



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church



New Year
Circumcision of Christ
Second Sunday after Christmas

Sunday Report



Another Year Is Dawning

**Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.**

**Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.**

**Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training for holier work above.
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.**

The Anglican Orthodox Church

Circumcision of Christ

Today we celebrate the circumcision of Jesus in accordance with Jewish tradition, eight days (according to the Semitic and southern European calculation of intervals of days) after his birth, the occasion on which the child was formally given his name. The circumcision of Jesus has traditionally been seen, as explained in the popular 14th century work the Golden Legend, as the first time the blood of Christ was shed, and thus the beginning of the process of the redemption of man, and a demonstration that Christ was fully human and of his obedience to Biblical law. No longer celebrated by many churches, including the Roman and TEC, it is still the Eighth Day. That has not changed and so we celebrate the event as it is referred to in scripture, thus should be recalled.

Propers

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

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. The Epistle is normally a reading from one of the various Epistles, or letters, in the New Testament. The Gospel is a reading from one of the Holy Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Collect is said by the minister as a prayer, the Epistle can be read by either a designated reader (as we do in our church) or by one of the ministers and the Holy Gospel, which during the 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.

Today is one of those Red Letter Days, The Feast of the Circumcision of Christ.

"And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb." Luke 2:21 (AV)

The propers for today are found on Pages 105-106, with the Collect first:

The Circumcision of Christ.

[January 1.]

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, who madest thy blessed Son to be circumcised, and obedient to the law for man; Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit; that, our hearts, and all our members, being mortified from all worldly and carnal lusts, we may in all things obey thy blessed will; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The First Sunday after Christmas Day.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from Paul's letter to the people of Philippi, starting at the Ninth Verse of the Second Chapter. The portion of the letter used as today's Epistle is relatively short. God has sent His Son to earth and given him a name above all others, Jesus¹. Paul exhorts his fellow followers to continue to follow the Lord, not only while he is watching them, but at all times. God will give them the will and ability to do good, but only if they do their best to follow Him.

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. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

The Gospel for today came from the Gospel according to Saint Luke, the Second Chapter, beginning at the Fifteenth Verse. Today's Gospel recounts the angels visit to the shepherds who came into Bethlehem to pay homage to Jesus in the manger. It also documents the circumcision of Jesus, bringing Him under the Law. He who: Is, Was and always Will be, put Himself under the Law, that He might fulfill the Law and be our salvation.

Our salvation from the Law came from the perfect sacrifice one time for the sins of all mankind for all time. The sacrifice had to be a perfect human, one who did not exist until Jesus came. That perfect human had to enter in to the Law, had to be subject to the Law. Thus, Jesus submitted Himself unto the Law that he might in the end have dominion over the Law.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

¹ The name Jesus, savior, is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua, which was originally Hoshea (Num. 13:8, 16), but changed by Moses into Jehoshua (Num. 13:16; 1 Chr. 7:27), or Joshua. After the Exile it assumed the form Jeshua, whence the Greek form Jesus. It was given to our Lord to denote the object of his mission, to save.

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.

Today we recall the circumcision of our Lord and Savior. He is God, yet He is under The Law. Not all those 613 laws were those called Moral, that is to say the Ten Commandments, but there are those which are moral and there are also laws of God or physics. God, the Ultimate Being, is subject to the laws He made. While He can, and does on the very special occasion, disregard them such as when the shadow went backwards, for the most part He, too, is subject to The Laws². Why? Because they were made for the general good of this world. We see what happens when people do not follow the Laws that God set out for us to live by. If we stop living by The Laws, then we are no better than the animals of this world, who live by no such Laws whatsoever. Then there is no incentive for us to follow Christ if we do not live by the laws which he has set before us. If we do not need to follow these laws, then why would we follow Him? We follow Him Bcause He is the embodiment of all that is good and pleasing, unlike the world, which seems to be the embodiment of pure evil and sickness. Evil and sin are diseases that must be cured through being regenerated through the Holy Spirit. God does not break His own Laws, or at least if He did, He would have a good reason to do so. Without a system of order, there is chaos. God is not chaos. God never brings confusion. Chaos and Confusion are the Devil's Modus Opreandi, not God's. God never tests, but when we are tested by this world, He monitors the results. He brought the new covenant or new agreement to us through His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Knowing we cannot ever be perfect, He gave us a way to be accounted as perfect at the Judgment Day – One Sacrifice, Made One time, by One Man who was God, for All Mankind for All Time. Jesus is our light and our life. Through Him all things are possible.

All salvation takes is the simple understanding of a child or a shepherd. The simple truth that is Christ. He was not complex. His message was not sophisticated. He is the way. The One Way!

This is the first day of the New Calendar Year. Remember also, it is the first day of the remainder of your life here on earth, let it count for something. We live in the present, the past will never come again and tomorrow never comes. Take the right path starting right now.

Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

² Yet, do not misapprehend, we know but little of His Laws and the laws of the universe as He made them. Our grasp of the space time continuum is little beyond that possessed by those at Moses time. He is, was and always will be. We live in the present, remember the past and prepare for what will be, the best we can.

Second Sunday after Christmas Day

The weather for the Second Sunday after Christmas Day service was beautiful. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was 53°F, warming to 65°F by church time. The lovely weather brought 3 people to worship the Lord.

Gathering Song

Back to the old standard, Rev Jack Arnold played *Amazing Grace* for the gathering song. We have been asked, don't you get tired of the same old song? The answer is a resounding NO, actually we do not. The message is so potent.

Amazing Grace

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

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

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

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



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

On Point

Someone asked, where do the quotes come from? The answer is from the people who uttered them. But, how did you find them? Oh, that. Some from Bishop Jerry, many from Rev Bryan Dabney, a few from other places, some from Rev Geordie Menzies-Grierson, but overall mostly from Bryan. He always has a few great ones to share. On to the On Point quotes –

To me the clearest proof that the New Testament is the True Word of God is the people who knew Jesus in His man status, who saw Him, ate with Him, witnessed the Risen Lord - These people followed Him to certain and unpleasant death with no hope or even hint of earthly reward. They were first hand witnesses, they knew. They followed to a person. They followed who they KNEW, not thought, to be the Son of God.

*Rev LTC Hap Arnold
20th Century Dinosaur*

Long after the angels disappear into the heavens, the shepherds return to their flocks, the magi journey home and the great star sets, Jesus remains. The Child in whom we rediscover God's great love for humanity becomes the adult Redeemer who challenges us to imitate his selflessness and compassion in order that we might transform our world in love. . . May we allow the miracle of Christmas to continue long after the holiday trappings have been packed away; may we welcome the adult Messiah and his challenging Gospel to recreate our lives, making the peace, justice and hope of this holy season a reality in every season of the new year.

Rev Geordie Menzies-Grierson
20th and 21st century Minister (UK)

Knowing God

When you come to knowing God, the initiative lies on His side. If He does not show Himself, nothing you can do will enable you to find Him. And, in fact, He shows much more of Himself to some people than to others—not because He has favourites, but because it is impossible for Him to show Himself to a man whose whole mind and character are in the wrong condition. Just as sunlight, though it has no favourites, cannot be reflected in a dusty mirror as clearly as in a clean one.

You can put this another way by saying that while in other sciences the instruments you use are things external to yourself (things like microscopes and telescopes), the instrument through which you see God is your whole self. And if a man's self is not kept clean and bright, his glimpse of God will be blurred—like the Moon seen through a dirty telescope. That is why horrible nations have horrible religions: they have been looking at God through a dirty lens.

Jack Lewis
Mere Christianity

Walk more closely with God. Get nearer to Christ. Seek to exchange hope for assurance. Seek to feel the witness of the Spirit more closely and distinctly every year. Lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily threatens you. Press towards the mark more earnestly. Fight a better fight, and war a better warfare every year you live. Pray more. Read more. Subdue self more. Love the brethren more. Oh, that you may endeavor to grow in grace every year; that the end of your Christian course may be better than the beginning!

JC Ryle

It is my earnest prayer to God that he would be most graciously pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and specific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our religion; without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation.

General George Washington
Patriot and First President of the United States of America
Farewell Address

If you want to warm a church, put a stove in the pulpit.

JC Ryle

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...

St. James 4:8

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 for today are found on Page 106-107, with the Collect first:

The Second Sunday after Christmas Day.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word; Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

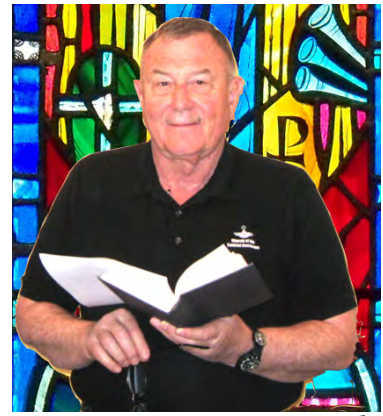
Dru Arnold read the reading for the Epistle which comes from the Book of Isaiah, the Sixty-First Chapter beginning at the First Verse:

THE Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.



Hap Arnold read the Holy Gospel which comes from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the Second Chapter beginning at the Nineteenth Verse:

WHEN Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judæa in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: and he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.



Sermon – Reverend Jack Arnold - Time and Action

Today's sermon ties together the propers, that is to say the prayer and readings for this week. Due to calendar



considerations, we do not oft get to celebrate the Second Sunday after Christmas as there are only 12 days in Christmastide, but this is one of those years!

In the Collect, we acknowledge the New Light of Jesus Christ in the world and in our lives as the Word Incarnate, or the Word in the Flesh. We go on to ask the light of the Word will take root in our hearts and shine forth as action in our lives. That is to say that our lives will act as a window to the Word, not a closed door.

The reading used for the Epistle is not an Epistle as such, but a portion of the Book of Isaiah, one of the Old Testament books filled with New Testament ideas and thoughts. In the reading, Isaiah says what we should all be saying, The Lord has

selected us to pass on His Good Tidings to all, to tell the world the Good News of the Lord Jesus! To comfort those in need, to bring happiness where there is heaviness, to talk of the Glory of God! Good News indeed!

On the surface, in the Gospel, Matthew is just relating the historical fact of Joseph being told to go back into Israel with Mary and Jesus, that all was safe for the time being. Yet, there is more. The verses also recall the threat to Jesus' life from Herod and sends

Joseph and his family to take up residence in Nazareth in fulfillment of the prophecy that the King of Kings would be called a Nazarene.

So what of us? How do we fit in to all this?

We are to spread the light unto the world, to be beacons, directing the people of the World to follow Christ and not the World. We are the lamp bearers, the torch bearers, bringing the light of Scripture unto the darkest places. We are like the light of Galadriel, which was given to Frodo in Lord of the Rings, that it might be a light "unto the darkest places."

So too shall Scripture be a light for us and others in the darkest times and places on this planet. Christ is the great guiding star, like the North Star for sailors of old to navigate by. So too shall we navigate by Christ as our great guiding star. If we hold the light up, we shall never fall and stumble. But if we do not hold it up, we will fall and stumble. So the obvious solution to our problems when we are troubled is to turn back and hold up the light to light our way.

That is to say, to return to the Scriptures and His Word and consult Him for guidance and not that of man. Christ will show us the way if we will not only see, but listen and have His Word take root in our hearts.

In order to have it take root, we must be opened to His Word and not shut and deaf to Him. He cannot come in if we will not let him, so we must open our hearts and minds to Him. He will free us from ourselves if we open the door, so we must be willing and ready to accept Him.

In order for others to come to Christ, we must walk the walk besides talking the talk, we must not be as hypocrites, saying one thing but doing another. We do not want to be like the Pharisees of old, with their lavish prayers and gestures in the public. But we must be like the publican who would not so much as lift His eyes up onto the heavens.

The time has come to show the light unto the world. The time has come to choose God or Satan. Who shall we choose? Our actions shall show our hearts. "For where your heart is, there shall your treasure be also."

Heaven is at the end of an uphill trail. The easy downhill trail does not lead to the summit.

The time is now, not tomorrow. The time has come, indeed. How will you ACT?

It is by our actions we are known.

Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

Bishop Ogles' Sermon

We are off fortunate to get copies of Bishop Jerry's sermon notes. Today is one of those Sundays. Today's sermon starts off with the collect, and like always, it will give you a lot to consider in your heart.

Sermon Notes

Second Sunday after Christmas

5 January 2014, Anno Domini (in the Year of Our Lord)



The Second Sunday after Christmas Day.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word; Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Epistle Isaiah lxi. 1.

THE Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

The Gospel St. Matthew ii. 19.

WHEN Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judæa in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: and he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

As the Collect attests, at Christmas God poured out into our Cups of Faith the "new Light of His Incarnate Word" – so much so that our *cups runneth over*. The Light was eternally the same unchanging Light of Christ that existed before the worlds and heavens were made; yet, it came down to us to share in our same pains and sufferings – and more. We can know God the Father because we have seen and heard God the Son.

It is a mystery known only to God that only the meek and humble of heart can hear and understand the Voice of the Spirit that speaks the Gospel that heals, that frees, that cheers, and that liberates from our self-imposed prison captivity. **As our Epistle proclaims, we are, as well, to proclaim – the acceptable year of our Lord. That Year has been published in our calendars ever since His birth. It was 2014 years ago (Anno Domini) since that momentous fulfillment of the Word. Despite all efforts to erase the meaning of that date, it is recognized by the world, in spite of themselves, as the**

division of time for our computation of the time scale in years. Those who would extinguish the fires of truth by re-naming the calendar dates with such ridiculous labels as C.E. (Common Era (or should it be error?) to supplant Christ's Birth in A.D.) and B.C.E. (Before the Common Era (or should it be error?) to blur the distinction of B.C. – before Christ) are hard-pressed to explain WHY they must use the zero year (Christ birth) as a starting point. Why not allow the great truth of history to prevail and simply admit that the coming of Christ was such a climactic event as to divide our time scale in half? How imbecilic is THAT!

Now we come to the Gospel text for the day. Please note how seamless are the lines that join the Prayer of Collect, the Epistle, and the Gospel together. The traditional lectionary has been the greatest tool in our Church Year to teach the whole storyline of Christ and His Church.

Herod, the evil king who had slaughtered the children of Bethlehem (2 years of age and younger) in his insane attempt to destroy Christ, has died. According to the Jewish historian, Josephus, his death was one of extreme suffering. But that is not a concern of the Gospel. All men come to a day of dying, even kings and rulers – so Herod died the eternal death and is paying the wages for his sins.

Joseph has fled into Egypt with the Child Jesus with His mother, Mary. He was warned of the danger of Herod by the Angel of the Lord following the visit by the Wise Men. *“And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.”* (Matt 2:13) It is worthy of comment that kings, rulers, and governments have always tried to destroy the Person of Jesus and any remembrance of His Name. There was no room for Christ in a suitable lodging of Bethlehem, and there is no room for Him in Judah either. The sword lurks the hills and wilderness areas of that land in search of a small child to destroy Him. ***19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt.*** Long years (perhaps six) Joseph and the mother of Jesus tarried in Egypt awaiting the counsel of the Lord to return home. They never complained or pressed God, but patiently waited during that sojourn for the Word of the Lord and His directing Light. Just as the Wise Men had patiently followed the Light of the Star, so must we patiently bear exile and danger until the Lord gives us His Will and Word.

“Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.” The precise wording of this verse is quite illuminating. You will note that the angel did not say ***“take your Son*** and His mother.” The reason is because Joseph was not the father of Jesus. The Father of Jesus was God the Father. Notice the insidious scheme to undermine this truth in new bible versions. In the Received Text bibles we read from Luke 2:33 – *“And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.”* Now hear the ***great lie*** propagated by the NIV in the same verse: *“The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.”* Jesus had no earthly father!

So Joseph and Mary waited upon the Lord for those long years in Egypt. How often do we rush matters according to our own schedule and disregard the patience that God would have us practice. ***“Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”*** (Psalms 27:14) ***“Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have***

mercy upon us.” (Psalms 123:2) *“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”* (Isaiah 40:31) This wise counsel is repeated in a plethora of other Scripture verses as well. When it is the Lord’s Time, it is the RIGHT time!

Once the Lord has spoken, there should be no lingering procrastination – we must be up and at the doing of His will. 21 *“And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.”* There was no questioning of what awaited in Israel – simply prompt obedience on the part of Joseph. A Godly woman will ALWAYS follow the spiritual leadership of a Godly man. I lay the fault of almost every failed marriage at the feet of the man who does not follow the Will of God in loving his wife and providing spiritual leadership. Mary immediately went with Joseph though the Angel had not spoken directly to her.

The Christian is never without dangers and challenges. Though Herod is dead, his son, Archelaus, now ruled in his stead. We never reach a point of absolute physical security in a world that is ruled by the enemies of God. We are Soldiers of the Cross – Christian men, women, and children. We wear our uniforms openly and fly the banner of Christ before us. But the wicked ‘Sniper on the Hill’ is forever vigilant to destroy us if we unwittingly expose ourselves to his aim. We must be gentle as lambs in our dealings with others, but wise as serpents to counter the threat of the enemy. *“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”* (Matt 10:16)

Once we have Christ, we often must leave the place of our accustomed living never to return. Joseph did not feel safe in returning to Judah, but God never leads half-way. Just as God had counseled Joseph to leave Egypt, He also warned him to avoid Judah. 22 *“But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee.”* It is amazing to me how every step Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem to Egypt to Galilee were dictated so precisely by God. Joseph had keen ears to hear the voice of the Lord, and he heard that Voice. We, too, must avoid the mad rages of public society and get to a quiet place where we can have a keen ear to hear the Voice of God.

Of what significance is this little village to which Jesus was carried called ‘Nazareth?’ The Hebrew root for the name seems to derive from Isaiah 11:1 – *“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”* (Isaiah 11:1) The word for Branch (or twig) given here in the Hebrew is ‘rcn (Netser’. Jesus is the Branch that comes forth out of the stem of Jesse and, eventually, King David. But He also has the title of the “Anointed One of the Lord” (separated). In the Greek, the word is ‘Nazwrai’oß **Nazoraios** – one separated. Nazareth was as insignificant as it was small. It was located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Sea of Galilee – about equa-distant from both. It was like nothing more than a twig of the land of Israel – small and unimportant. The little town of Bethlehem was not very important either until it became the birthplace of Christ – now it is remembered forever. Neither was the crude manger important until it held the Baby Jesus – now everyone knows about the blessed manger. But Nazareth, though unknown for its insignificance beforehand, would now become known for all time and eternity for the blessed Lord who had lived there. In the mind of man, nothing good, or important, could come from such a remote little hamlet; but in the Providence of God, something of supreme importance came out of Nazareth. *“And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good*

thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.” (John 1:46) The voice of the Lord may seem unimportant to us until we have stopped to listen and to heed that Voice....then it becomes the most important Voice we have ever heard. Have you heard that Voice? “Come and See!”

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:



Healer of Broken Souls

Psalm 65, Isaiah 61:1-3, Matthew 2:19-23

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 2014

The words of Isaiah 61 were some of our Lord's favourite verses in all of Scripture. It was these words Christ used to describe Himself and His ministry when He went into the synagogue in Nazareth, concluding the reading with. It was this passage He quoted when John the Baptist, alone and fearing for his life in prison, sent people to ask Jesus, “Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?” Christ quoted the words of Isaiah, words which looked forward to the coming Messiah, and the healing of souls He would accomplish, and He said tell John these things are happening. In other words, Jesus is doing what only the Messiah can do. Therefore, He is the Messiah. He is “He that should come.”

But these things aren't merely proof of His identity. They are His identity. He didn't just do them to show that He had the power and the glory. He did them because He couldn't help doing them. They were part of His nature and His attitude towards us. When the Centurion's servant was sick, Jesus wanted to go to Him. When the lepers came to Him He cleansed them. When the poor and outcasts were rejected by the scribes and Pharisees, He welcomed them. When the law told them they were sinners and lost and bound for Hell, He said He had come to receive sinners and to seek and to save that which was lost.

I think of the time Jesus was in Capernaum, and had spent the evening, and far into the night healing the sick and casting out demons. What was He doing there but preaching good tidings, proclaiming liberty to those in captivity to Satan, and binding up the broken hearted? Yes, sin breaks hearts. We tend to look at sin as the harmless indulgence of natural whims. We have a hard time seeing how our sins affect others, and, I think, we are nearly blind to the way our own sins affect us. Oh, we can see how drug addiction ruins lives. We can see how the Hollywood consumptive life-style kills souls. We can see how divorce, and crime, and war, and bad government, hurt us. And we can imagine what a life of prostitution and pornography would do to a person, but we can't always see how our sins draw us away from God and weaken our faith, and even dissolve our desire for God. But they do.

There is a story about an old time, horse and buggy minister; we'll make him an Anglican, concerned for a family who had a habit of missing Church. One cold winter evening the rector drove to the family's farm. It was deep winter, and the family was gathered around the hearth of their comfortable home enjoying hot tea and cookies, and the bountiful blessings of God. The rector was given a chair by the fire, but said very

little. "How can I help these people see what the sin of forsaking the Church does to them? He prayed. Eventually he took the poker and pulled a burning red ember out of the fire onto the hearth. At first it continued to burn, but, slowly at first, then with increasing quickness, it began to cool. First the flame died. Then the glowing red color gave way to charred blackness, then the heat, the life of the coal, just went out, and the rector picked it up with his bear hand. He set it beside another ember, one that had not been deprived of the warmth of the fire. They sat there on the hearth, one glowing and red, the other cold and dead. Soon the father and husband of the home spoke. "I understand, Reverend," he said. "We will be in church this Sunday."

The Song of Solomon makes a similar point about the effects of sin. It talks about the little foxes that spoil the vines. It pictures a Godly marriage as a luxuriant vineyard, but the little foxes, the small and seemingly harmless things dig up the vines and grapes. We can apply this to any relationship, and almost any aspect of our own lives. Our vines have tender grapes. Our faith is small and weak, and the little things, the little foxes, can do tremendous damage to our lives. Perhaps you know by experience what I am saying. But be of good cheer. One has come from God saying,

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound: to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto the beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord.

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+Dennis Campbell

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Rev Roger Jessup

Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Orthodox Church in Chester, Virginia



Rev Roger is one of my personal favorite ministers, a real gentleman in every sense; his voice is so smooth and soothing, with the measured pace of a Virginian. You just cannot help but love to listen to him.

Is God Concerned About Me?

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, ... yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee" Isaiah 49:15

In seasons of distress and grief how oft is this heartrending cry uttered? "If God is indeed actually concerned about me, why, then, does He not give me some unmistakable sign of His loving interest?" This agonizing question strenuously exercises the minds of even the most loyal believers and stretches their faith to the limit at certain times.

"Such temptation is common to man," for it has been voiced by people throughout all the ages in their bewilderment. For instance, the Psalmist in desperation cried out:

"Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? Why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?"
(Psalms 10:1)

For our encouragement, the Scriptures record many examples of God's choicest saints uttering that prayer of deep distress. The Psalmist was a man after God's own heart." Abraham, "the friend of God," was baffled by the seeming absence of God as he was about to sacrifice Isaac. Joseph, God's chosen saviour of His people, was completely mystified by God's seeming indifference when his brethren sold him into slavery, and when later he was slandered and imprisoned. Martha and Mary wept when they thought Jesus, their precious Friend, unconcernedly had left Lazarus to die.

"Why is God not concerned about me?" "Why is He silent in my deep distress?" "Why does He not show His promised presence to help in time of trouble?"

*Why dost Thou shad Thy lovely face
O Why
Does the eclipsing hand long deny the sunshine of
Thy soul-enlightening eye?*

Our tearful eyes are so blinded by sorrows and stresses afflicting us, that we cannot see our ever-present Lord standing by our side, not aloof, not indifferent, but anxiously sympathetic, ready to help. Sometimes our disobedience creates unbelief. When we frustrate God's will for our lives, the darkness of condemnation obscures the radiance of His presence. He may even withdraw the consciousness of His presence so that we may indeed feel the keen sense of His absence. Only then, do we become anxious to regain His nearness and His assurance of His continual concern and care for us. He reassures us: *"I am with you every day and all day long!"*

Our Saviour himself, taught the unsleeping care of His Heavenly Father for us:

29 *Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.*
30 *But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*
31 *Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

St. Matthew 10:29-32.

Adapted for space from an article by Willian Ozanne and printed in:

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Roy Morales-Kuhn, Pastor - St. Paul's Anglican Church - Anglican Orthodox Church

Rev Roy is pastor of the biggest AOC parish West of the Mississippi; he reminded me there are now three parishes, his being by far the largest. The Westerners are taking over the AOC!³

Rev Roy reminds me these are just his sermon notes, he oft gets carried away; expounding and deviating!

Second Sunday after Christmas
5 January 2014



Sometimes we don't realize that the manifestation of Jesus Christ was not at the beginning of his earthly ministry. Sure, we have the time period from his birth to the Epiphany where we read of prophecies specific to his first Advent being fulfilled. We really don't read much about Christ's early life, other than the encounter in the temple when he was twelve.

Our Gospel reading gives us another couple of prophecy fulfilled. Mary, Joseph, and the Christ child leave Bethlehem to flee the wrath of Herod. Herod tries to murder the Savior by having all male children under the age of two killed in the area around Bethlehem. {Jer. 31:15}

They go to Egypt. Another set of prophecies fulfilled. "Out of Egypt have I called my son." {Hosea 11:1}. The final prophecy in our brief Gospel passage concerns the name 'Nazarene'.

In this is said to be fulfilled what was *spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene*. Which may be looked upon, (1.) As a man of honour and dignity, though primarily it signifies no more than *a man of Nazareth*; there is an allusion or mystery in speaking it, speaking Christ to be, [1.] *The Man, the Branch*, spoken of, Isa. 11:1. The word there is *Netzar*, which signifies either a *branch*, or *the city of Nazareth*; in being denominated from that *city*, he is declared to be that Branch.

In a brief couple of passages from the Bible we can mine a whole set of sermons. We can read of the revealing of the Christ child to the Gentiles [us]. That event is marked by the Epiphany, observed on the 6th of January, exactly twelve days of Christmas. From this time forward we begin to count down to the forty days of Lent which culminate in the death, burial, and glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at Easter time.

I remember as a child growing up in an evangelical church that did not follow any form of a church calendar how confusing it was to go from Christmas to Easter in only four or five months.

We went from a little baby to an adult dying on a rude and rough cross, but what happened in between?

When a church follows a church calendar there is so much more thought and

³ Just kidding, of course. On the other hand, the AOC is happy to have three parishes in the West now!

lessons given to the mission and ministry of Christ. We understand from the season of Advent the unfolding of the prophecies of the ages. Then to the season of Christmastide and that Gift given by our God and Creator, the once and sufficient sacrifice for our sins, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Then we begin the period of Epiphany and the Sundays following as the scripture gives us a picture of the universal or catholic nature of God's plan for His creation's salvation.

Now a solemn period of Lent, forty days of reflection on the real meaning of the Advent. Finally the greatest act of sacrifice, God gives His Son for our redemption. He becomes the Lamb of God, " *but God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*". Rom 5:8.

In the Anglican Orthodox Church we observe a monthly communion service which helps us to hold a more special regard to the Holy Supper. And rather than it become so common as to lose all of the rich meaning and message that we find in a less frequent observation of the Holy Supper a time to reflect on the true Gift of God. We do not worship the elements, the creatures of bread and wine, no we worship the King. We worship the once and for all sacrifice, once given, for the salvation of many.

Every Sunday is a new beginning. Every Sunday is a "mini" resurrection. Every Sunday should be looked upon as a way to face the onslaught of the world, flesh and the devil. We need to feed upon the Word, we need to refresh ourselves at the Fount of Living Water. We need to know that because He lives we can face tomorrow.

God gives us a gift of life every day, as some say that is why it is called 'the present'. Let us endeavor to do the Lord's work, let us worship Him with our labor, let us bring our gifts to His Kingdom, which has no end. *Amen.*

Let us pray:

FATHER, Lord God Almighty, we ask that you endue us with your Holy Spirit. Give us a thirst and a desire to do thy will here at this present. Give us the strength, knowledge and right mind to be aware of any opportunity to further the Kingdom. This we ask in the Name of your Son our Savior, the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen*

Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon

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



Second Sunday after Christmas

In Micah 5:2-4, God informed the prophet the Messiah would come from Bethlehem in Judah. But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be the ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. The name Bethlehem means "house of bread", and how fitting it was that he who is the living bread should be born there. Back in my boyhood days, my grandmother once spoke of bread as "the staff of life" on account of its importance as a staple food for people since "Hector was a pup," or, if you will, from the beginning of human history. The apostle John recorded the words our Lord on this very subject: I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This

is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die (6:48-50).

God has supplied us with numerous accounts regarding his provision for and assistance of his servants. From Scripture, we understand that the manna mentioned by our Lord in St. John's gospel was given to the children of Israel for their sustenance following their exodus from Egypt (Exodus 16:15). God does not send his own out into the wilderness to die. God will sustain his own. He may use what might be termed the apparent and the ordinary; while in many instances, as noted in the scriptures, he may use the miraculous. Consider the prophet Elijah who was fed by the ravens at the brook of Cherith (I Kings 17:2-7); or Elijah and his care for the widow of Zarephath. The LORD preserved her and her son via his restorative power so that her containers of oil and flour were miraculously replenished until the famine in the land had passed; as well as raising her son from death (I Kings 17:8-24). God saved his people time and again as recorded in the books of Judges, Esther, Nehemiah, Isaiah and Daniel. And God's love has been manifested in so many different ways that it would take a multitude of sermons to cover them all adequately. So let us focus on the issue of Jesus Christ as that bread of life.

In the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion, we hear the following Words of Institution given us by our Lord: do this in remembrance of me. We also hear the words, this is my body and this is my blood. Bishop Ryle once noted that, "The conduct of the disciples at the Lord's Supper forbids us to believe that the bread they received was Christ's body and the wine Christ's blood. They were all Jews taught from their infancy that it was sinful to eat flesh with the blood (Deut. 12:23-25). Yet they were not startled by our Lord's words as if they perceived a change in the bread and wine. Our own senses forbid us to believe that there is any change in the bread and the wine. Our own taste tells us that they are really and literally what they appear to be. Things above our reason the Bible requires us to believe, but not what contradicts our senses. Our Lord's true human nature forbids us to believe that his body can be in more than one place at one time. If our Lord's body could sit at table and at the same time be eaten by the disciples it is perfectly clear that it is not a human body like our own. But this we must not allow for one moment. It is the glory of Christianity that our Redeemer is perfect man as well as perfect God. The language in which our Lord spoke made it quite unnecessary to interpret his words literally. The Bible is full of similar expressions. Our Lord spoke of himself as a door and a vine so we know that he used emblems and figures to describe himself. There is therefore no inconsistency in his using figurative language in instituting the Supper."

What Bishop Ryle has written concerning the Lord's Supper is based not on a pronouncement of some earthly body or council, but upon the very words of God. We cannot escape the fact that in our eating of the bread and drinking of the cup we are memorializing our Lord's death and sacrifice— remembering his passion and giving thanks for his free gift of grace to us.

Listen further to what our Lord said about himself, I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world (St. John 6:51). To partake of Christ Jesus is to partake of his word and commandment. Christ came to offer himself up as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. He did not come as something foreign to the teachings of the law because he fulfilled the law. We are

therefore to partake of him after a spiritual sense not in a physical one. Consider the words of St. Paul in the epistle of Hebrews: For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; for then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation (9:24-28).

St. Paul warned the Corinthian church not to take lightly their participation in the Holy Communion when he penned the following admonition, For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord (I Corinthians 11:26, 27). Nothing done in our worship of the Godhead should be considered mundane or trivial, and such is doubly important in our partaking of this sacrament of the Lord's Supper. God expects 100% participation and 100% understanding because he has given us such in detail within the Holy Bible.

But there is more. When we hear the words of The Invocation (page 81 of the BCP), that we be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him, we understand that we are joined with our Lord via the Holy Ghost who resides within every born-again believer. And so, in our partaking of the communion elements, we are affirming the very presence of our Saviour within us. Holy Communion then is more than just a memorial feast, it is a spiritual linking of ourselves to our Lord.

The living bread has come into the world and has given us the sacrament of the Holy Communion. Our duty then is to break the bread of the sacrament and to drink from the cup of the same until his coming again when he will both eat and drink with us at that marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-10) prior to his return in glory, for as the Scripture reads, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Our duty as Christians has ever been to proclaim the word of God to others, and to live in obedience to God's will for us. But in order to do the things that our Lord has commanded, we must possess a proper understanding of whom we are worshiping. We need to be in prayer to God concerning our worship, our work and our walk in this life. If God is our helper, then we ought to lean on him and trust in him. The faithless, the foundering, the disobedient, and the hypocritical are those who will hide behind the mask of Christianity and use it for their purposes; while the true and faithful Christian will don the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:11), keeping himself under control and in the Spirit, living and even dying in obedience to God's word. To be born-again of the Spirit means to live for Christ and to accept him as Saviour and Lord. We who have been regenerated in him believe that he is that living bread; we believe that he is our good Shepherd; we believe that he will come again in glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end (Nicene Creed). Jesus Christ came from a city which meant "house of bread." He came to bring us more than the simple sustenance of earthly bread, but the eternal sustenance of God. He came that we might

have life and in abundance. He came to give us more than a morsel for the furtherance of our earthly existence, but to give us hope of life everlasting in his coming kingdom. Thus to partake of him who is our "staff of life" is to take into ourselves the life-giving Messiah. For all who will believe on him as their Saviour shall receive his free gift of life everlasting.

It is my prayer each of you will come to the Lord's Table today and partake of Jesus Christ as that living bread, and that prior to your coming, you would confess your sins and trespasses to God in his name. It is not enough to attend church, sing a hymn or two and then walk away without seeking him who came to make us whole and to bring us into the beloved. We must honor our Lord out of a willing, broken and contrite heart that daily seeks his pardon. God has called us to himself and we have answered in the affirmative, so then let us do all that he has commanded in his word written. And finally, may God's peace and blessing be with you in every good word and work in this new year.

Let us pray,

FATHER, we thank you for giving us the Saviour: who is that living bread which came down from heaven and was offered for the life of the world; that in our turning and repentance in his name, we have received eternal life, and have also been made coheirs with him in glory; for it is in his name that we offer up to thee our imperfect prayers, even 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
6 January 2014	Opportunity Available – Epiphany
12 January 2014	Opportunity Available – First Sunday after Epiphany
19 January 2014	Opportunity Available – Second Sunday after Epiphany
26 January 2014	Opportunity Available – Third Sunday after Epiphany
2 February 2014	Opportunity Available – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, commonly called The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin - Superseding the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.

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

The Prayer Team of the Church of the Faithful Centurion was established to help our

members and fellow Christians pray for those in need and to give thanks as well for the blessings we have been granted.

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

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

What is the commitment from the prayer team?

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

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

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

What should I ask for?

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

Updating the Team

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

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

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

Marriage

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

Travel

Tuck Arnold, Albert Esquivel and Alan Ridenour are on travel to London this week.

Birthday

Hap Arnold celebrated his 64th Birthday on 27 December 2013.

Betsy Lane celebrated her 87th Birthday on 16 December 2013.

Anniversary

Doug and Veronica Lambert celebrated their 7th Anniversary on 22 September 2013.

Move

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

Bob Jenkins passed away recently. Please pray for his wife and family who of necessity remain behind. Pray that they can let God carry their worry, sadness and concern so they can move forward here on earth.

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.



Nearing the end of their time here on earth

Paul has dementia and does not remember to eat. He has been in the hospital the last few days and will return to the Nursing Home today. Pray he will eat and that his family will be together in one accord as they take care of him. He is being moved from one hospital to a larger one this morning because of blood issues.

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

Melody Summers of Gold Creek, Montana has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. She is a very special person in the Gregr family's lives. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also Melody and her family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders. Pray for a special miracle for her and her family.

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.

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.

Marianne is hospitalized with a perforated colon. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Marianne, 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.

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 Attacks⁴ (TIA) recently. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Bob and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment.

Laurie has been ill for two years and was admitted to the Emergency Room the night of 23 July 2013, for dehydration. She received a CAT scan, which turned up a spot on her lung. Laurie is an oncology nurse and fears the worst. She has had numerous tests and the Physicians think it would be too risky to operate. Some other problems have been discovered and it is hopeful that new medicine will give her healing. Please continue Laurie in Prayer. Please pray for peace of mind for Laurie and for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment

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

⁴ A transient ischemic attack (TIA) is a transient episode of neurologic dysfunction caused by ischemia (loss of blood flow) – either focal brain, spinal cord or retinal – without acute infarction (tissue death).

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

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 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 sixth 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

Stephanie seems to be very deeply into post partum depression after her baby was born prematurely. Please pray for her Mother in Law who is going a great distance to help Stephanie and her new Grandson. Pray that Stephanie will be able to direct her attention outward, rather than inward.

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

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

Nathaniel is in spiritual turmoil. His family and friends will appreciate it if you will keep him in your prayers for him to find the root of his trouble and accept God's help to heal his heart.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Earl to read and understand Scriptures he has been given.

Jeanette has had many members of her family die from diabetes and several are near death now. Jeanette does not know the Lord and is despondent and perplexed about her family and herself. Please pray she can open her heart to allow the Holy Ghost in to bring her knowledge and understanding.

Christy just lost her sister in an automobile accident; this follows closely the loss of two family. Please pray she can let our Lord Jesus Christ carry all her sorry, worry and care at this extremely difficult and stressful time.

Dr. Elizabeth Raj is teaching a biblical approach to the psychological problems facing many in our society today. She is battling against the growing influence of worldly psychology adopted by the churches themselves. Elizabeth constantly stresses answers are found between the covers of that precious Book, the Holy Bible. Please pray for encouragement, strength, fortitude and courage for her.

Daniel and Danielle are experiencing family strife as a result of custodial issues with a daughter. Please pray they and those they strive with might look to the child's best interests in their time of difficulty and disagreement; to work for her best interests and not use her as a weapon amongst themselves.

Abigail is a teenager who has behavior problems. She feels she is in an area of mental darkness. Please pray that she might look to God for help and not within herself.

Sara asks that you pray for guidance for her as she deals with the stresses of her family and life. Pray that she can separate those things which she can affect from those things which she cannot and give her grace to accept that she cannot do everything and can only change those things within her control. She asks for God's help to grow her business while keeping up with the needs of her mother and husband and healing her own problems.

Jacquie to open her heart to God and accept His Love and Grace.

Hap asks you to pray he might be able to trust God will help him make the right decisions at the right time and not to worry uselessly, to change those things he can change, accept those things he cannot change, sleep well to be able to do the correct things with a clear head and that he will open his heart to the Holy Ghost.

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.

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

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

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

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

We ask that you pray, please ask God that the Holy Ghost might give you insight into how you might make the lives of your friends and family better. Remember helping others is not just those who you don't know!

Please join us in praying that the *Free Teen Guitar Class* will be continue to be an opportunity for God to work in the lives of the kids and their families. Please ask God to guide the class to new opportunities to make Him known to others. Help us to let the love of our Lord shine through us into their lives, putting Him first, so that He might enter in to their hearts and lives.

Question that only you can ask

What would you like to know about our history, what we believe, what we do or how we operate? Hap is looking for material for the continuing education class and *Thought for the Day* material. Help us help you. Please send your question to Hap so we all can get an answer. Just because you don't know the answer to your question doesn't mean you are the only one who doesn't know. But, if you don't ask, no one will know.

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.

Positive Choices for 2014 – Rev Geordie

Here are ten positive choices to make 2014 truly a Happy New Year! Do this today, not tomorrow, for it is today and tomorrow never comes!

1. Today I will not strike back

If someone is rude; if someone is impatient; if someone is unkind... I will not respond in like manner.

2. Today I will ask God to bless my “enemy”

If I come across someone who treats me harshly or unfairly, I will quietly ask God to bless that individual. I understand the “enemy” could be a family member, neighbor, co-worker or stranger.

3. Today I will be careful about what I say

I will carefully choose and guard my words, being certain that I do not spread gossip, slander or malign anyone in any way.

4. Today I will go the extra mile

I will find ways to help share the burden of another person. I will find ways to make life more pleasant.

5. Today I will forgive

I will forgive any hurts or injuries that come my way. (I will also work to forgive injuries that have been inflicted upon me in the past)

6. Today I will do something nice for someone, but I will do it secretly

I will reach out anonymously and bless the life of another person.

7. Today I will treat others as I wish to be treated

I will practice the golden rule - do unto others as you would have them do unto you - with everyone I encounter.

8. Today I will raise the spirits of someone who is discouraged

My smile, my words, my expression of support, can make the difference to someone who is wrestling with life.

9. Today I will nurture my body

I will eat less; I will eat only healthy foods; I will thank God for my body.

10. Today I will grow spiritually

I will spend a little more time in prayer today; I will begin reading something spiritual or inspirational today; I will find a quiet place (at some point during this day) and listen to God's voice!



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
6 January 2014	Dru Arnold – Epiphany
6 January 2014	Opportunity Available – Epiphany
12 January 2014	Opportunity Available – First Sunday after Epiphany
19 January 2014	Opportunity Available – Second Sunday after Epiphany
26 January 2014	Opportunity Available – Third Sunday after Epiphany
2 February 2014	Opportunity Available – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, commonly called The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin - Superseding the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

6 January 2014 – Epiphany – Evening Prayer - Service start time 1830 (6:30 pm); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 1815 (6:15 pm); **Time 1830 (6:30 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

12 January 2014 – First Sunday after Epiphany – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

19 January 2014 – Second Sunday after Epiphany – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

26 January 2014 – Third Sunday after Epiphany – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

2 February 2014 – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, commonly called The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin - Superseding the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany– 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**