



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday Report



Today was the Fourth Sunday in Advent, the period including the four Sundays before Christmas; the first Sunday of which is always the nearest Sunday to the feast of St. Andrew (30 November). Advent is a season of preparation and penitence. We prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of Jesus at Christmas, but we also look forward to his second coming. The liturgical color for this season is purple reminding us of the Kingship of Jesus and that Advent is also a season of penitential preparation.

This morning's sunrise brought 35°F with bright blue and clear skies with a very light northerly Santa Ana wind; by the time church started we were right at 60°F, pretty darn nice! The lovely weather brought three people to worship.

Gathering Song

Just in the nick of time, we got Rev Jack to play our favorite Advent hymn, *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*, for the gathering song.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Pretty cool that Jack sight reads music and at the last minute was able to just sit down and play this on the organ for the very first time. We are blessed!



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 worry

A great many people (not you) do now seem to think that the mere state of being worried is in itself meritorious. I don't think it is. We must, if it so happens, give our lives for others: but even while we're doing it, I think we're meant to enjoy Our Lord and, in Him, our friends, our food, our sleep, our jokes, and the birds' song and the frosty sunrise.

CS Lewis
The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis, Volume II

TO MARY WILLIS SHELBURNE, whose difficulties with her daughter and son-in-law continued: On the experience of forgiving; and on the tedium of dying.

6 July 1963

All one can say about Lorraine is that if she is really so brainwashed as you think, she is then no more morally responsible than a lunatic. I fully admit that as regards her husband you have been set as difficult a job in the forgiving line as can well be imagined.

Do you know, only a few weeks ago I realised suddenly that I at last had forgiven the cruel schoolmaster who so darkened my childhood. I'd been trying to do it for years: and like you, each time I thought I'd done it, I found, after a week or so it all had to be attempted over again. But this time I feel sure it is the real thing. And (like learning to swim or to ride a bicycle) the moment it does happen it seems so easy and you wonder why on earth you didn't do it years ago. So the parable of the unjust judge comes true, and what has been vainly asked for years can suddenly be granted. I also get a quite new feeling about 'If you forgive you will be forgiven.' I don't believe it is, as it sounds, a bargain. The forgiving and the being forgiven are really the very same thing. But one is safe as long as one keeps on trying.

How terribly long these days and hours are for you. Even I, who am in a bed of roses now compared with you, feel it a bit. I live in almost total solitude, never properly asleep by night (all loathsome dreams) and constantly falling asleep by day. I sometimes feel as if my mind were decaying. Yet, in another mood, how short our whole past life begins to seem!

It is a pouring wet summer here, and cold. I can hardly remember when we last saw the sun.

Well, we shall get out of it all sooner or later, for even the weariest river Winds somewhere safe to sea.

Let us pray much for one another.

CS Lewis
The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis, Volume III

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and

things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Blindness and deafness in spiritual things are worse in those that profess themselves to [be] God's servants and messengers than in others.

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

Propers

Each Sunday there are Propers: special prayers and readings from the Bible. There is a Collect for the Day; that is a single thought prayer, most written either before the re-founding of the Church of England in the 1540s or written by Bishop Thomas Cranmer, the first Archbishop of Canterbury after the re-founding.

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. If you have a hard time remembering, "Do I read the Collect from last Sunday or next Sunday during the week?" Remember Sunday is the first day of the week. There are also two Bible readings, the Epistle and the Gospel. While they are "lessons", they are not the First Lesson and the Second Lesson, they are the Epistle and the Gospel. The Epistle is normally a reading from one of the various Epistles, or letters, in the New Testament. The Gospel is a reading from one of the Holy Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Collect is said by the 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 Feasts, so called because in the Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

The Propers are found on Page 95-96, with the Collect first:

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Collect.

O LORD, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent is on Page 90:

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 first letter to the Philippians, starting at the Fourth Verse of the Fourth Chapter.

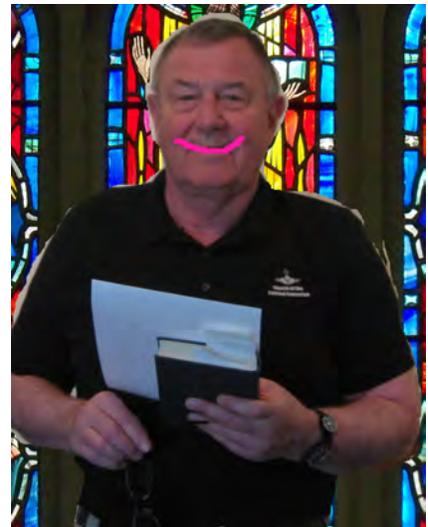
Paul calls on us to "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." We are to lead the world to Christ by example, to "Let (y)our moderation be known unto all men." In this Advent season, as always, "The Lord is at hand." We are to worry about nothing, "but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Be joyful in all things, not for all things. And in the words we find at the end of the Holy Communion Service, may "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Or to quote another, "Trust in God and Dread Naught."



REJOICE in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Hap Arnold read today's Holy Gospel which came from the Gospel according to Saint John, the First Chapter, beginning at the Nineteenth Verse. When they heard rumor of John the Baptist, Jews wondering if this might be the Messiah, sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who art thou?" John told them, "I am not the Christ." Then, they cast about for who he might be, "Art thou Elias?"

Confounded, they asked, "Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias." The Pharisees people were somewhat confused and asked, "Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?" John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; he it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose."



Interestingly, the same theme is found over and over, as is oft the case with truth. There are those among us who just plain will not see. For, there are none so deaf as those who will not hear and none so blind as those who will not see.

THIS is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; he it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Sermon – Reverend Jack Arnold - Time and Action

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

As is oft the case, today's propers are all tied together. The Collect asks for God's help for us to accept His Help and do it His Way. That is a thought that permeates or at least should permeate our entire lives. It is oft supposed Christians are dour souls, with no sense of happiness or humor. Perhaps this thought comes from those who have heard what the Bible says, filtered through some odd prism, but have never actually read it. That may have been the way the Puritians thought, but then again, the Puritians were not holding to the consistent truth of the Bible. After all God commands us to make a "joyful" noise unto the Lord! Not, a dour, grumbling and solemn noise, but an exceedingly JOYFUL noise unto the Lord! There is nothing in the Bible that says you cannot have fun whilst worshipping our Lord, in fact that is the preferred way to worship Him! In fact, if we enjoy worshipping the Lord, then we are most apt to do more of our best to follow Him, if we are enjoying ourselves whilst doing so!



After all, the one said to be the most dour of all, Paul, tells us to be happy. Not just happy, but to REJOICE. REJOICE in the Lord ALWAYS and AGAIN I say REJOICE! How much more fun can you have? We are also to be moderate in everything we do, no excesses, an even keel. Work hard, but maintain a time and space for our family, honor our country, and above all honor God. He goes on to tell us if we think we need something, simply ask God for it! Speaking of God, John recounts John the Baptist's

role in preparing the way for Jesus. The Pharisees just had trouble with the simplicity of his message. They were looking for something more complex, less straightforward, something more like themselves.

They were not willing to accept the change in the status quo, that the New Testament would break their role in finding ways around the commandments that Jesus gave, as there is no way around the two commandments, namely of Loving God with all our heart, soul and mind, and loving our neighbors as ourselves! Without those, we are just pitiful, weak, sinful beings! But if we embrace those commandments, we start to shed our old man image, and put on a newer, shinier and better image. We then become, Man 2.0, quite the upgrade from the first version!

They were a case of no play, all work and led a rather unbalanced life. We are told to balance ourselves with play besides work, to make us into a happier people that will rejoice in God's commandments and will do His Work without complaint. We will be happier in the end if we do it His Way instead of our way as we are so want to do, which is in our nature. The whole of Scriptures is about us fighting against our nature so that we will be closer to what God intended us to be, a happy and holy people, living together in harmony. If the world would do what God asked, we would be living together in harmony. Peace on earth will not be possible until the world accepts Him into their hearts. This is the perfect season for those who haven't yet, to accept Him, to acknowledge Him at his first true appearance amongst us, at His Birth. There is always time to accept Him, but do not wait until it is too late to do so!

Jesus also tells us to put our trust in the Lord, then not to worry. He knows how counterproductive, indeed how destructive worry can be in our lives. We know it will do no good, we know it will only hurt our cause; yet we do it. Is this not a proof positive of how much we need His Help? How hard is it to Trust in God and Dread Naught? Very, yet to make progress this we must do. Even though it is very hard to trust somebody you can't see physically, you must trust your spiritual sense and follow Him anyway, knowing that you will see Him physically one day, will be one of our great rewards.

The world is extremely complex; it is full of problems, temptations and difficulties. It is full of obstacles for us, yet all Christianity offers is a few simple solutions. We often hear that there are no simple answers to complex questions. Actually, that is not true. There are simple answers to complex problems, they are the only ones that work. The problem is they are not the answers people want. Most people do not want to know what they are supposed to do, lest they have to do it. They want to be told that what they want to do is at least okay, even though it is clearly not okay. But we need to know what we are doing is the actual "Okay." thing, and not what Joe on the corner claims is Okay. To do that, we have to read the Scriptures and listen to what God says is Okay, because He really does know the best in this matter for us.

Once again, when you think about being a Christian, think a bit about these quotes from GK Chesterton:

- "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried."
- "The word "good" has many meanings. For example, if a man were to shoot his grandmother at a range of five hundred yards, I should call him a good shot, but not necessarily a good man."
- "The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people."

- “Tolerance is the virtue of the man without convictions.”
- “A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it.”

G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

We are called to a new and different life, we ask the Lord to lead us and follow us, to keep us always. Our goal is to do the Lord’s will, not to avoid 613 laws. To do what is right and be humble.

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

Fourth Sunday in Advent (Morning Prayer)

22 December 2013, Anno Domini

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Collect.

O LORD, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*



The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent is on Page 90:

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.

In our Prayer of Collect for this Sunday, does not the prayer appeal to that same imagery given by Malachi in the last Book of the Old Testament? *“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye*

*shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.” (Mal 4:2) From the Collect: “**O LORD, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us.**” The Executive Power of Creation (John 1:1-3) was that same Sun of Righteousness whose coming is proclaimed by John in the Wilderness – not in St. Paul’s Cathedral, or the Temple at Jerusalem, but in the Wilderness! If you will learn the mysteries of God, flee to the Wilderness of your closet – not to Rome or Canterbury! Israel has languished in darkness so thick you could cut it with a knife since the days of Malachi & the prophets. But the Sun is about to burst forth to disperse the storm clouds and black despair of the dawning day. Here is a prophet who proclaims truth to thousands in the Wilderness. His message satisfies a great hunger in the people if they will even travel to the Wilderness to hear it.*

1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins. 3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. 6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: 7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. 8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. 9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! 10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. 11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:1-11)

This Old Testament Reading speaks of comfort to the people of God – not all who CALL themselves the people of God, but those whose faith has sealed their names in the Book of Life of the Lamb. The passage speaks clearly of John the Baptist some 700 years before his birth. Just as Job received double all of his losses in the end, so shall the people of God receive a double measure of Grace for their sins repented. John came to prepare the hearts and minds of the people for the Coming Lord Jesus Christ. The great empires of the day shall be brought to the depths of the pit, and others shall be raised up in righteousness. Even science and humane consciousness shall bloom among those nations who turn to the Lord.

Isaiah reminds us that we are only transient pilgrims in this temporary world. We sprout up as grass, or as flowers in the desert, one day, and wither and disappear the next. It is only the fragrance of the Holy Spirit that we emit while blooming that causes us to grow anew in heavenly pastures. God’s Holy Word is not subject to the intellectual reasoning of man, and it will stand forever regardless the disgraceful attempts to re-interpret it into oblivion. The Lord is our Shepherd. The newborn believers are carried in His very arms to protect from wolves – both without and within the Church. Now come we to the Gospel passage for this 4th Sunday in Advent:

1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, 2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he came into all the country about Jordan,

preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. 7 Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? 11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. 12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? 13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. 14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages. 15 And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; 16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: 17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable. (Luke 3:1-17)

The Lord's Jesus Christ is not only the eldest Son in Time, but also in all of Eternity Past and Future. His steps toward Calvary did not begin outside the courts of Pontius Pilate, in Nazareth, in Bethlehem, but in Eternity Past - long ere the world was made. It is evidence of God's prevenient election of His people spanning all time by His Grace. *"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."* (Rev 13:8) The Lord Jesus Christ was the First-Born of God in Eternity Past, and the First-Born of the Resurrection at the conclusion of His earthly ministry. The Way that John prepared was the Way of the Lord. If we are His, and follow Him as our Shepherd, we shall also be raised in immortality and ascend to God the Father.

John is preparing the hearts of the people for repentance and cleansing. Though John baptizes with water as an outward evidence of cleansing, it is the coming Lord Jesus Christ who will cleanse the heart so that the vessel is clean from inside to outside. *"I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."* I invite your attention to Psalm 51:7 - *"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."* Hyssop is a purgative to clean the alimentary canal (the inside of the soul), and the outward washing will cause the appearance to equal the inward essence. That is the fiery purging that Jesus Christ brings as a Refiner of silver. It was a common sight in Korea of the 1960's to see men casting grains of rice into the air with a tribulatum, and others fanning the grains as they fall back to the earth. This was to separate the chaff from the pure grain. The trials and tribulations (a derivative of the Latin term for tribulatum) is the method that Jesus uses to prove and strengthen our faith as a mother exercises her child.

John is calling the Old Testament Church (not all of the nation of Israel, but those

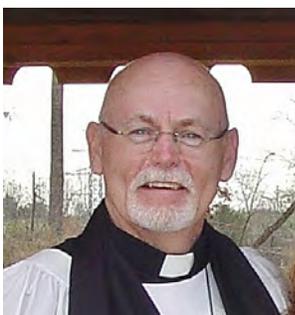
who believe in the coming of the Promised Seed) to repentance and faith. He is telling the people to be ready to receive their Lord and Savior. Such preaching as John practiced is becoming quite rare for our day, sadly. But ALL of John's preaching pointed directly to the Lord Jesus Christ, and so should every sermon delivered from every pulpit today. There is far too much nonsense being preached about football, golf, and social encounters. We need a firm and devout return to the Holy Word in preaching, and that of Christ crucified and risen! Just as the fig tree that failed of fruit was fated to be cut down, so will Jerusalem suffer destruction at the hands of the Gentiles after they have rejected Christ and His righteousness. *"And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.* Do you suppose that the same principle might apply to nations today who have known God, enjoyed His benefits, and then reject all that He taught? It might be well to remember that the same fire that purifies silver (the elect) is that which consumes the wicked before God.

Almost everyone who hears this sermon will recall some cold, dark night of the soul during which the gathering shadows grow into a stifling darkness for which there seems no respite. Perhaps a debilitating illness, or loss of a beloved soul, has precipitated the night of despair and smothered the light of joy. Such was the state of Israel to whom John was sent. Men had walked in darkness from the last word of Malachi of the Old Testament (the last word was 'curse' for the law is a curse without the grace of God). Four hundred years of utter darkness of silence passed from the time of Malachi until the time of John. Such darkness will make the eyes keen to the light that is granted in due time. John proclaims to the light-hungry people the Coming of the Light. There is a place called the 'Lost Sea' in eastern Tennessee at which a person can enter an elevator and descend almost 400 ft. below the surface to a large, underground body of water. Taking a glass-bottomed boat out onto the large lake, one can see numerous bass and other fish that are snow white. They have been deprived the benefit of light for hundreds of years, so the pigment of their skin has not been able to respond to light. The amazing thing is the eyes of these fish – they are grown over with scales. If we remain in darkness too long, we will become blind to light just like those dark

John was not that coming light promised by Isaiah and the prophets – his preaching pointed to an ever-brightening horizon over which that bright and glorious Light of the World was about to break in brilliant colors of dawn. Have you seen the Light, my friends?

Rev Rick Reid of Saint Peter's Sunday Sermon

We are happy to have a sermon from Reverend Rick Reid, minister of Saint Peter's, whose congregation is right at the Worldwide Headquarters of the Anglican Orthodox Church. Rev Rick has all the resources and challenges right at hand. This sermon is not in the usual expository style common to the Sunday Report and the AOC, but I think you will enjoy it.



Rejoice in the Lord¹

In this morning's Epistle St. Paul tells the Philippians "Rejoice in the Lord always." Paul then repeats it once again for emphasis "Again I will say Rejoice"

¹ Years ago, I heard a Lutheran pastor say, "Be thankful to the Lord in all things, not for all things, that would be kind of sick." Point well taken, I am confident Paul would agree.

It seems strange a man in prison would be saying, "Rejoice in the Lord always" It's clear from Paul's letters, he lived through frustrations, trials and other situations that would seemingly not cause him to "Rejoice in the Lord!"

In St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians Chapter 4: verses 11- 13, he tells us of his life and that of his companions:

11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place;

12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he describes the hardships he experienced as a servant of Christ: *Five times I have received forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day, I was adrift on the sea.*

Not too many of us could match the ordeals he faced. And in Philippians 3: we read about what may have been the greatest sacrifice of all on Paul's part: he gave up a promising career as a leader in the Jewish community in order to carry the gospel to the hated, much despised Gentiles. Paul was not an apostle, clothed in soft raiment or one who lived an easy life.

He knew the irony in such a command as "Rejoice in the Lord always."

This is a unique command from a very a unique apostle. But seriously, what did Paul mean, and how can we obey a command such as this? A good place to start is to look more closely at just what he says.

Christianity offers joy; Jesus offers victory over the world and its values.

Victory is not something we strive to achieve; it is, rather, a guarantee, which is granted to us, before we ever begin our walk with the Lord.

God doesn't measure us by the success we attain in this life. He will love us in even if everything we attempt for Him ends in total failure.

Christian joy also stands in stark contrast to earthly happiness.

Earthly happiness depends on the external. Situations, things, and people make us happy.

If those situations, things or people change for the worse, we may no longer be happy. Even the most mature and sensible people cannot maintain happiness, all of the time.

Fortunately, Jesus does not call us to be happy; he calls us to be joyful. Joy comes from "within", and is based not on external circumstances, but on internal assurance and confidence in Christ. Paul knew that our inner attitudes do not have to reflect our outward circumstances. He was full of joy because he knew regardless of what happened to him, Jesus Christ was with him.

In the five verses following his command to rejoice, Paul offers practical ways to allow joy to affect our attitudes and actions.

Paul next tells the Philippians, "Be careful for nothing. In other words, do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving ...let your requests be made known unto God" (4:6).

Paul is urging us to turn our anxieties into positive actions. And for the Christian, the most positive action is consistent, fervent, prayer. In essence he is telling us to turn anxieties into requests, to be made know unto God.

Rather than get all tangled up in worries and solutions, you can give those worries to God in confidence. He is good; he will not forsake you. It may take some time, but eventually we will learn to trust Him and to turn to Him in all that we do.

Then Paul says: 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Paul then states one of the most famous verses in the Bible:

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Paul is telling us to fill our minds, with positive thoughts, and that there is no room for negative, self-defeating thoughts.

We usually spend our rational moments fretting over our failures, Paul urges us to spend the moments we are in control of our thinking... retraining our minds with good thoughts and positive ideas.

You are what you allow your mind to feed on. The books you read, the TV shows you watch, the conversations you participate in,..... all of these form your sense of what is right ...and good.

If you constantly allow yourself to be exposed to degrading influences, your thinking will affect your lifestyle accordingly.

But this is not a negative command; it's a positive one. We're not only to filter out the bad, but also to funnel in the good. If you expose yourself to a spiritually healthy education, entertainment, and conversation. The irrational moments, full of worry, fear and Godless thoughts, will gradually fade in intensity and frequency.

Finally, in verse 9, Paul says to latch on to a model for growth. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do:... and the God of peace shall be with you.

Paul understands that the strongest argument for anythingis a good example. He urges the Philippians to study him, to become imitators of him.

Paul doesn't claim to be the perfect example. There was only one perfect person who walked the face of this earth. But we must not be deterred from following good examples.

Rejoice in the Lord for what God has done in the lives of others... and remember that he can do it in ours as well!

And Paul goes on to say: "And the God of peace will be with you" (4:9b).

This parallels verse 7: "And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

"Again, we are faced with another Christian virtue that is greater than an earthly value. Biblically, peace has to do with maintaining a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth" (John 14:27).

You can rejoice in the Lord, any time and anywhere...At work... or in your car.

Or while watching the Panthers beat the Jets. Temptations, tragedies, disappointments: none of these have to shake your confidence and fulfillment in Christ.

A 1967 diving accident left Joni Eareckson Tada a quadriplegic in a wheelchair. Today, she is an internationally known mouth artist, a talented vocalist, and radio host. She is the author of 17 books and an advocate for disabled persons around the world.

She greatly struggled to accept God's design in her paralysis. She is now at peace with the work of God in her life.

She once said, "I don't always know the whys, but I do know who holds the answers... And I can wait." Now this really is: "This is the peace which passes all understanding."

Let us all remember that we were created for something far greater than this life, and nothing here on earth will ever totally satisfy us.

But, in the meantime, as we experience life's ups and downs, and as we nurture the joy that comes through the love of Christ, we can "Rejoice in the Lord always."

Again I will say: Rejoice! Amen.

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:



There Standeth One Among You

Philippians 4:4-7, John 1:19-29

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2013

"There standeth one among you." Theologians and preachers often make much ado about the transcendence of God. And we should. Transcendence is an important attribute of the greatness and glory of God. He transcends the physical universe. He transcends time and space. Christina Rossetti, who, by the way was an Anglican, wrote the beloved Christmas carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter" in 1872. We will sing it tonight at our Christmas service, and I will completely obliterate the timing of the words in the second verse, like I do every year. You know the words, "Our God, heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth contain." I will get the timing of those words wrong tonight, but I have their meaning correct in my heart. I know God is bigger, and greater, and far more glorious than the stars and galaxies I see in the night sky. I know

the heavens cannot hold Him. He transcends all things.

But the Bible makes a great deal about another attribute of God. The Bible goes to great lengths to show that He is as immanent as He is transcendent. In other words, He is down here as much as He is out there. This point is made throughout the Bible. In the very first verse, God created the heavens and the earth. In the second verse, the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. In Genesis 2 "God took the man and put him in Eden. In Genesis 3 Adam and Eve heard the voice of God walking in the garden, and in Genesis 3:9, "the Lord God called unto Adam. In other parts of the Old Testament the Lord speaks to Noah. God speaks to Abraham. God speaks to Moses. God speaks Joshua. The Lord calls Samuel. He speaks to the prophets, whose writings echo the refrain, "The word of the Lord came to me." He appears to Isaiah "sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple." To Jeremiah He says, "Am I a God at hand... and not a God afar off?" He is telling Jeremiah He is here with us. He is "at hand."

The immanence of God is also one of the primary messages of the New Testament. Matthew 1 tells us Christ is God with us. John 1 tells us the word, who always was, always is, and always will be God, "was made flesh and dwelt among us." "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," Christ said to the Apostles. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them," Christ promised His Church. According to the Bible Christ dwells in us. We are His Temple. He has put His Spirit in us, the Holy Spirit, who is called the Spirit of Christ. This brings me to the words of the Gospel reading this morning, John 1:26, "there standeth one among you." The words were spoken by John the Baptist regarding Christ Jesus. John did not know exactly which man in the crowds he spoke to was the Christ. That had not been revealed to him yet. But he knew one thing about Christ; he knew He was here. He knew Christ was among them. He still is. Christ is among us. The point of all of this is to say we are never alone. God is with us, an ever present help and friend. "There standeth one among you" and that One is God with us. That is the first point of today's sermon.

For the second point we turn to the Epistle and read in Philippians 4:5, "the Lord is at hand." While it is certain that "at hand" refers, in part, to the return of Christ, the words also apply to Christ's continuing presence with His people. He is, as He said through Jeremiah, a God at hand and not a God afar off. But the point I want to emphasize here is found in verse 7; "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ." This is the result of Christ being among us. This is the result of Christ dwelling in us. This is the result of us being in Christ.

There is no peace in this world. There is, at times, the appearance of peace, but it is always an illusion, for in such times the next big problem is advancing upon us. It may be war. It may be poverty. It may be illness. It may be family problems. It may be disillusionment. It may be disappointment. But something is coming at us, and it will shatter our illusion peace. That's why Jesus said the peace He gives is not like the peace the world gives. The peace Christ gives is as eternal and unbreakable as God Himself.

The peace of God is based upon His atoning sacrifice on the cross. It is based on the knowledge that Jesus died for our sin, and that all who believe in Him in Biblical faith are completely and eternally forgiven. His blood has washed away our sins. He has

removed them from us as far as the east is from the west. That means that when we stand before God on the other side of the grave, we will not tremble in the consuming wrath of God, we will give thanks in His consuming love.

The peace of God is based on the removal of the fear of death. Why do people fear death? Isn't it because we instinctively know we will face God? And don't we fear that meeting because we know we have sinned? In short, don't we fear death because we fear hell? But in Christ that fear is gone. The sting, the pain of death is gone. The grave is no victory for hell, it is the entrance to eternal life, and we can face it with assurance. That is peace.

The peace of God is based upon the knowledge that earthly troubles will pass, but Heaven is forever. We often hear the words, "life is short." They are often followed by an exhortation, like, "use the good china," or "hug your wife and children." They are usually said with a smile, yet there is a sense of urgency in them. If life is short we should make every minute count. We should do what is important. I agree, and I add, seek God. Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, and mind.

The peace of God is not based upon getting the most out of life here and now. It is based on the knowledge that when earth is over, and all the treasures we have worked so hard to get, and all the pleasures we thought were so important, and all the troubles we thought were so huge and debilitating, will end soon. And one day, God's people will look back on them and wonder how we could have been so dominated by them because they will be absolutely insignificant in Heaven.

The peace of God is based upon the knowledge that God loves us and is working all things to our good, here and now. Life on earth, for the Christian, is like a preparatory school. It not the end or the goal; the be all end all. It is only a classroom to get us ready for Heaven. Knowing this we can trust God with life. We can put it all in His hands and accept what comes to us. We know that the troubles of life cannot separate us from God, and that all things work together for our good.

All of these things put a peace in our hearts the world can't take away. We can lose our homes. We can lose our cars. We can lose our health and our lives. But we can never lose God or the benefits of His love. That knowledge gives peace. Philippians 4:7 says it will keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. Keep means to protect. The word projects the image of a strong and heavily armed guard standing watch over your soul. Who is this Guard? He is no mere man; nor even an angel. He is no less than Christ Jesus. He is the guardian of your soul. It is He who keeps you by His peace.

May His peace be with you.

--

+Dennis Campbell

Bishop, Anglican Orthodox Church Diocese of Virginia
Rector, Holy Trinity Anglican Orthodox Church
Powhatan, Virginia
www.HolyTrinityAnglicanOrthodoxChurch.org
www.lifeinthescrptures.blogspot.com

Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon

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



Fourth Sunday in Advent

In I Thessalonians 1:1-10, Paul the apostle commended the Thessalonian brethren for their exemplary conduct in that they had turned to God from idols. The tenets of our faith dictate that having more than one God is sinful, and that worshiping graven images is forbidden. Just as Israel's covenant with the LORD specifically barred them from fashioning images for the purpose of worship, so we Christians must also abide by this restriction as well. Consider the following verses from Exodus, I am the LORD thy God... thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them... (20:2a, 3-4a, 5a).

Consider also the words of the prophet Isaiah (44:9-10, 14-17) on this subject: They that make a graven image are all of them vanity... Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing?... He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak... Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baked bread; yea, he maketh a god and worshippeth it; he maketh a graven image, and falleth down thereto. He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: and the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.

In his first epistle to the Corinthians (10:19-21), St. Paul equated idolatry with worthlessness, and paganism with demonism when he wrote, What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and the table of devils.... It should be noted that in the apostle's day, the prohibition against idolatry included the worship of the emperor as a living god. Thus the behavior for which the apostle applauded the Thessalonians— on account of their patent rejection of all idolatry in favor of the worship of the one, true and living God— can be juxtaposed to those of the Corinthian church who needed a reminder that they too must turn from worshipping idols.

Though initially rejected by early Christians in the first and second centuries, history tells us that by the fifth century idolatry was alive and well within the Church. Dr. Jesse Hurlbut once noted that, "while the triumph of Christianity resulted in much that was good, inevitably the alliance of the [Roman] state and the church also brought in its train many evils... As a result... we do not see Christianity transforming the world to its own ideal, but the world dominating the church (Story of the Christian Church pp. 62-63)."

And so the paganism of the Ancient World— which was thought displaced by the Christian Church— soon reappeared as a corporate member of it. The Rev. E.M. Bounds

once observed concerning this sort of behavior, “When the church itself, the bride of Christ, is seduced from her purity [by Satan], she degenerates into worldly ritualism... The Devil is a hydra-headed monster who is multifaceted in his plans and wisdom as well as in atrocities. His supreme effort is to gain control of the church, not to destroy its organization, but to pervert its divine purpose (Guide to Spiritual Warfare p.41-42).”

Now consider our adversary’s handiwork within the fold Christ. In 431 AD, the Council of Ephesus officially gave the title of “Mother of God” to the Virgin Mary. This very title had once belonged to the goddess Cybele whom the Greeks called “Meter Theon” or “mother of the gods”. It should be noted Ephesus was once the seat of worship for Diana, or Artemis, who was also a mother goddess. The Temple of Diana of Ephesus was one of the seven wonders of the Ancient World. Now while it is true that the council did not mean to convey a pagan understanding of Mary— only that she was the bearer of God in the flesh— still the irony of that event is inescapable. For in the very city where the apostle Paul (Acts 19:26), hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands, a church council had unwittingly supplied future church leaders with the proverbial “green light” to advocate that very aspect of paganism which the apostle had so forthrightly condemned some four centuries before.

But there is more. Consider that one of the seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation (2:18-29) was the church at Thyatira which, as the Rev. Matthew Henry explained, “...allowed [a spirit of wicked teaching named Jezebel] to seduce the people of that city. [This spirit and its charges] attempted to draw the servants of God into fornication and to offer sacrifices to idols.” The warning by our Lord of this coming acceptance of idolatry should have been “a fire bell in the night” as it ought to have stirred the faithful leadership of the church into action against this sort of behavior. Sadly, by the fifth century, there was not much interest in keeping pagan practices out of the church as very many within the body of Christ were merely unconverted pagans masking themselves as Christians.

In our contemporary world, idolatry has become more sophisticated. The widespread cults of personality in religion have taken center-stage in the hearts of the naive. Several popular pastors have put aside the notion of God’s coming judgment for sin and the need for repentance in favor of a false universalism. They teach only about God’s love and omit his desire for justice. Others lure their prey into their dairy stalls— which they call churches— to be milked of their hard earned wages, while at the same time feeding them a gospel devoid of the whole truth of God and rendering them fit for the slaughterhouse of Hell when they die. A growing number of these wolves in sheep’s clothing are big promoters of the false gospel of prosperity: where God will make every true believer materially rich, and physically well in this life. And such carries with it the equally false notion that if you do not receive a blessing from God, then you do not possess the proper level of faith to deserve a blessing. Further, you likely did not provide these charlatans with sufficient funds which would entitle you to receive a blessing from God. What a kick in the teeth to an otherwise faithful believer who is struggling with financial or health problems. Imagine telling a person in those circumstances that they are not measuring up to God because they are ill, or in debt, or facing any number of difficulties. They might as well take the advice of Job’s wife to, curse God and die (Job 2:9).

Then there are those outside of the church who hold up a variety of secular figures as

their gods and goddesses. They hang on every word they say, and they buy their sponsored products as if they were talismans. The pagans of the Ancient World idolized the strong, the powerful, the outwardly beautiful and the rich, and nothing in man's character over the millennia has changed one iota. Modern idolaters also have their own temples much as the ancients had theirs. Consider any of the various domed stadiums and open-air coliseums where they cheer their demigods utilizing both the liturgical as well as the extemporaneous forms of praise. They have set up within their hearts votive altars for the objects of their worship. They even mark their bodies up with their signs and symbols which indicates not their mere support of those things, but of their ownership by them. In the future the Antichrist will require all who might buy or sell to possess his mark in their foreheads or in their right hand (Revelation 13:16-17). It seems the unregenerated are being prepped today for that future event. Indeed, all these things are ample evidence for their condemnation before a holy and righteous God should the unregenerate not repent and be forgiven of this terrible sin. For if one does take the mark of the Beast, there will be no repentance (Revelation 14:9-11).

But it would be erroneous to believe that such venues for idolatry are limited only to the secular realm, or to those of the various religious cults. Sadly, there are otherwise faithful Christians who have succumbed to a rather insidious form of idolatry which is in their midst, and yet is seemingly invisible to them. Their idols are found in the ever-increasing number of "sanctinasiiums" where the profane rhythms of the world are presented in a manner hardly distinguishable from a secular concert. Their idols are self-worship, self-glorification, and self-aggrandizement. They are all about feeling their faith; so if they do not feel something— if their senses are not motivated or tingled— then they believe they have not worshipped. But Christian worship is supposed to be about God, and not ourselves. We are supposed to come before God with reverence and holiness. We are supposed to come before him confessing our sins and seeking his pardon. We are supposed to come into his presence with thanksgiving and praise; not in clamor or in irreverence, but in all holiness. As the apostle Paul observed, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance [self-control] against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another (Galatians 5:22-26).

We Christians have a duty to witness to those who are as yet under the spell of false teachers, and to warn them to turn away from such persons. God has given us his word written for our edification that we might be recipients of his grace rather than subjects of his wrath, and we in turn are obliged to share that knowledge with others. The Bible tells us that we are to give worship to no person, thing or ideal other than the Godhead. We have been warned throughout the pages of Scripture that those who persist in vain worship will have their hearts darkened and their reservation confirmed in that eternal lake of fire where all who are estranged from God will have their final and everlasting abode.

Christians be warned! Flee from all idolatry. Flee from those churches who preach an acceptance of those things which will bring you into condemnation. Avoid the traditions of men both old and new that are in opposition to the expressed will of our gracious heavenly Father. Stick to the word of God and keep away from any thing, or any person that would be exalted above the Godhead, or would displace him in your heart and life. Be warned my brethren, stay away from idols!

Let us pray,

FATHER, instill in each of us a desire to read the scriptures, and to inwardly digest them; that in so doing, we will become better witnesses on your behalf; and this we ask in the name of thy Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

After Church Hospitality

Sadly, no after church snacks. The same story every week, is it not? The fact is that we are supposed to be on a low carb diet and there really aren't any low carb snacks that appeal to us. So, with no fatted dog nut in sight, we were out of luck! Please someone, between now and next Sunday invent some no-carb dog nuts.

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
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

No doubt many are on travel this week, but no one has asked for prayers.

Birthday

Betsy Lane celebrated her 87th Birthday on 16 December 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

Gracie Slaten passed away on 12 December 2013, after a brief illness. Please give thanks for a peaceful transition from this world to home, as well as for the good she did while here on earth. Pray for comfort and strength for her family and friends who remain behind, in particular her sister Loretta.

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 her family and friends who remain behind.

Nearing the end of their time here on earth

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 set 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.

Erica has a non-malignant Brain Tumor. The tumor is growing and she is scheduled for an operation in January. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

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.

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

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

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

Bob has experienced several Transient Ischemic Attacks² (TIA) recently. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Bob and for God's guidance for the

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

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

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 a 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

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.

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 fifth 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 on 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 was in remission but it has appeared again and she will begin chemo again..

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, came back with ZERO SCANS again in December 2013! Matt 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.

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 sorrow, 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.

New Minister

Don Fultz was ordained on 15 December 2013, at St. Peter's Anglican Orthodox Church in Statesville, North Carolina, by Bishop Jerry L. Ogles. Please pray for Don to do his very best at fulfilling the special responsibilities he has taken on and give thanks for his commitment.

AOC Congregations

Rev Paul Thompson, pastor of Christ Anglican Church (AOC) in Oakland, Iowa, asks you pray for the Holy Ghost to enter the hearts of their congregation that they might find better ways to serve our Lord and bring the Word to those around them.

Rev Rick Reid asks that you pray for Saint Andrews Anglican Church in Newton, North Carolina. They would like to see their congregation grow to the point is it self-sustaining and vibrant. The congregation asks that you pray for the Holy Ghost to enter into their hearts and inspire them to do their best to further His Will.

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.

Thanksgiving

Hap and Dru Arnold give thanks for travel this week.

Armed Forces & Contractors

Airman Donny Patton (Hulbert Field, Florida), 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 Mouner 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.

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
25 December 2013	Dru Arnold – Christmas Day
29 December 2013	Dru Arnold – First Sunday after Christmas

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

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**