



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Second Sunday in Advent

72nd Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor

Sunday Report



Today was the Second Sunday in Advent. Almost exactly like last year, sunrise temperature was a fairly cool 34°F on Mount Olympus, but with drizzle and overcast, the not so lovely weather brought out 3 people for the service.

Gathering Song

Jack Arnold played *Lo, he comes with clouds descending* for the gathering song. This is a special Advent song, sent by Bishop Jerry this morning!

Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Now redemption, long expected,
see in solemn pomp appear;
all his saints, by man rejected,
now shall meet him in the air:
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.



Pearl Harbor Day

Yesterday was a day important to us as Americans. Seventy-two years ago on a Sunday morning, "7 December 1941 – a date which will live in infamy - - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.¹ Two thousand three hundred fifty Americans gave their lives defending our country, giving their blood that we might live in freedom.

The Arnolds' Uncle Jack, Admiral Jackson D. Arnold², was the Engineering Test Pilot at NAS Ford Island, Pearl Harbor and shot down a Japanese torpedo plane from the ground when no aircraft were flyable, then went on to rescue many survivors, some from his first ship ARIZONA. More here: <http://adm-arnold.blogspot.com/>

Sermon – Rev Jack Arnold – Pearl Harbor Day 2013

In Matthew 24, Christ gives the people of Jerusalem warnings as to the end of their time

Photo # USN 1021538 Burned-out wreck of USS Arizona, at Pearl Harbor, December 1941



in the land of Israel, for about 1,500 years (until they return in about 1948, Anno Domini), and he describes the destruction of their temple, which occurred in about 70, Anno Domini by the Roman Empire, due to the Jewish Insurrection. The Jews have always been a hard headed, stubborn people, and they are not ones to listen to a warning that would have saved them from destruction and a longer exodus than their 40 years in the wilderness.

If we do not recognize the signs of trouble and listen to

the warnings, then how are we to expect to follow His Word, if we ignore his warnings and do not heed them appropriately? Look at the Jews for an example of this, with Matthew 24. He had said if they had heeded his warnings, this would not have come to pass. If they had followed His Word, then they would not have revolted against the Roman Authorities and caused them grievous heartaches and sufferings, and would have avoided the suicides at Masada.

A more modern version of what the Jews went through can be found in Pearl Harbor, on December 7th, 1941. At the time, America was content to ignore the rising problem of Imperial Japan in the East, while secretly giving aid to Britain against the rising might of Nazi Germany in the West. There were warnings present, starting with the Japanese aggression in China in 1936, the actual, physical manifestation of World War II.

¹ Text of President Roosevelt's address to Congress on 8 December 1941.

² Jack passed away 8 December 2007, 66 years and one day after the attack.

The isolationists were content to ignore the aggressions committed by the Axis in both theatres of the war, figuring it was no big deal to them; Jews were murdered by the hundreds and thousands in Germany, undesirables murdered in Stalin's Russia (originally a member of the Axis, a long forgotten and less cared about fact), the rapes of so called "sub-humans" in Japanese held Manchuria (e.g Rape of Nanking, Rape of Fena Reservoir.) They saw only what they wanted to see. They were blind to the truth, to the pure evilness of the Nazis, to the Imperial War Party and to the Communists. The blindness prevails to this day.

As the signs of aggression became more and more obvious, isolationists dug their holes deeper and put their fingers in their ears and shouted how wonderful and sunny a day it was in the world, while millions were being oppressed, murdered and raped in the far corners of Asia and Europe under Japan and Nazi Germany and Russia.

This is just as the Jews ignored growing signs in Jesus' time, and were resistant to cooperating with the authorities. If they had not disregarded Christ's warnings, they would have been far better off, and possibly retained their homeland.

Had we acted on those clear signs of aggression, a quadrant of madmen (Stalin, Hitler, Tojo/Emperor, Mussolini) might not have been able to act on their desire to dominate the world for their own purposes.

On December 7th, 1941, all this ignorance of the aggression, the ear plugging by the isolationists came to a sudden and complete stop. The attack upon our soil by the Imperial Forces of Japan at Pearl Harbor changed the tune. Due to the ill-preparedness of our country and the unwillingness to confront the problem of Japan in any form, we lost 2,402 fine men, and 1,247 wounded. They paid the high price to learn the true face of Imperial Japan; greedy, low moral and ethics (though their "culture" professed to have high ethics, (e.g saving face.) country, hell-bent on dominating the world, especially the United States, subjugating it to its will.

We found the problem a little too late, ignoring clear warnings of Japanese aggression. With such forewarning, we should have been prepared for the eventuality of war with Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

A lesson to be learned from the attack on Pearl Harbor, is that we should not take spiritual or worldly warning lightly. If we do not heed this warnings, as those of us are not now, then how can we expect to have a future, where we can tell our children of those who went before us, who heeded those warnings, to pass on the moral fiber (through Scripture this should be established) necessary to establish a solid generation of Godly, Good and Great American people, (or the Three Gs!).

On the subject of Pearl Harbor itself, and of the men and women who died there, I would like to offer up to you a selection of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address:

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." – Abraham Lincoln.

Also, he said this, which preceded the above part which is also very appropriate for this occasion:

“But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.”

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 –

On the Incarnation

The Second Person in God, the Son, became human Himself: was born into the world as an actual man—a real man of a particular height, with hair of a particular colour, speaking a particular language, weighing so many stone. The Eternal Being, who knows everything and who created the whole universe, became not only a man but (before that) a baby, and before that a foetus inside a Woman’s body. If you want to get the hang of it, think how you would like to become a slug or a crab.

Jack Lewis
Mere Christianity

They that can give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.

Benjamin Franklin
Historical Review of Pennsylvania, 1759

A St. Nicholas Note Edward Hays, A Pilgrims Almanac (adapted)

"It is fitting that the feast of St. Nicholas comes at the beginning of Advent and the beginning of the shoppers season. As the patron saint of shoppers he proclaims, Keep it simple! Keep it simple enough to fit in a shoe or a stocking.

"One gift that could fit in shoe, or in a stocking hanging on the fireplace, is a note that speaks of one of our most precious gifts, the gift of time. Such a St. Nicholas note might read: The gift I give to you is half an hour of quality conversation each night right after the dishes are done. Or, The gift I give to you is one Saturday a month to be with you and do whatever you want to do. We can appreciate the value of such a gift if we keep in mind that according to a recent survey, the average married couple in America has only 30 minutes a week of communication outside of exchanges that take place at the dinner table, and between parent and child is only 14 minutes. As you can see, the possibilities are almost unlimited for these St. Nicholas shoe gifts.

"Come, St. Nicholas, patron of shoppers and gift-seekers, and make Christmas this year fun, creative and love-filled."

Rev. Geordie Menzies- Grierson

No people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and Virtue is preserved. On the Contrary, when People are universally ignorant, and debauched in their Manners, they will sink under their own weight without the Aid of foreign Invaders.

Samuel Adams
Letter to James Warren, November 4, 1775

God who gave us life gave us Liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?

Thomas Jefferson
1774

That man is a fallen creature has never been more clearly demonstrated than by the behavior of our elected politicians in Washington. Most of them are highly educated lawyers who have studied American history in their universities, and yet have acted so stupidly as to have brought this great nation to the brink of financial disaster. We learn at an early age that you cannot spend more than you earn. We learn that it is not good to borrow money in order to buy things you really don't need. And yet, these very smart politicians keep doing this in contradiction to all wise and intelligent understanding of basic economic principles.

Dr. Samuel Blumenfeld
20th and 21st century American political commentator
(Are Our Politicians Stupid or Evil)

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 minister 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 are found on Page 92-93, with the Collect first:

The Second Sunday in Advent

The Collect.

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The propers for the First Sunday in Advent can be found on Page 90-92:

The First Sunday in Advent

The Collect.

ALmighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

¶ This Collect is to be repeated every day, after the other Collects in Advent, until Christmas Day.

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from Paul's letter to the Romans, starting at the Fourth Verse of the Fifteenth Chapter.

Paul tells us the scriptures up to that time were written that we might have hope. He now reminds us to treat each other the way Jesus treated those about him, to open our hearts to each other as Jesus opened His. The promise of Jesus was not to Jews only, but to all people (Gentiles). Paul tells us Jesus Christ was a minister of ... the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people."



He reminds us of the writing of Esaias, "There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust." Paul leaves with the blessing, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also

received us to the glory of God. Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Hap Arnold read the Gospel for today which came from the Gospel according to Saint



Luke, the Twenty-First Chapter, beginning at the Twenty-Fifth Verse. In preparation for our recollection of the First Coming, the Nativity, we read St. Luke's description of the Second Coming, "and there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, ye

see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand."

As clear as the Second Coming will be, so was the First Coming to those who would see and hear it. Once again, we are reminded that there are none so blind as those who will not see and none so deaf as those who will not hear.

Can you see Him? Will you hear Him?

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

The Second Sunday in Advent

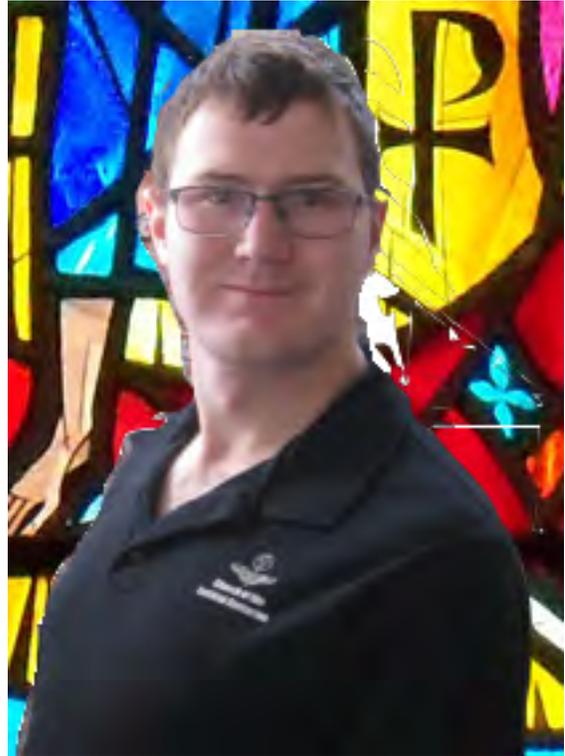
The Collect.

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The First Sunday in Advent

The Collect.

ALmighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.



¶ This Collect is to be repeated every day, after the other Collects in Advent, until Christmas Day.

The Collect and the Epistle and the Gospel all tell us we are to learn from Scripture and to place our hope in God and not man. We are to use the scriptures for our learning, so we might become wiser through the Holy Spirit, whose guidance as we read and study Scripture will allow us to come to a full understanding of the meaning it should have in our daily lives. If we try to live our lives or write our sermons without that guidance, we will be for naught. We have to understand what we are preaching, and we have to live what we are preaching, in order for our faith to have any meaning. If we do not have understanding, nor do we act upon our preaching, how can we ask others to follow God, when we are selves are not?

We must act upon the words of Scripture and the sermons we here, so that our faith will become evident to all of those who are watching us. We will make mistakes and sin, as we are imperfect beings, but if we admit our wrongdoings to God, and come back to Him, then all shall be forgiven and we shall have another fresh slate, on which to start anew.

In the Epistle, Paul tells us Scripture was written that we might have hope, even in times of darkness. Time like these where there are unbelievers in high places, doing their best to defile and ridicule our faith can try our souls. We must treat others the way that Christ taught us to, with respect and humility, no matter our personal feelings/opinion on them and how they conduct their lives. If we are nice to them, we

may plant a seed in their lives for the better, causing perhaps a change for the better in them.

Returning to the Gospel, St. Luke describes the signs of the Second Coming and how we are to prepare for it. We are not to be caught unaware of the signs, if we read the signs, then we shall be prepared to meet our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This means we have to be active in our faith, and not brain and faith dead like so many around us today.

We have to use the tools given to us by God, Scripture, our faith, and our friends in the faith to combat the evils of this world. We must do our best to make this world the best place we can. If we study, digest and use Scripture in faith, we will have hope in these times of darkness; we will go forth and spread Good News, which will give us satisfaction and hope for people, therefore renewing our spirit and vigor and the knowledge that in the end we will triumph will fill our hungry spirits.

Our hungry spirits will be satisfied by God's Goodness and His Word and His Love, of which He has infinite capacity, so nobody is stealing anybody else's share, as God has more than plenty to go around for all of us! So we must concentrate then on sharing the Gospel and God's love, so that others might finally find true happiness, as we find ours, in serving the Lord for the rest of our days.

The common theme through the collect, Epistle and Gospel is that if we have hope and trust in God, we must dread naught, and carry on, empowered through them in our daily lives here on Earth until we are called to our heavenly home.

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

Second Sunday in Advent

8 December 2013, Anno Domini

The Second Sunday in Advent

The Collect.

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



The First Sunday in Advent

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

¶ *This Collect is to be repeated every day, after the other Collects in Advent, until Christmas Day.*

The Collect holds forth the whole hope provided in the Advent Promise of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. That hope is called "the blessed hope." Clearly implicit in the holding of that blessed hoped is hearing, reading, marking, and internalization of God's Holy Word. Do we go into the wilderness of the world to see a 'reed shaken in the wind,' or do we go forth seeking to hear the preaching of the Holy Word of God? Once heard and believed, what result? If we have truly believed, we will not be able to satisfy our appetites for hearing reading, and studying that Word. Not only will we flee, even into the wilderness to hear that Word and to whet our hunger for it, but our voices shall become like unto that faithful voice of John 'Crying in the Wilderness.'

Amos 3:1-8

First Lesson (1st Propers)

Hear this word that the Lord hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Will a lion roar in the forest, when he hath no prey? will a young lion cry out of his den, if he have taken nothing? Can a bird fall in a snare upon the earth, where no gin is for him? shall one take up a snare from the earth, and have taken nothing at all? Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it? Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants

the prophets. The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?

Christ came, in the fullness of time to redeem His people from their sins. Who are His people? Is it some political state, or racial component thereof? No, it is not. Spiritual Israel has been the same from the beginning – those who have believed the Promise of the Coming Seed made plain in Abraham. Israel (the people of God) cannot be squeezed into national boundaries, but is comprised of all who believe. There are certainly members of political Israel who are no more saved in Christ than the unreached indigenous Indian tribes of the Amazon River Basin. It is faith in the promise that defines Israel: *“Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”* (Gal 3:6-9) *“For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect.”* (Romans 4:13-14)

Christ came in the body of a man and was wholly God and wholly man, at the same time, to endure every suffering and pain that is common to mankind. God even called His Son out of Egypt just as He has called all of His people out of the “Land of Bondage.” The secrets of the Lord have been revealed to His prophets and, through their records made thereof, to us if we will read and study. God sends no judgment upon a people without first sending forth a warning just as a lion roaring from the dark shadows. God had promised the Advent of His Son from the misty dawns of Eden. Though He is forever coming into the hearts of His people from Abraham to us, He has promised two physical and visible Comings – at Christmas and at the last Trump! We, woo, are invited to come to Him in both kinds. We come to Him by faith in this life, and we come to Him through the power of the resurrection at His Second Coming. You will recall that Noah and his family were invited to come into the place of safety ere the doors of the Ark were closed – not by Noah, but by the Lord God. God has extended more than 2,000 invitations to us to come. His last invitation is found in the last possible instant – the last chapter of the last Book of the Bible: *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”* (Rev 22:17) Advent is a Coming of Christ to us, but also a coming of us to Christ.

Have we heeded the Voice of the Lord and feared according to the warning? If the lion roars outside the village, will we turn over and return to our sleep? The Lion of Judah has roared and we would best heed the roaring of the Lord. I hear a roaring across the landscape of America – a Voice that once cried in the Wilderness is now roaring its warning to an apostate people. If we would not go into bondage as did the people of Jerusalem of old, we must repent both individually and as a nation from our sins, and turn our faces and hearts back to the Lord.

St. John 5:30-40

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. Ye sent unto John, and he bare

witness unto the truth. But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

There is no more historically confirmed event in history than that of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Moreover the coming of Christ was prophesied thousands of years prior to His Coming in marked and precise detail. As fingers of the coming Light began to dawn on the distant horizon during the dark years of the intervening period between the last word of Malachi to the first of John the Baptist, the world was smothered in sin and absent-mindedness toward God that led to their misery. But on that first Christmas morning so very long ago, the Light of the World burst forth in resplendent brilliance across the hills of Bethlehem and finally across the whole world. Before coming into the radiance of His Light, all of us have sat in darkness. The Lord Jesus Christ has brought light and love into hearts once steeped in bitterness, hate, and brooding malice. Though recorded history offers the most abundant of empirical proofs of the Advent of Christ, there remains a much more certain proof in the heart of the believer – that of believing faith. Do you doubt the treasure? Search the heart and see the splendor of riches made available in Christ.

The opening verse of our Gospel text demonstrates the inseparability of the Trinity. It is best described in the words of Dr. Nathan Wood in his great work on the Trinity of God – “The Trinity in the Universe” – in which he compares the Trinity with the three dimensions comprising all of the physical Creation. Every material object MUST possess width, height, and depth. Absent only one of those dimensions, there is not space for matter to occupy. But the three dimensions of God are infinite in nature. You cannot have God without the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. We cannot deny One without denying all Three. *“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”* In this verse, Jesus provides an acceptable basis for judgment in the church. If we judge with the righteous judgment of Christ, we are on firm ground. Please note that ALL Christ did or said was in total unity with the Father. Are we, friends, in unity with Christ. If we are, we are, of necessity, in unity with the Father. And if the Church is in unity with the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, it will be in unity with each member of His Body. Divisions occur when either the minister or people act out of ignorance, malice, or pride against each other.

According to the law, truth must be established in the mouth of two or more witnesses. Though Christ is sufficient witness in Himself to us of His Lordship, He never speaks in alienation of the other two members of the Godhead. *“If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.”* Jesus is telling us that if He speaks or acts outside the Unity of the Triune God, He would not be who He claims to be. But, in reality, Christ cannot speak apart from the Father and the Holy Ghost for they are One in Will and Purpose. However, to satisfy the requirements of the law, Jesus makes reference to another witness – God the Father. This confirms, not only

spiritually, but legally, the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. God the Father has born witness of His Son from Eden to John the Baptist, and did so more than once by Voice during the life of Christ. *"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."*

While it is true that John was a burning and bright light of truth, he was, nonetheless, a lower harbor light to the great Light House of God whose beams sweep the ocean seas during calm seas and storm. *"Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light."* These words of Christ are quite telling. Though we may be led to the brook of Living Waters by believers, we cannot drink the waters of the brook without the provision of God to keep the waters flowing. It is not the guide that saves us, but the water itself. *"Brightly beams, our Father's mercies, from His Light House ever more. But to us, He gives the keeping, of the lights along the shore."* That old song gives us some small understanding that it is the Light of God that saves the lost seaman. We are only the harbor lights that lead to the true Light. John was a lower light. He was not the True Light, but he bore witness of the True Light which was Christ. *"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."* (John 1:5-10)

Are we being the witnesses of that True Light that we are called to be? Do we cry out the Gospel with our hearts, our minds, and our actions even in wilderness places? It is true today that all who proclaim the Gospel are as a Voice Crying in the Wilderness. The world is a wilderness of sin. Jesus Christ has come bearing the gifts of salvation and liberty. We must cry out even in the world does not heed the voice. The Word is a two-edged sword that cuts both ways – either to convict of sin and lead to repentance, or to condemn finally to Hell. No sinner will be able to claim that 'no one ever told me,' for nature itself proclaims the Lord. But a second witness is needful- the voice of the faithful.

Are we ready for the Advent of the Lord? Have we served honorably as "watchers on the wall?" Have we believed God and not man? *"But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape."* Are you one of those wandering stars (comets) who have no fixed place in heaven? (Jude 1:13) Are you seeking marvelous signs and wonders from vain and pompous men who claim to be evangelists, or do you accept the life-works and testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ? (Matthew 12:39-40) Were the works of Christ sufficient for your faith, or do you seek others of mere men? It is God whom we must trust – not man! (Psalms 118:8-9 & Acts 5:29) Are you one who hides behind the cover of a so-called "separation of church and state" or do you obey always the Higher Law of God?

As we approach the glorious Advent of our Lord, let not these words of Jesus describe you: *"And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.* You may

KNOW the Word of God very well. Many esteemed seminary professors have learned that Word well in order that they might dispute that Word. Even the devils believe and tremble. But does the Word of God, which is the heart and focus of your study, actually live and abide in your heart. Life is full of action and consciousness. Is that life of the Word abiding in your heart? Has it created a new man in you? Do all who know you see and recognize in your uniform that you are a soldier of Christ? Have they seen His Banner flying high above your heart?

So, in conclusion, Advent is a coming of Christ to us. But Advent is also a coming of the Wise Men and Women to Christ. We have seen His Star in the East and have followed that Light to Christ, have we not?

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:



Written for Our Learning
Romans 15:4, Luke 21:25
Second Sunday in Advent
December 8, 2013

“Written for our learning.” You will recognize these words as coming from Romans 15:5, which is part of the Epistle reading for this, the Second Sunday in Advent. The Apostle Paul, under the guidance of God, wrote these words to the Christians in Rome about the year 58 Anno Domini to explain to them the purpose of Scripture. He referred to the part of the Bible we know today as The Old Testament. It was written for our learning. But Scripture was not completed with the Old Testament. The Old Testament was the book of promise. When its promises were fulfilled, the book of fulfillment needed to be written. We call the book of fulfillment the New Testament. With it Scripture is complete. No more Scripture is being written, no more prophecy is being given, no new revelation or word from God is being given, nor are they needed. All that we need to know about God and our salvation is given in the Bible. God is able to give His complete revelation to man, and He has given it in the Bible. It is the Holy Scriptures written for our learning.

Before we proceed, let me define the word, “Scripture.” We are not talking about the books and writings of other religions. We are talking about the Old and New Testaments in the book we call the Bible. And we are making a claim that the Bible is different from every other book, story, or writing that ever has been and ever will be. We are saying the Bible is not one book in a genre of literature. It is not one set of holy scriptures among many sets of holy scriptures. We are claiming that the Bible is nothing less than the word of God Himself. We are saying that the Bible alone is given by inspiration of God. We are saying that among all the books that claim to come from prophets and gods and divinely inspired authors, **only the Bible really does**. It alone was written by men “as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pt.1:21). So when 2 Timothy 3:16 says, “all scripture is given by inspiration of God” it means the Bible.

We are saying something else here, about the Bible. We are saying it reveals

God. In fact it was given by God to reveal God to us. Exodus tells us of God delivering Israel from Egyptian slavery, and we see that God is merciful. Genesis tells us of the creation of all things, and we see that God is almighty. The Psalms tell us God inhabits eternity and we see that He is from everlasting and to everlasting. The prophetic books tell us God speaks, and we learn that He is a rational being. The Gospel of John tells us that if we have seen Jesus we have seen the Father, and we see that Jesus and the Father are one. Matthew tells us of Jesus teaching the disciples and commissioning them to tell others what He taught them, and we see that the Christian Faith came from God and was given to the Apostles, who taught it to others and recorded it in the Bible, and we see that the Bible is God's revelation of His being and His will.

Why did God do all this? Why did He give His word to Moses and the prophets and the Apostles? Why did He have them record His word and put it together in a book? For our learning. He did it for our learning. We can learn many things from the Bible. For example, the Bible is a historical book. It contains the story of God's work with humanity in history. So we can learn about Egypt and Babylon and Rome. And yet, the message of the Bible is not history or geography. The Bible teaches principles of conduct and morality that help us build a good government, run a good business, build a happy home, and build a happy life. I don't mean the Bible teaches accounting or house repair, or even government organisation. I mean the principles and values and morality given in the Bible apply to every aspect of life.

Yet, the message of the Bible is not morality. It is important to state that clearly because most people think the Bible is just a book of morals. Most people think the message of the Bible is that we need to try to live by the moral standards taught in its pages, and if we do a fairly good job of keeping those standards we will go to Heaven. They think the heart of the Bible is the Ten Commandments and Jesus' maxim that the essence of the law is to love God above all else and to love your neighbor as yourself. But that is not the real message of the Bible. The real message of the Bible is what happens between God and people who have failed to love Him above all else, and failed to love their neighbors as themselves. That message is expressed in two words that I want to talk about for a moment; comfort and hope.

Comfort here means help in our distress. If it is true that the Bible addresses what happens between God and people who have failed to love Him and their neighbors, then we are all in a condition of terrible distress, for we all have failed. I urge everyone to consider the confessional prayer in our service of Morning and Evening prayer for a moment. If we pause after the words, "we have done those things which we ought not to have done," and take a few moments to confess our specific sins, really confess them, we are led to the realization that sin is our natural condition. There really is no spiritual health in us, and there never will be unless we receive it from God as kind of spiritual transplant and a gift from God. The spiritual sickness of sin is the natural direction of our lives. It is what we are. There are moments when we genuinely seek God, but the general direction of our lives is toward our own desires instead of, and even in spite of, God's desires. If you have not experienced this, I urge you to get on your knees and read that prayer and start confessing your specific offences against God's holy laws. Be very specific about the times you have left undone those things you ought to have done, and done those things you ought not to have done, and see where such confession leads you.

It will probably lead you to call out to God for mercy and help. It will lead you

into distress and you will need comfort only God can give. And He gives comfort. "Comfort ye my people" He said to the prophet Isaiah. "Comfort one another with these words," He said through the Apostle Paul. There is comfort in the Scriptures for they tell us of mercy. They tell us of forgiveness. Though your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us. He accomplished this through Jesus Christ. He paid the price of our forgiveness. This is the meaning of what we call the "comfortable" or comforting words in the liturgy of Holy Communion. This is what the Bible was written to teach us. We don't have to carry the burden of our sin. We don't have to bear its penalty. We don't have to let it separate us from God now and forever. We can be free of it, saved from it. That's the message, the comfort of the Bible. All we have to do is trust Jesus to forgive us.

The Bible comforts us with the message of forgiveness. It also comforts us with the hope of Heaven. We will not dwell in this earthly vale of tears forever. There is a better place where the sorrows of this life are only dim memories. There are no sorrows there, no sickness, no death, no good byes. In that land there is only good and peace and joy. The Lord is coming back to take His people there. He said, "I go to prepare a place for you," and "I will come again to receive you unto myself." One day the dead in Christ will rise. One day those who are alive in Christ will be caught up, gathered up in Christ, and will be taken to that place to dwell with Him forever. This is our comfort in our distress. This is the Christian's blessed hope.

Hope is the opposite of the belief that there is no meaning or purpose or reason to life. It is the cure for the fear that nothing matters. Despair agrees with Solomon's words, "all is vanity." But hope is the confidence that God has a purpose for us, to gather us together in Christ and to bring us into His House of Many Mansions. Hope believe God lives, therefore life is worth living and death is worth dying. The Bible was written to give us this hope. It is a major part of what we are to learn from the Bible. The Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent summarises all that this sermon has been trying to say.

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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+Dennis Campbell

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Birth of Jesus Foretold

Advent II 08 DEC 13

Ps 25 Lessons OT Isa 55 NT Luke 1:26-56

This is the time of the year that we look forward to the celebration of the birth of Christ. It was in the period of the early church that began the idea of setting aside four Sundays just before Christmas, or as it was called the Nativity, to help us prepare for this momentous event.

This four Sunday study period, with Old and New Testament readings, hymns, carols, and sermons focusing on this period would take on the name of Advent. Advent is a term from the Latin which means "that which is to come". Now what is interesting about this period, the first two Sundays focus on the prophetic nature and period that would herald the coming Savior. Many Old Testament passages would be read and studied to show how the birth of Jesus Christ was foretold many centuries before his birth. We can find references to the birth of Christ in Isaiah, Joel, Malachi, and several other minor prophets in the O.T. So when Dr. Luke, a Greek medical doctor, writes the account of the birth of Christ, he is being inspired by the Holy Spirit to record what had already been foretold so many centuries earlier. The third and fourth Sundays in Advent focus on both our personal preparation for His coming and on his return to earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. So during this period of reflection, interestingly at the end of our calendar year, we reflect on the past, present, and the future.

Remember the disciples asked Christ, "when will you establish your kingdom?" Jesus replied, "my kingdom was, is now, and is to come." If you look at that passage, he is telling us that his kingdom has always been. The physical kingdom, established on the new earth, newly created in perfection, is to come. Not to get into any controversy, but we must understand that even Jesus, before his death, burial, and resurrection, stated as to the fact of the second coming: "no man knows but the Father" We should not spend endless hours trying to figure out the mind and time schedule of God, by setting hours, dates, eras, dispensations for the coming of Christ. It should suffice us to say, He is coming again. Only the Father knows the time and era.

Now focusing on the first Advent, we know that in time and history, Jesus Christ was born. That is a fact. Contrary to what secular historians try to warp, or explain away there was a man named Jesus, who was reported by secular sources, to have lived and stirred up the people in the area we now know as Israel. Some miracles were reported, and other events of his life, so definitely was his existence noted. This should not be an issue, the Bible has proven many a secular historian, anthropologist, and archeologist wrong, as more and more evidence is found by modern archeologist.



Now let us go to the Biblical record and read about Jesus first coming.

- 26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,
27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.
28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.
29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.
30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.
31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.
32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:
33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.
34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?
35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.
37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Notice how Mary responds to all this information Gabriel gives to her. She did not completely understand the process, but she took the heavenly messenger's announcement to heart. She understood that as a child of God she needed to be obedient to his Word.

- 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Now that Mary has the Word and she is now with child, she goes to visit her older cousin Elizabeth. This visit not only certifies what is happening to Mary, but it also confirms the prophetic happenings concerning the miraculous birth of John. His mother, Elizabeth had never had any children, she was much older when the angel told her husband that they would have a son, to be named John. He would be the herald who was foretold in the book of Isaiah. "A voice in the wilderness, calling for repentance, making the way for the coming One who will take away the sins of the world".

- 39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;
40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.
41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:
42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

Here is the confirmation, by Elizabeth, that all that has been taking place is of the Lord. It was foretold many hundreds of years earlier, is now coming true. This is within a six month period of time, notice that all of this begins to happen very rapidly, once the message is revealed. Now Jesus will grow up as a human would until the time was right for his ministry {according to Jewish tradition a man became an elder around the age of 30, this was the approximate age of Jesus when he was baptized and began his ministry. This ministry will only cover about 3 ½ years and encompass only some 80 miles around his hometown. But that ministry will have eternal consequences for all mankind. Finally the salvation promised at the Garden is revealed. Finally we can put off our sins and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of our souls, we can be forever alive in Him, all because the little baby born to a virgin that chilly night so many years ago. Elizabeth gives Mary that final thought to ponder in the form of a blessing.

45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Now let us go out this day remembering what Jesus did for us, when he first came to earth, as a tiny little child, to grow up and live amongst his own, to one day suffer, die, be buried and finally rise again in newness of life three days later, in the glorious resurrection, that guarantees our resurrection to eternal life. Let us focus on the real reason for this season, Jesus Christ the King, the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.

Let us pray. Luke 1:68-79 {Benedictus p. 14 BCP}

BLESSED be the Lord God of Israel; for he has visited and redeemed his people; and has raised up a mighty salvation for us, in the house of his son David; as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began; that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon

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



Second Sunday in Advent

In St. Luke 21:5-33, our Lord warned of impending catastrophe before his return. In verses 5-11, he spoke of the end times; while in verse 12, he prefaced his remarks about those events in the near term by saying But before all these... (v.s 12-24). No doubt, our Lord wanted the apostles to know of those events which were soon to come upon them, as well as to warn future Christians to watch for the signs which will mark the beginning of the period known as the Great

Tribulation (St. Matthew 24:21). Consider now the words of our Lord as found in St. Luke 21:36, Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of man.

The Greek word *ekpheugo* means literally to flee, to seek safety in flight, or in the case of verse 36 of St. Luke's gospel, escape. Now you do not escape a bad situation by going through it. There is a difference between escaping and simply surviving. You escape by either being taken out of the way, such as Lot was taken out of Sodom, or by an exodus, such as the one in which the children of Israel left Egypt. You survive a situation by going through it, coming out alive much as Caleb and Joshua survived the forty year journey of the Israelites through the wilderness.

In St. Luke 21:36, Christ spoke of those who are worthy to avoid these events by a means of escape. In Revelation 3:10, he said, Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. In St. Matthew 16:18, he stated that the devil shall not prevail against his church. The Scriptures tell us that during the Tribulation, the devil and his minions will hold sway upon the earth and will prevail over the saints (Revelation 13:1-[7]-18). If the church cannot be prevailed against by the devil, then the verses of Revelation 3:10 and St. Luke 21:36 have a fairly unambiguous meaning. And there is more. The word church or churches is not mentioned again after Revelation 3:22 in the prophetic message until chapter 22:16. Thus we have further evidence which supports the escape of the church as noted in St. Luke 21:36.

We have been commanded to watch for the coming of our Lord, all the while keeping ourselves, our souls and bodies under the control of the Holy Spirit. We are to fulfil our godly callings, not in slothfulness, but in works which are pleasing to God, utilizing the gifts which he has given each of us in his service. And because we have been so gifted, we know well that our Lord will judge us as to our works in his name. St. Paul warned in his first epistle to the Corinthians (3:13), Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it... Therefore, all true Christians are expected to be working Christians.

While I am in agreement that we should not speculate about the subject of the second coming our Lord; nevertheless, our Christian witness will not appear credible to others if all we can say about the second coming of Christ is that "it will all pan out in the end." That is not what our Lord said and neither should we. We are expected to be witnesses and ambassadors for him in a fallen world. Our witness is empowered by the Holy Ghost, who, in turn, uses our witness to open up the souls of the yet unsaved elect. Therefore, our witness ought to include, not only the need for salvation; it should also include a sense of immediacy about it. As St. Paul observed, now is the accepted time...now is the day of salvation (II Corinthians 6:2). The imminency of Christ's return and the need for salvation requires more than a simple "because" to support them.

Imagine that an inquirer has just asked you why he should be saved and you responded with a simple "because." Do you think he or she will accept such an answer as credible? I think not. Likewise, you will not make any headway with one who has asked you about the second coming and the end times if you choose to respond with what seems to be a nebulous answer. Such replies sound eerily familiar to the ever popular huckster comment of "trust me." If you do not offer substance to support your convictions, then you will be an ineffective witness. St. Paul comforted the Thessalonians when he said: For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus

Christ (I Thessalonians 5:9). Will you offer an inquirer the comfortable words of Scripture, or will you offer them the reply of “Pan-out-theism”?

We have been called not to judgment, but to grace. And that grace is all sufficient. There is much Scripture which validates a sound Christian witness on the second coming but you have to read the Scriptures and know them in order that you might offer them to others. We should avoid the doubtful things of Scripture, but that instruction ought not be used to mask spiritual laziness as to our reading of God’s Word and tackling the difficult passages. If you are worried about that, let the Scriptures speak for themselves, but in any case utilize them.

There can be little doubt that we are in the latter days for the headlines of any newspaper will validate such to the observant Christian. We have been told to watch and to “work for the night is coming when man shall work no more.” Let us then be mindful of the times so that our Lord does not catch us unawares when he returns. As he said in St. Matthew 24:46, Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find [him] so doing.

Let us pray,

HOLY Father, who has given us the gift of grace that we might be a chosen people wholly and acceptable unto thee in Christ Jesus. Bless us with a wise and understanding heart that we might properly comprehend thy word and that we would, in turn, communicate the same to others. And this we ask in Christ’s name. 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
15 December 2013	Opportunity Available – Third Sunday in Advent
22 December 2013	Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday in Advent
29 December 2013	Opportunity Available – First Sunday after Christmas

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

Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.

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

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

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

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

What is the commitment from the prayer team?

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

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

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

What should I ask for?

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

Updating the Team

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

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

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

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

Hap and Dru Arnold are on travel this week.

Birthday

Jack Arnold celebrated his 21st birthday on 26 October 2013.

Betty Hoffman celebrated her 80th Birthday on 18 October 2013.

Anniversary

Doug and Veronica Lambert celebrated their 7th Anniversary on 22 September 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

Ryan Hopkins has moved to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, to study Dressage Riding through June 2015. Please pray for God's guidance in his life as he works and studies. Help him to see where God would like him to go from here and how he should get there.

The Thomas Family is now in 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. Give thanks the safe move and ask for continued good developments.

Departed

Esther Catherine Glah Wilson Whiddett, the only daughter and last surviving child of Esther and Harry Glah passed away 5 November 2013, at 21:27 while resting peacefully. Please give thanks 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 Esther and her family, in particular her son Mark and siblings Jolene, Ruthie, Connie and Joe. Please pray for his family and friends who remain behind.

Ken "Grasshopper" Jennings passed away in his sleep the morning of 2 November 2013. He leaves behind his wonderful wife Terri, son Trevor and daughters Tessa and Tawnya. Ken was Hap's primary WSO for the ten years they flew F-4s together at the 196th Tactical Fighter Squadron at March Field, California. Ken was a wonderful husband and father. Please pray for his family and friends who remain behind.



Nearing the end of their time here on earth

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

Marian has moved to a nursing home in Fresno where her niece Cathy can keep an eye on her and visit more often. She is weak and tires easily. Marian seems to not be interested in this world. Cathy would like her to stay with us and enjoy here time here on earth. Pray that the Holy Ghost might be able to enter into Marian's heart and bring light to her; pray also she might gain strength. Pray that Cathy

might be given inspiration on how to help and the strength to do so.

Joan has had serious medical problems that have kept her confined. On 26 September 2013, she took a fall and fall and after test and time in the hospital she does not have any broken bones. Please pray that in the weeks ahead her health will remain stable

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

Levi was cancer free for 4 years and just discovered he has kidney cancer. Levi has a great deal of faith and said whether he is healed or God takes him home he will be fine. Please pray for the medical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that Levi and family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders. In particular, please pray for pain relief; Levi is 22 years old.

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. Sasha has completed radiation and it was very difficult on her. She has surgery sent for November and has they have discovered new tumors and the possibility of chemo again. She seems to be taking backward steps with her health. Her spirit is still strong and asks you continue to keep her in your prayers. 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. 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.

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

Mario has early-diagnosed prostate cancer and will have surgery this week. Let us offering thanks for this early diagnosis. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also Mario and his family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

Priscilla was released from the hospital and is now walking and without pain. She is waiting for doctors to come from the USA and will then have an operation. Priscilla and her family thank you for your prayers. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also Priscilla 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

Mark had swelling and fluid buildup in his lungs. It appears things may be getting under control. He needs to use a Bi-Pap mask to breathe until his lungs clear and he hates it. Pray that he will be able to adapt so his lungs can clear. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Mark, as well as for his family, and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

Penny's Mom is having an MRI on 18 November 2013, to explore a knot in her upper leg that appeared after a procedure last week. An MRI gives her stress and claustrophobia and your prayers will be appreciated.

Brenda is in the hospital because of bleeding on her brain. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Brenda, as well as for her family, and for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find the best course of treatment.

Traci underwent her one year endoscopy on Friday 15 November 2013. Tracy did well on 18 November 2013, with second endoscopy. Both biopsies the doctors feel will be alright. One more to go next week is a mammogram. She and her family will appreciate it if you will continue her in prayer.

Mackenzie is a young girl with leukemia. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Mackenzie, as well as for her family, and for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find the best course of treatment.

Anita was operated on for an Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma tumors and has been in remission for sometime. After a biopsy of her left lung, three nodules were located in one lung and two in the other. She and her husband are traveling a long distance on 25 September 2013, with hopes of being admitted to a research study at a major hospital for Genome Mapping of Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma. Furthermore, Anita is scheduled for surgery on 30 September 2013. Please keep Anita and her family in prayer as they travel tomorrow and the week ahead.

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 Attacks³ (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 on her lung. Laurie is an oncology nurse and fears the worst. She has had numerous tests and the Physicians think it would be too risky to operate. Some other problems have been discovered and it is hopeful that new medicine will give her healing. Please continue Laurie in Prayer. 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

³ 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.

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 is on a course of a different chemotherapy, one week on, three weeks off and repeat. He made it through the fourth week of treatment, one on, two off; Brian asks we pray for strength to undergo the new process. 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.

Mary Thornell had surgery on 30 October 2013, at the Riverside Community Hospital to remove a huge mass along with about ½ her colon and part of her lower bowel. The masses appear to have been malignant, so that will have to be taken into account. She went home, then an infection set in and she was readmitted to excise the infected area and should be going home in the next day or so. There is a lot of treatment and recovery ahead. She is home now where she can rest and gain strength, so that is wonderful. Pray for strength and guidance for Mary as

she works hard at recovery. Pray for peace of mind for Mary and her husband Jim, as well as daughter Janice and son Jimmy, she begins her recovery. Please pray also for a full and rapid recovery.

Luis Martinez had a heart attack on 1 November 2013. It appears there may be valve or blockage issues, so they ask that you pray for guidance for the medical team treating him. Please pray for proper treatment, full recovery and peace of mind for Luis, as well as for trust in the Lord for him and his wife Selma, and the rest of the family.

Alwin Jack has had a stroke and recently has had a relapse. Please pray for those who treat Alwin that they might chose the best possible treatment and pray for peace of mind for Alwin during the recovery phase.

Jere Wolf, Melanie Zimmer's dad had bacterial pneumonia, which him to go into congestive heart failure. An echocardiogram indicates his aortic valve is narrowed and needs replaced as they say a 1mm narrowing is cause for replacement and he is at 8mm and if it does not get replaced (in California) the vicious cycle of congestive heart failure (CHF) will repeat itself. The doctor also said that the CHF could have made it look as though he had a heart attack, but they think he just went into CHF. His heart function is at 30% down 10% from a few months back. An ultrasound of his remaining kidney shows a cyst. The greatest news is that all the doctors agree that he can fly home, as at first they were saying we would need to drive back and with the stops needed to prevent blood clots it would have taken at least 6 days so the news is good. Thanks again for sharing your prayers with us.

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.

Carolyn has Multiple Sclerosis with complications. Pray Carolyn and her children will be close to our Lord Jesus Christ as they and family members help to ease the problems.

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!

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

Otto had massive blood clots in both lungs and a smaller one in one of his legs, treatment worked and he is recovering at home, he tires and is still on medication, but able to sleep and be free from hospital routines. His family and friends thank you for your prayers. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Otto, as well as for his family, and for continued recovery.

Please join together in thanking the Lord for strengthening *Christopher*, a young man with psychological problems who departed meds to a bad effect, for his maintaining healthy discipline the last six months, and join together in praying that he continue to be infused with strength and rationality.

Pat underwent successful major heart surgery on 25 September 2013. Please give thanks for the successful outcome and pray for continued healing and a complete recovery for Pat.

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; now she has chest fluid pooling. Please give thanks for the great result and pray for the chest issue to clear up and 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

William is an elderly man living with his Son and Daughter in-law. William is causing trouble in the family because of his demanding ways and continually using bad language. The family is at wit's end to know how to handle him and will appreciate your guidance and prayers.

Caitlin is in the grip of the Prince of Darkness; she thinks there is escape from reality in drugs. The saddest part is that reality is not as she sees it. Her family is despairing as they can do nothing to help her and ask that you pray for the Holy Ghost to enter into heart and show her the need for change before it is too late.

Nathaniel is in spiritual turmoil. His family 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 his heart.

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.

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.

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.

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

Please pray the Typhoon that hit the Philippines will ease off and the people will recover from the devastation.

This is a horrible time for the *people of India, Christians in particular*; they are having problems with Hunger, Bank Closings, Transportation and Schools not functioning. Pray for the Leaders and Members of our Church in Eluru Andhra Pradesh. Pray their basic needs will be met and God will be close to them in this time of need.

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.

Matthew Chapter Six, Verse Three – Taking Credit for Giving

But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

It is not giving, if you get something in exchange. It is a trade; that is okay, but it is not giving.

A Story from the Logos of St Andrew (1999):

Incident on a Country Road

I just wanted to relate an incident that happened to me 37 years ago, which I shall never forget.

One Friday night in the fall of 1961, I had a date with a really nice and pretty young lady to go to a ball game in Copper Hill, Tennessee. I was a high school student and didn't really know my way around much - but thought that I did. 😊 I borrowed my mother's car and picked up my date.

We had to drive about 50 miles through the mountains of East Tennessee to get to the game. It was a really lonely and desolate drive, the moon was out in its brilliance and reflected off the waters of Lake Ocoee as we drove. The mountains stood brooding and joyless on the opposite side of the road.

When we reached the halfway point in our travels, I had a flat tire. No problem. I went to the trunk to get the spare and there WAS no spare. Later I learned that my mother had left it at a service station for repair and forgot to pick it up. An automobile would pass by only about every 10 minutes. I did not know what to do, and I was also concerned for my date.

Finally, I began to signal any car that came by for help. At last a pickup truck stopped full of hunters. I offered \$20 to them to take me the 20 miles to Copper Hill to get the tire repaired (it was all I had). They declined saying that they had been away from home for 3 days and wanted to get back to their families - as if 40 minutes more would have made a difference.

They acted sad to leave us - but they did! After a few more minutes I saw a car coming around the mountain slopes in the distance. He was really driving fast, but in

desperation I signaled him to stop. It was a rough, older model car. The occupants were two of the roughest looking men I had ever seen. They had long sideburns (which was unusual at that time in East Tennessee) and several days' growth on their beards. They were dirty to boot. Now I wished I had not stopped them.

I asked if they would take me to Copper Hill to fix the flat. I offered again the \$20 bill if they would take me. They looked gruffly at each other and said, "Get in!". I asked if my girl friend could go as I was afraid to leave her on the desolate road. They shook their heads affirmatively.

I felt very uncomfortable as we began to drive off. I was fearful they might just kill me outright and rape my girl friend. All sorts of possibilities filled my young imagination. Then, as they began driving 70+ miles an hour around the mountain roads I began to be concerned less about them and more about being killed in an auto accident.

Finally we arrived at a filling station in Copper Hill. They got the tire from the trunk for me and had it repaired, for which THEY paid. They bought my date and me a coke. And we headed back.

Arriving back at my mother's car, they replaced the tire onto the wheel themselves and waited to see if the car battery was not drained from the flashing caution lights we had left on. The car started and I got out to pay the two rough-riders for their trouble. When I offered the money, they looked at each other and the driver said, "No. You keep your money, son. Our reward will come when you find someone who needs help and you give it." That was all. They drove off to see their own dates who were waiting at Gatlinburg. They were railroad workers and came home only on weekends.

I learned a really valuable lesson that night - angels can be bright and shiny, but they can also appear as dirty, grimy workmen, and...you can't judge a book by its cover! These two taught me early in life to stop and help when someone needs it regardless of our own schedule.

Thanks for reading my true story.

Jerry L. Ogles

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

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

Epistleers

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

Date	Reader
15 December 2013	Dru Arnold – Third Sunday in Advent
22 December 2013	Dru Arnold – Fourth Sunday in Advent
25 December 2013	Dru Arnold – Christmas Day
29 December 2013	Dru Arnold – First Sunday after Christmas

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

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

22 December 2013 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – 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**

25 December 2013 – Christmas Day – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

29 December 2013 – First Sunday after Christmas – 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**