearing the end of his time here on earth. Please pray for a peaceful transition from this world to home, for trust in the Lord, a vision of things to come, as well as peace of mind for Drue and his family, in particular his son David.

Saundra is in ICU with congestive heart failure after a heart operation. She is aged and frail. Saundra is near the end of her time here on earth. Please pray for comfort, understanding, strength and guidance for Saundra and her family who will of necessity remain behind. 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 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

Ray Daley is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion and served his country during the Korean War era. Ray is taking chemotherapy treatments for cancer. Meanwhile his son Trevor is in the hospital in a coma and seems to have lost the will to live. As volunteer chaplain, I have been asked to visit this family and offer prayers and encouragement. Thanks for your prayers in advance.

Pat has been under treatment for colon cancer for sometime. He has had major complications the last few days and your prayers will be appreciated by family and friends.

Sasha a young lady with a husband and two children had diagnosed with breast cancer whose cells have spread. They are going to attempt a bilateral mastectomy. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that her remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Sasha and her family, particularly her husband, put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry. Right now she is "comfortable on borrowed time." Sasha is grateful for all who pray for her and asks you continue to pray for her remaining time here on earth.

Dorothy had pneumonia, on checking her lungs they found tumors which permeated the lung area. Further investigation found a primary site in the colon, with the lung being secondary. It would appear there is no viable treatment at this time. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that her remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Dorothy and her family put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry.

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.

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.

Surgery

Pricilla is about to undergo surgery for an infection in her uterus. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also Pricilla and her family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

Dustin who was injured in a work accident when stainless steel sheet metal fell on his right hand. His thumb was severely injured as some of the bones were crushed. Dustin will have surgery on Thursday 22 August 2013, to reconstruct and reset his thumb. They do not expect him to lose his thumb. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that Dustin and family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

Jamil was injured in a car accident. His nose was fractured and he will be operated on Thursday 22 August 2013.

John will have a Vitrectomy; to address what seems a macular pucker, suck out some "gel" and thereby to marginally improve his vision in his left eye. This will be done on Friday 21 June 2013. He and his family will appreciate your prayers.

John will undergo surgery on Friday 31 May 2013. It is anticipated he will spend an additional 10-12 days at the hospital and then 6 weeks in recovery at home. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that John and family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

Dave Pressey, a bishop with the Anglican Episcopal Church, one of our close fellow jurisdictions, had cataract surgery; his retina tore and he had emergency surgery on Memorial Day. He still has only very blurred in his eye and has headaches. Please pray for healing for his retina and for peace of mind for Dave and his family.

Eddie has upcoming bladder surgery. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that Eddie and family will be

able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

Testing and Treatment

Mack has had diabetes most of his adult life. Circulation in his legs is very bad and doctors are considering amputation. Please pray his medication will help and he will not face amputation. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Mack and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

Michael has been diagnosed with lung cancer recently after making it through gastro intestinal cancer last year. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Michael and his wife Gayle; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

Ken Strauch has been tired and is anemic, he had a colonoscopy which found a pair of polyps which were removed and are being tested. Just for good measure they found he has a hiatal hernia with ulcers, basically part of his stomach is pushed up into his esophagus and is bleeding from there. Sounds there may be surgery involved. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Ken and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

Jo Ann has been hospitalized for over stress, she was in the hospital with severe pancreatic pain. They found a blockage and medication has helped. Jo Ann has had some recent medical issues; appendicitis, a blood disease and more. It really seems like she has had about all she can deal with on her own now. Please pray that she might find a way to let God carry her worry and open her heart to Him and to her family; give her family the strength to help her in a manner which will be effective. Pray also for a complete and rapid recovery from her pancreas problem.

Adriano is in the hospital due to high sugar and high blood pressure. He is very weak and will appreciate your prayers.

Heather recently found out she has cancer. Please pray for peace of mind for her and for the medical team treating her will be guided to the right solution.

Jim has had an aneurism and blood clots. Pray that healing will come.

Bob has experienced several Transient Ischemic Attacks² (TIA) recently. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Bob and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment.

Laurie has been ill for two years and was admitted to the Emergency Room the night of 23 July 2013, for dehydration. She received a CAT scan, which turned up a spot

² A transient ischemic attack (TIA) is a transient episode of neurologic dysfunction caused by ischemia (loss of blood flow) – either focal brain, spinal cord or retinal – without acute infarction (tissue death).

TIA's have the same underlying cause as strokes: a disruption of cerebral blood flow (CBF), and are frequently referred to as mini-strokes. TIA's and strokes cause the same symptoms, such as contralateral paralysis (opposite side of body from affected brain hemisphere) or sudden weakness or numbness. A TIA may cause sudden dimming or loss of vision (amaurosis fugax), aphasia, slurred speech (dysarthria) and mental confusion. But unlike a stroke, the symptoms of a TIA can resolve within a few minutes or 24 hours. Brain injury may still occur in a TIA lasting only a few minutes. Having a TIA is a risk factor for eventually having a stroke or a silent stroke.

on her lung. Laurie is an oncology nurse and fears the worst. Please pray for peace of mind for Laurie and for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment

Mark Wilson was hospitalized with stomach problems. They turned out to be a set of very bad ulcers, for which he is grateful as they are eminently treatable. He is out of the hospital and recovering. Please give thanks for the good result and pray he will be able to follow the medical advice.

Georgia has liver and pancreatic cancer. The doctors are evaluating whether to do surgery and how to tackle the disease. Georgia is a faithful Christian and she will appreciate your prayers. Pray for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment. Pray also for peace of mind and trust in God for Georgia and her family.

Lana's doctor found something on her lymph nodes and ovaries. Pray for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment. Pray also for peace of mind and trust in God for Lana and her family.

Sarah wife of Rev Geordie (AOC – UK) has been treating for ovarian cancer. The chemotherapy drugs she has been taking do not seem to be reducing the cancer cells the way it was hoped. She is going to stop taking them until January 2014; when they will start with new drugs. It is hoped that will shock the cancer into remission. In the meantime, she will be taking Avocet should keep the cells from increasing or multiplying. She will continue building fluid in her abdominal area which will have to be drained. This is turning into a lifetime of treatment kind of thing, rather than a one shot deal. This has been a difficult surprise for Sarah, but she is adjusting very well with God's help. There are a number of drug combinations to try, but she has hard road ahead. Please pray this new plan for chemotherapy will work and Sarah can tolerate the treatment. Sarah and Geordie both trust all will work out in the end and ask God's help for the interim. They ask He guide them and the medical team treating Sarah and that the team pay attention and do their very best. They both ask you pray they will be able to let God carry all their worry.

Healing

Brian finished the chemotherapy and final radiation treatment for his upper lung and bronchial area cancer. A biopsy and CAT Scan the week of 9 September 2013, turned out to be a re-occurrence of the cancer in a slightly different location. He cannot have any more radiation, but will be starting a course of a different chemotherapy, one week on, three weeks off and repeat. Brian asks we pray for strength to undergo the new treatment. He is weak and tired; his spirit remains high. 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 new wife 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 NOW.

Sylvia Lee, Sandra Lee's mother, had been suffering from undiagnosed kidney failure; doctors finally figured out what the problem was and offered her "hospice care", a second opinion suggested dialysis. She is now starting dialysis. Please pray for strength and vitality to return to her and for peace of mind for Sylvia and her

family, as well as their continued faith and in God as the Great Physician. They pray for help to listen to God's voice and guidance through this journey together.

Jeong was in an auto accident and sustained a serious back injury. Please pray for a full and rapid recovery.

Dale was hospitalized Sunday 25 August 2013, after a heart attack. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating him and for peace of mind for Dale and his family.

Gil Garcia developed a bed sore which precludes sitting and is now confined to his bed. Gil has very smooth and delicate skin, please pray for a rapid healing of the sore so he can get out of bed and move around in his chair. Gil spent almost a year in the hospital the last time this happened. His faith and his attitude are almost beyond belief, he is an example to us all. But, we pray this time he will heal quickly. Pray also for his lovely wife Mary who takes care of him. Pray for both of them also for strength to deal with the loss of their son Bernie.

Bill had malignant growth removed from a lip last month and seems to be experiencing a re-growth of the cancer. He asks your prayer for the medical team treating him and for peace of mind for himself.

Sarah has been released after several days in the hospital because of her low sodium. Pray she will continue to heal.

Hank has osteoporosis, which has caused him a great deal of pain and inconvenience in the past few years. Pray for his healing and that his medical bills will be met.

Evelyn is an elderly woman who has had problems with her eyes and is now blind. It appears some sight will return shortly, pray for that to happen!

Emma Langstaff has now taken over the Chicken Pox her son Jack, who got them from his sister Eve who acquired them at Disneyworld. She asks that you pray for a mild case and a full and rapid recovery.

Joanne has begun kidney dialysis as a result of kidney failure due to extensive chemotherapy. Additionally she cares for an adopted drug addicted baby who is now nine years old. Please pray for her to keep her faith, to let the Lord carry her worry and concern and to give her strength. Pray also for those treating her that they might pay attention and do their best.

Mr. N. Anand is in the hospital and is seriously ill. He is being encouraged to pray for repentance of his sins and to depend upon our dependable God for a cure and recovery of his health. Pray that he will be a strong witness for Christ.

Jacob has been going through some dental procedures and has some pain and aggravation with the numbness. Please pray for comfort and strength for him, as well as for guidance for the medical team treating him that they might pay attention and do their best.

Jean fell and broke her ankle in three places. She will be in the hospital for rehabilitation for the next 6 weeks. Please pray for comfort and strength for her, as well as for guidance for the medical team treating her that they might pay attention and do their best.

Bud and his wife for their continued welfare and enthusiasm. Bud has been advised of an aneurism in his heart of a size not mandating immediate surgery. This comes at a time when he has sole care of his wife who recently broke two vertebrae and thereafter sustained pneumonia.

Virginia has Sinus and Allergy problems giving her severe problems. Pray that the Doctor will discover why it continues and find a cure.

Steve Thornell had a brain aneurysm which was found before it burst. He is home from the hospital and working hard on recovery. He lacks energy from seven days in the hospital. His doctor told him he has to make serious life changes. One of the two main arteries in the back of the head is now completely closed. He must take blood thinners, he has thick blood and recent chemotherapy made it worse. Steve has always operated at 110 percent, he needs help to slow down. Please pray for trust in the Lord and a full and rapid recovery. Pray for peace of mind for Steve and his family.

Arlen is receiving treatment for lung cancer and recently experienced a ruptured colon during treatment. She is alone in Oregon but does have a friend who has traveled a great distance to be at her side. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Arlen.

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.

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! 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! 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. 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.

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.

Thanksgiving and Continued Healing

Jane, US Army Korea, had a tumor. She returned to the CONUS, underwent five hours of surgery which went exceedingly well. The tumor came out completely, on the surface it appears non-malignant, testing will be done to confirm. Please give thanks for the surgical team doing a great job and the great result. Pray for a complete recovery for Jane.

Kathy Cardin had successful surgery on 2 August 2013, to remove a cyst on her liver. The surgery went very well and she seems to be recovering ahead of schedule, on the other hand she also feels like she got hit by a truck. Please give thanks for the great result and pray for continued healing.

Dennis has heart problems; now the medical people treating him discovered a large mass on his liver which turned out to be a cyst, just like Kathy above! Please give thanks for this great development and pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Dennis and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that the contemplated surgery might go well.

Dwight had major oral surgery, for which he gives thanks. He is recovering slowly and asks your prayers to speed the process.

Joyce broke her left leg and sprained her right foot in a fall and had surgery the morning of 24 July 2013. She asks you to give thanks for the surgery having gone well and asks you also pray for her continued healing, she will be spending several weeks her right leg in a walking boot and several months with her left leg in a cast.

Mike was very ill in hospital. He is doing much better now and his family asks you to give thanks for the miraculous recovery. Mike is a veteran who has served his country when she called. Please pray he will open his heart to God so He can

make Mike's crooked road straight and pull him towards the summit rather than to the pit.

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.

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.

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, recovered far better than expected from a severe brain bleed, but fell recently and broke her hip.

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.

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

Chris and several others at his firm were let go after many years of faithful service. Please pray that they might find a company that can use their considerable skills and dedication to their mutual benefit. Pray also for those who remain behind that they might find peace in the confusion caused by the departures.

Doug recently became unemployed from his job of 18 years. He has been applying for jobs, but unable to get one at this time. His wife is working; this is not enough for the family. Please pray he will find employment with a firm that will be able to use his considerable skill and hard work to benefit both the firm and the family.

Catherine and Lewis are at a low ebb due to a struggle for employment. Your fervent prayers will be appreciated.

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

Sam and her *two children* that have been living in a shelter and are to lose their place there. Please pray a place will be found they can stay in and recover.

Please pray *Darlene* will surrender her life to Christ.

Norrie is facing daily exams in the weeks ahead. Pray for calmness and concentration and to do the best possible.

Jonathan is addicted to drugs. He is now in jail awaiting trial. His parents and friends will appreciate it if you will keep him in your prayers for him to find the root of his trouble and accept God's help to heal addiction.

Beth is suffering from ungodly treatment in her marriage. Please pray God will guide her in her behavior, actions and thoughts that she might be able to lead her husband to God so her marriage might prosper to the benefit of them.

Brandon a young man from a Christian family who married a year ago and almost immediately became estranged from his family. As a result he has had a serious problem with keeping the civil law. Please pray for Brandon that he will return to the Lord and the many problems will be eventually settled. Pray the hurt he has caused so many will be helped with our Lord's care and love.

Dennis has some decisions to make and will appreciate our Lord's guidance.

Earl to read and understand Scriptures he has been given.

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

Brian and Mel Smith give thanks for safe travel this past week.

AOC Congregations

Nathan in Wake Forest, North Carolina needs God's Help to find others who are interested in having a Bible believing Church in the Anglican tradition. He would like to develop a congregation to associate with the Anglican Orthodox Church.

Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Orthodox Church is under a lot of stress. We all are, but they need even more prayer. Rev Roger Jessup, their wonderful minister, is pressed by the duties of a primary care giver, in addition to all the worries of this world. They have one of their family's primary breadwinners who will be soon unemployed, absent His intervention. Roger's niece will lose her job at the end of the year when her tech center shuts down. As Rev Roger said so eloquently, "We must pray for those who mean us harm and deprive us of our property are our enemies: Our LORD has so commanded us." We must pray they will see light and cleave to it while turning their backs on the Prince of this World. Equally important, we must pray that the Lord will raise up a political leader from among us as He has done in the past. Pray also for trust in God for each member of the parish and for them to find economic relief.

Rev Rick Reid is the minister of the new AOC congregation in Newton, North Carolina, Saint Andrews Anglican Church. Their first Sunday was 5 May 2013. Please pray Rick will be able to bring God's Word to the people in and near Newton.

Armed Forces & Contractors

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

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

Lisa discovered her 9 year old daughter *Mariah* had been raped. This is in the court system now and we know that prayers are needed for this family. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" James 5:16 Lisa says she feels the power of your prayer in God's hand on her heart.

Please pray for *all the people of Egypt*; Bishop Mouneer Anis of Egypt is asking your prayer as the supporters of the deposed Mursi government, with the support of the United States government, have been attacking Christian churches--Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox. They destroyed the car of Anglican priest Rev. Ehab Ayoub. The people of Egypt, the people of the United States need our prayers, even more so the people of the Muslim Brotherhood that they might repent of their evil and know God so the rest of the people may live in peace.

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.

The Old Tree and the Mule

Jerry Ogles, Bishop Anglican Orthodox Church, 10 April 2001

This past Sunday I lingered on the lawn of my second church in Ozark, Alabama to chat with the older members. This church is very traditional and old fashioned. Most of the members exceed the age of 65 years. The church itself is almost two hundred years old. It was organized by Scottish people who immigrated there in the 1830's from Argura, Scotland. As I surveyed the lush, green Alabama surroundings, I noticed a huge tree near the edge of the church-yard which seemed to be ancient. When I remarked on the antiquity of the tree, an elderly lady told me this interesting story about it:

"When this lady was a small girl (about 60 years ago) horse-drawn conveyances were



still quite common in the rural South. In those days, the lady told me, there was an older man who rode his mule-drawn surrey to church every Sunday. He would tie the mule to the old tree - which seemed to the woman to have been of similar appearance even those many years ago. After several years of driving to church and tying the mule to the tree, the old man failed to attend services one Sunday. The old mule, however, did not forget. He appeared at church at the appointed time and went to his accustomed place of peace and safety. After

service, when the men of the church attempted to take hold of the mule and deliver him home, he would not hear of it. The mule went berserk and would not leave this familiar place.

Every time the attempt was made to move the mule, he would wildly resist so that no one dared go near him. The mule insisted, after all those years of standing under the tree, in remaining this last time. Finally, in desperation, a rifle was brought and the mule was killed. I realize this is a sad story to tell. It is sad because of the mule's attachment to the one thing in his life that never changed and, in the last moments of his life, he refused to move from it. But this story is also inspiring because we are reminded that there are anchors in our lives which never change, which remain steady and unyielding to the demands of a fickle world.

We, from our youth, have learned of the ancient Rock which does not move. We have been taught to build our lives upon It and, when the rains and floods descend, our building thereon will remain fixed and weather the storms of life. That Rock of Ages followed after the Children of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness. And that Rock and Fortress abides with us daily as we are challenged by change and uncertainty. Yet, that Rock remains steady, strong and unchangeable in the face of the storm.

Perhaps we can learn from the sad story of the mule - that some things are worth the dying rather than to move from them. The Holy Scriptures, the Love of God, the Love of family and Country are all things worthy of our immovable devotion. During these uncertain times of spiritual and social decadence, shall we be blown about by every wind of doctrine? or shall we stand on that Rock and Fortress which is Christ?

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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.

The Sabbath Day: The Day Of Mercy – Courtesy of Rev. Geordie Menzies- Grierson

The Lord God declares by the prophet Isaiah ...

"If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it" (Isa 58:13-14).

Our all-glorious Saviour made the Sabbath a delight for many while he was upon the earth, and continues to make the gospel Sabbath, which the old, legal Sabbath portrayed, a delight to sinners to this day.

Christ is our Sabbath; and we find delight in

him. When a sinner is turned from his way, from his sin, from the pleasure of his depraved heart, and from this world to the Lord Jesus Christ, finding mercy, grace, salvation, and rest in him, he finds that Christ, in whom he rests, is a delight, a luxury, and that faith in him is an honour. Indeed, all who trust Christ, delight themselves in him, triumph over all their foes in him, and shall at last obtain the full heritage of the heavenly Canaan, called here "the heritage of Jacob". "For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

A Sabbath Day Miracle

During the time of our Lord's earthly ministry, the sabbath day was used as a day for healing. By his example, our Saviour displayed that the Old Testament sabbath day was intended and designed by our God to portray this day of grace.

"And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread

on the sabbath day, that they watched him" (Luk 14:1). The Jews commonly held great, lavish feasts on their sabbath day. On this occasion our Lord was invited to the house of one of the chief of the Pharisees, one of the Sanhedrim, one of the primary, best known of that band of self-righteous legalists. Our Lord was not invited to the Pharisee's house out of courtesy, but because these fine, law-keeping, sabbath-keeping religionists had hatched a plan to trap the Master. So "they watched him".

"And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy" (Luk 14:2). These good, kind religious men baited their trap by setting a certain man before the Saviour who had "the dropsy". Dropsy is an old term for congestive heart failure. This condition is accompanied by swelling, scanty urine, poor appetite, sluggishness, and debility. The swelling usually begins in the feet and ankles and proceeds up the legs towards the abdomen. It is fairly common among diabetics. In addition to the swelling, the bladder functions poorly, a person loses his appetite and becomes very sluggish. His swollen limbs become debilitating. After a while, it becomes obvious that he is terribly sick and will soon die, if something is not done to help him.

It is interesting that only Luke, the physician, records this miracle performed by our Lord. Perhaps he did so because in his day any man found in the condition of this man was doomed to a slow, painful death. There was no cure for him, at least no cure that could be wrought by the hands of men.

These men brought this poor, dying wretch to the Pharisee's house for no other reason than to entrap the Son of God. They cared nothing for him. As religion always does, they were simply using him for their own purposes. But it is written, "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain" (Psa 76:10). And their wrath soon showed forth our Saviour's praise. These devils were but vassals, by whom the Lord of glory was pleased to bring a certain, chosen, dying man to him that he might show in that man the wondrous, saving power of his mercy, love and grace.

"And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?" (Luk 14:3) Though they never spoke a word, the Saviour answered them. He answered their thoughts. They were not merely dealing with a man. They were not attempting to trick a mere prophet. They were dealing with the God of Glory, trying to lay a trap for the omnipotent, omniscient God, and he lets them know it. The Lord Jesus knew exactly what they were up to. He asked them, "Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?"

"And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go" (Luk 14:4). They held their peace, because they dared not answer. They were trapped by their own trap. They dared not say anything that might show any agreement with the Master. They could not say "yes" without consenting to what he was about to do. And they could not say "no" without denying that works of mercy were permitted on the sabbath day by Moses. Indeed, the sabbath day was designed to portray this great gospel day in which we live, this day of mercy and grace.

Once the Master had shamed these babblers into silence, he took the man with the dropsy and healed him. He who could dry up the Red Sea, calm the waves of the raging Galilee, and bring water out of a rock had no difficulty drawing a little water from this man's body. Immediately, the swollen limbs were made whole, perfectly healthy. Then he who was the real Master of Ceremonies in this Pharisee's house dismissed the man

from the table and company and the company of his foes; and he went home perfectly cured.

What a picture this is of our Saviour's works of grace in chosen, redeemed sinners! He took him. He healed him. He let him go.

"And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?" (Luk 14:5). Again, our Master answered the unspoken quibbles of this cruel, merciless, religious crowd that hated him, hated God, and hated men. They were obviously incensed by what he had done, incensed that a poor, dying man was made whole on the sabbath day. Yet, not one of them would allow his own ox or ass to drown on the sabbath day, if he could help it. Our Lord's obvious, bold insinuation was this: You gentlemen obviously care much more for your property, for your own beasts than you do for a human being. "And they could not answer him again to these things" (Luk 14:6).

From: *Discovering Christ in Genesis, Ruth, Song of Solomon, Malachi, Matthew, Mark, Luke, Galatians, Hebrews, and Revelation* by Donald Fortner

Suicide Attack at Christian Church in Pakistan Kills Dozens

Evil is on the rise!



Mohammad Sajjad / Associated Press

Victims of an attack at the All Saints Church in Peshawar, Pakistan, on Sunday.

By ISMAIL KHAN and SALMAN MASOOD

Published: September 22, 2013

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A suicide attack on a historic Christian church in northwestern Pakistan killed at least 75 people on Sunday in one of the deadliest attacks

on the Christian minority in Pakistan for years.

The attack occurred as worshipers left the All Saints Church in the old quarter of the regional capital, Peshawar, following a service on Sunday morning. Up to 600 worshipers had attended the service and were leaving for a distribution of free food on the lawn outside, when two explosions ripped through the crowd.

Dozens of people were killed and more than 100 wounded, said Akhtar Ali Shah, the home secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The death toll continued to rise as rescue workers sifted through the damaged church property, said Hamid Ullah, a rescue worker with Al Khidmat Foundation, a rescue service operated by the Jamaat-e-Islami political party. He said his team had recovered 75 bodies.

The dead included women, children and two Muslim police officers who had been posted outside the church. Witness reported scenes of mayhem as rescue workers ferried victims from the church, which witnesses said was scattered with body parts, shrapnel and bloodied clothing.

Enraged Christians reacted emotionally as police and rescue workers reached the scene, forcing some to leave.

"As soon as the service finished and the food was being distributed, all of a sudden we heard one explosion, followed by another," said Azim Ghori, a witness.

Police said it was not clear whether the attack was the work of a lone attacker or of two suicide bombers. Muhammad Ilyas, a senior officer in Peshawar, said it was more likely that a lone suicide bomber had first thrown a hand grenade before detonating his vest.

It was the worst attack in years on the Christian minority in Pakistan, and coincides with a broader wave of attacks on religious minorities including Shiite Muslims this year.

In March, a Muslim mob [swarmed through a Christian neighborhood](#) in the eastern city of Lahore, torching two churches and more than 100 houses. Christians also frequently find themselves accused of blasphemy under Pakistan's strict blasphemy laws.

The attacks are mostly orchestrated by Sunni extremist militant groups, although some have also been claimed by the Pakistani Taliban.

The All Saints Church is one of the oldest in Peshawar and was built during the British colonial era. It is at Kohati Gate in the city's old quarter, where numerous militant attacks have occurred in recent years, mostly targeting Muslims.

The attack coincides with efforts by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to initiate peace talks with the Pakistani Taliban, aimed at ending a decade of violence. An all-parties political conference held earlier this month gave the government approval to start negotiations with the insurgents.

But that offer was publicly rejected by the Taliban, which later claimed responsibility for the killing of a senior army general in Upper Dir, near the Afghan border, last week. Immediately after Sunday's bombing, questions were again raised about the government's plans to hold peace talks.

Mr. Sharif condemned the attack. "The terrorists have no religion and targeting innocent

people is against the teachings of Islam and all religions," he said in a statement.

The Pakistan Ulema Council, the largest clerical body, also condemned the blast, saying that it was "standing with our Christian brothers in this tragedy."

After the bombing, as people searched for their relatives on the church premises, opposition politicians criticized the provincial government, led by Imran Khan, for failing to send a senior minister to the scene.

"People are dying every day. The government seems to be absent. Chief Minister and other ministers should visit the church," Mian Iftikhar Hussain, a former provincial minister, said as he visited the church and condoled with grieving protesters.

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
29 September 2013	Dru Arnold – St. Michael & all Angels - Superseding Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday Sunday after Trinity
6 October 2013	On the Road – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
13 October 2013	Dru Arnold – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
20 October 2013	Dru Arnold – Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity
27 October 2013	Dru Arnold – Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

29 September 2013 – St. Michael & all Angels - Superseding Eighteenth Sunday after 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**

4 October 2013 – Ordination of Jackson Eugene Arnold to the office of Priest – Holy Communion - Service start time 1700 (5:00 pm); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 1645 (4:45 pm); **Time 1700 (5:00 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

6 October 2013 – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday – Holy Communion - Service start time 1030 (10:30 am); **Time 1030 (10:30 am); Location – St. George's Anglican Episcopal Church, 6300 Telephone Rd, Ventura, CA Tel (805) 642-9697**

13 October 2013 – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945; **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

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

27 October 2013 – Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945; **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**