



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent commonly called Passion Sunday

Sunday Report



Today was the Fifth Sunday in Lent. The over night low was 33°F and sunrise brought beautiful clear blue skies to Mount Olympus; by the time church ended, the temperature had climbed to 60°F. The nice weather brought two people to church, once again not so surprising as Rev Jack is in Okinawa, Japan and had Morning Prayer about 16 hours ago. You may notice Rev Hap has a short haircut, to be precise – no hair. That is because this past week he was visiting Brian Smith whose lung cancer is advancing. If you would please pray for Brian and his wife Mel, as well as Sarah and Rev Geordie, as Sarah is in a similar situation, we would all greatly appreciate it.

Hymn 243 – I sing a song of the saints of God

I sing a song of the saints of God,
Patient and brave and true,
Who toiled and fought and lived and died
For the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
And one was a shepherdess on the green;
They were all of them saints of God, and I
mean,
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
And his love made them strong;
And they followed the right for Jesus' sake
The whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a beast,
And one was slain by a fierce wild priest;
And there's not any reason, no, not the least,
Why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past,
There are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints
Who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in planes, or at sea,
In church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
For the saints of God are just folk like me,
And I mean to be one too.



Hymn 243 is Hap's favorite as it was his father's favorite. Sadly, this means he cannot sing it without tears, but we made it though nonetheless. The hymn has an important message for us today.

Passion Sunday

Passion Sunday is the fifth Sunday in Lent, and the first Sunday in Passiontide, the last two weeks of Lent, beginning on Passion Sunday and ending on Holy Saturday (the Saturday before Easter).

All crosses, pictures, images are covered with opaque purple veils and Gloria Patri is often omitted during this period. Passion Sunday is so-called because in the gospel for that day (John 8: 46-59) Jesus begins his sufferings by being stoned out of the temple. Under the old calendar, Passion Sunday was also known as *Judica Sunday*, after that day's Introit: "Judica me, Deus" ("Judge me, O Lord") from Psalm 42 (43), and was called *Black Sunday* in Germany. This alternate name originates from the fact that after Passion Sunday, the Judica Psalm was not said again until Easter; the German title comes from the old practice of veiling the crosses and statues in the church on that day.



The Roman Catholic Church has completely suppressed Passiontide and eliminated Palm Sunday during the course of abandoning much of the Christian history and doctrine. They now refer to Palm Sunday as "Passion Sunday." Traditional Catholics¹ still observe Passiontide as well as its rites and ceremonies. Passiontide is observed in the Anglican Communion.

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 some great ones to share. On to the On Point quotes –

On hell

[The fictional George MacDonald is speaking.] "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell choose it. Without that self-choice, there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek, find. To those who knock, it is opened." . . .

"Hell is a state of mind—ye never said a truer word. And every state of mind, left to itself, every shutting up of the creature within the dungeon of its own mind is, in the

¹ In this case the word catholic catholic (derived via Late Latin catholicus, from the Greek adjective (katholikos), means "universal") comes from the Greek phrase (kath'holou), meaning "on the whole," "according to the whole" or "in general", and is a combination of the Greek words meaning "about" and meaning "whole". The word in English means "including a wide variety of things; all-embracing" in particular as "relating to the historic doctrine and practice of the Western Church." It was first used to describe the Christian Church in the early 2nd century to emphasize its universal scope. In the context of Christian ecclesiology, it has a rich history and several usages. The term has been incorporated into the name of the Roman Catholic Church, arguably not actually a Christian church, though with many Christian members, under the Bishop of Rome. Other Christians use the term "catholic" (normally with a lower-case letter "c") to refer not to the Roman Catholic Church but the Christian Church and all believers in Jesus Christ across the world and across the ages, regardless of denominational affiliation.

end, Hell. But Heaven is not a state of mind. Heaven is reality itself. All that is fully real is Heavenly.” . . .

“Hell is smaller than one pebble of your earthly world: but it is smaller than one atom of this world, the Real World. Look at yon butterfly. If it swallowed all Hell, Hell would not be big enough to do it any harm or to have any taste. . . .

“A damned soul is nearly nothing: it is shrunk, shut up in itself. Good beats upon the damned incessantly as sound waves beat on the ears of the deaf, but they cannot receive it. Their fists are clenched, their teeth are clenched, their eyes fast shut. First they will not, in the end they cannot, open their hands for gifts, or their mouths for food, or their eyes to see.”

“Then no one can ever reach them?”

“Only the Greatest of all can make Himself small enough to enter Hell. For the higher a thing is, the lower it can descend—a man can sympathise with a horse but a horse cannot sympathise with a rat. Only One has descended into Hell.”

Jack Lewis
The Great Divorce

“Creatures, I give you yourselves,” said the strong, happy voice of Aslan. “I give to you forever this land of Narnia. I give you the woods, the fruits, the rivers. I give you the stars and I give you myself. The Dumb Beasts whom I have not chosen are yours also. Treat them gently and cherish them but do not go back to their ways lest you cease to be Talking Beasts. For out of them you were taken and into them you can return. Do not so.”

Jack Lewis
The Magician's Nephew

Not a tame Lion

Once more he felt the warm breath of the Thing on his hand and face.

“There,” it said, “that is not the breath of a ghost. Tell me your sorrows.”

Shasta was a little reassured by the breath: so he told how he had never known his real father or mother and had been brought up sternly by the fisherman. And then he told the story of his escape and how they were chased by lions and forced to swim for their lives; and of all their dangers in Tashbaan and about his night among the tombs and how the beasts howled at him out of the desert. And he told about the heat and thirst of their desert journey and how they were almost at their goal when another lion chased them and wounded Aravis. . . .

“I do not call you unfortunate,” said the Large Voice.

“Don’t you think it was bad luck to meet so many lions?” said Shasta.

“There was only one lion,” said the Voice.

“What on earth do you mean? I’ve just told you there were at least two the first night, and—”

“There was only one: but he was swift of foot.”

“How do you know?”

“I was the lion.”

And as Shasta gaped with open mouth and said nothing, the voice continued. “I was the lion who forced you to join with Aravis. I was the cat who comforted you among

the houses of the dead. I was the lion who drove the jackals from you while you slept. I was the lion who gave the Horses the new strength of fear for the last mile so that you should reach King Lune in time. And I was the lion you do not remember who pushed the boat in which you lay, a child near death, so that it came to shore where a man sat, wakeful at midnight, to receive you.”

Jack Lewis
The Horse and His Boy

Screwtape reveals the Enemy's intentions:

Now it may surprise you to learn that in His [the Enemy's] efforts to get permanent possession of a soul, He relies on the troughs even more than on the peaks; some of His special favourites have gone through longer and deeper troughs than anyone else. The reason is this. To us a human is primarily food; our aim is the absorption of its will into ours, the increase of our own area of selfhood at its expense. But the obedience which the Enemy demands of men is quite a different thing. One must face the fact that all the talk about His love for men, and His service being perfect freedom, is not (as one would gladly believe) mere propaganda, but an appalling truth. He really does want to fill the universe with a lot of loathsome little replicas of Himself—creatures whose life, on its miniature scale, will be qualitatively like His own, not because He has absorbed them but because their wills freely conform to His. We want cattle who can finally become food; He wants servants who can finally become sons. We want to suck in, He wants to give out. We are empty and would be filled; He is full and flows over. Our war aim is a world in which Our Father Below has drawn all other beings into himself: the Enemy wants a world full of beings united to Him but still distinct.

Jack Lewis
The Screwtape Letters

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.

Psalms 19:1

The bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

Proverbs 20:17

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.

St. Matthew 7:24

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

St. John 6:37

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:13

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Revelation 3:10

The vocabulary of the King James Bible was not common, even in the 1500s. In the 1800s Archbishop Trenchard said, “It is good that the phraseology of Scripture should not be exactly that of our common life;... just as there is a sense of fitness which dictates that the architecture of a church should be different from that of a house.” The style of a

building identifies what's inside... Style communicates— architectural style, dress style, and writing style... Words, like clothing and architecture, suggest things. Connotation is the expression of the face of a word. Any English sentence can be rendered in a variety of tones. The KJV is not the language of earth... Just as pollution and pollen are inhaled with every breath of good air, so the words the world uses go into the mind, along with all of the filth surrounding them. They are stored in the memory. When that word is read again, the file containing that word pops to the forefront of the mind— hand in hand with all the pollution it has been partnered with.

Gail Riplinger

19th and 21st century American Bible scholar and author
(In Awe of thy Word, pp. 191-192)

According to New Testament usage, all true Christians are saints... It has well been said, If you want a "saint" to pray for you, find a true Christian and make the request of him. His prayer will be more effective than any request that can be made through dead saints. We have no need for the intercession of Mary, or dead saints, or angels, for we ourselves have direct access to God through Christ. Furthermore, not only do we have no single instance in the Bible of a living saint worshipping a dead saint, but all attempts on the part of the living even to make contact with the dead are severely condemned.

Dr. Loraine Boettner

20th century American theologian and author (Roman Catholicism, p. 145)

Religion is the principal driving force behind politics...Every politician has a worldview. He believes something that causes him to go in the particular direction he goes in.

Gary Kah

20th and 21st century American Christian author.

Propers

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

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. 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 or our Deacon Striker.

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 132-133, with the Collect first:

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent, commonly called
Passion Sunday.**

The Collect.

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

And due to the rubric, the Collect for the Day is followed by the Collect for Ash Wednesday, which is found on Page 124:

**The first day of Lent, commonly called
Ash Wednesday.**

The Collect.

ALmighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ This Collect is to be said every day in Lent, after the Collect appointed for the day, until Palm Sunday.

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from Paul's letter to the Hebrews, starting at the Eleventh Verse of the Ninth Chapter. Paul summarizes both the symbolism and the substance of the Lord's sacrifice on our behalf. Paul opens the secret of the One Perfect Sacrifice, One Time, for All Time and All Mankind. Paul is clearly appealing to the sense of the Jews when he asks them if the blood of goats will set aside or atone for sin, how much more can be done by the Perfect Sacrifice made on our behalf?

CHRISt being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.



Hap Arnold read this morning's Gospel which comes from the Gospel of Saint John, starting at the Forty-Sixth Verse of the Eighth Chapter and tells the story of Jesus' confrontation with the Pharisees in the temple. Like much of John it is filled with deep explanation of Jesus and His purpose here.



Knowing them looking to find the worst in Him, Jesus asked, "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?" In a point central to Christianity, he went on, "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." When we hear the term Jews here, we should hear the world in general, for He spoke to all who would not hear. When they would not hear, He pointed out He sought

not glory or praise from them, but only from the Father whom in reality they knew not. Here He offers the singular benefit of Christianity, "If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death." This concept being foreign to them, they asked if He thought He was greater than Abraham. That brought the crowning touch, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day." Knowing He was only in his early 30s, they could not grasp how he could have seen Abraham.

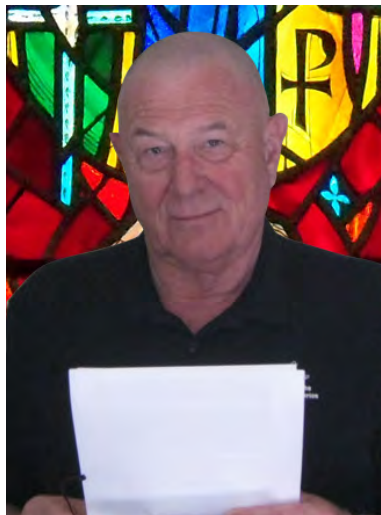
In a demonstration of the non-linearity of God's time, He said, "Before Abraham was, I am."² As might be expected, this offended the Keepers of The Law.

JESUS said, *Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.* Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? Jesus answered, *I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.* Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? Jesus answered, *If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you; but I know him, and keep his saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.* Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.* Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple.

² This response was similar to God's answer to Moses' question, "Who do I tell them sent me?"

Sermon – Reverend Hap Arnold - Time and Action

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



Consider these words from the Collect:

... thy people; ... by thy great goodness ... may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul ...

In the Collect, we ask God to help us to look to Him for leadership and direction that we might be saved, both our physical bodies and souls. For, if we do not look to God for our guidance and direction we are surely lost like a man in the wilderness without a compass. When we ask that we might be governed and thus preserved by His *great goodness*, we are in effect asking for His Guidance for us to be guided. Guided, that means we need to ask, then listen to what He Tells us, then actually follow that guidance.

Recall to mind this quote from GK Chesterton:

- “Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried.”

It does absolutely no good for us to ask God for guidance, then when He gives it to us for us to ignore or pretend we did not hear. After all, there are none so deaf as those who will not hear, a concept discussed more fully in Matthew 13.13. Thus, we need to ask for His Help, His Guidance, then actually do our very best to follow Him.

If we look to Him for guidance, we then look to Him for safety. Safety means only the safety of our soul, our eternal life. Things may get tense here, for as Aslan is not a tame lion, God is not a tame god. He is the one true and triune God. Not tame, but the savior of mankind. Think about this; pretty clearly the Mosaic Law with its 613 rules did not really work to save mankind. The constant sacrifice of animals could not make us accounted for as perfect in God's eye. After all, an animal would never work to cleanse our sins, account us as perfect and let us enter into heaven, as Christ's sacrifice by the terrible death on the Cross did for us. An animal is a poor substitute for a divine being that is our conduit from heaven to earth, and visa versa. We were always destined to fail. We cannot make the grade on our own. We need the One Sacrifice, One Time, for all mankind, for all time.

Our only means of being accounted as perfect when we come before God is to rely on the sacrifice and intermediary priesthood of His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ to account us as perfect before God on that final day. Your AOC ministers, while officially titled as priests are not intermediary priests, there is one high priest, Jesus Christ the Righteous who is also the propitiation for our sins! He is our Savior, our Leader, our Teacher, our Master, our Example!

At the same time, as imperfect creatures with free will if we do our very best to follow His Word, we will not be perfect. On the other hand, we will be better than we will if we do not. Thus, without the sacrifice of His Son, we will not make the cut. We will end up in the pit. We need that one sacrifice, one time, for all mankind, for all time. If we did not need that sacrifice, then we wouldn't be seeing all the troubles in the world today. Today's world makes clear the need for the sacrifice He made for us; one time for all time. Unlike the sacrifices of the Old Testament, which required multiple

sacrifices a year, this sacrifice was made one time, one year, for all time.

In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that if we believe in Him and keep His Word (keeping His Word meaning acting upon it), then we shall make our seamless journey from the Shadowlands to His Home. Few of the Pharisees could conceive, or peradventure would not conceive, that God would send His Son to this world for us. They did not even believe He had a son, they were looking for the Messiah figure they thought couldn't be Him. The Messiah was in fact Jesus, the Christ of God. They expected an earthly savior, one who would drive the Romans out and put the Jews in charge of that corner of the world.

Their problem was that Jesus came to save our souls and give us eternal life, eternal life starting right then. Not just for the Jews and Israel, but the whole wide world, Jew, Gentile, Greek and all others. Jesus brought salvation and life to the entire world. That was not what the Pharisees were looking so hard for with their magnifying glasses as they examined Torah and The Law. Pharisees were not big picture people, and as Calvin told Hobbes, "We big picture people rarely become historians." It would seem that also applied to the Pharisees though they were not "big picture people", they misinterpreted the prophecies of the Messiah. Regardless, even though some people chose to misunderstand the prophecies, He came and He made that one sacrifice, at one time, for all mankind, for all time. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life³.

Who is Jesus? Our Savior? Indeed. But, more He has been since before the beginning of the world, for He is one with I Am.

Through His Actions, we are saved.

Do ye likewise:

ACT

It is by our actions we are known.

Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

Bishop Ogles' Sermon

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

Sermon Notes

Fifth Sunday in Lent, commonly called Passion Sunday
6 April 2014, Anno Domini (In the Year of our Lord)

The Fifth Sunday in Lent, commonly called Passion Sunday.

The Collect.

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



³ If the text of this sentence seems familiar, it is John 3.16, probably the most widely quoted text of the Bible.

And due to the rubric, the Collect for the Day is followed by the Collect for Ash Wednesday, which is found on Page 124:

**The first day of Lent, commonly called
Ash Wednesday.**

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ This Collect is to be said every day in Lent, after the Collect appointed for the day, until Palm Sunday.

JESUS said, *Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.* Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, *Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.* Then said the Jews unto him, *Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you; but I know him, and keep his saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.* Then said the Jews unto him, *Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.* Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple. (John 8:46-59)

God speaks to His own, and His own hear His Voice. If we are born of God, we shall surely enjoy His counsel and comfort. When God's Word is proclaimed with power and conviction, no argument can stand against it. Since the enemies of God cannot brook the preaching of the Word, and cannot refute it, the weapon of choice is to attack the messenger. Their great problem in attacking Christ is not only the fact that He is the Messenger, but also the Message. How often have we seen their futile attempts to trap Him in His Words redound to their detriment? Even the Church has often struggle with faith. The Church of the modern era no longer struggles with faith – they have lost it! Can it be true that those who believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ shall never see death? If we believe God, we will believe all that He has told us. Every material entity in a material world must fade away and die, but those who are born of the Spirit in Christ have spirits that shall never perish in death or Hell. What is it that makes a man own a reputation of character and strength? It is not his own bragging of himself for reputations are established by more than mere words – it is the testimony of others who know the man and his life that establishes strong reputation and character. Christ did not testify of Himself because His Father in Heaven had already given, and was giving, a Holy Testimony and Revelation of His Son. When we are under God's care and protection, the most violent of criminals cannot lay hand on us without the Father's permit.

46 *Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?* Has any man present brought charges against Christ? How often did they

tempt Him to make a misstep, but He always turned the tables on clerical rascals every bit as greedy in nature and egregious in false teaching as those modern day wonders who populate pulpits across America in our own day. Even when He proved to them their error, they never turned from it. To be honest, they could not turn, for they were of their children the devil.

47 *He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.* I never heard the counsel of another father and mother in my own home though it was given in every home in my neighborhood. I heard only the counsel of my own God-given parents. If we are sheep of our Special Shepherd, we may even hear the mumblings of other shepherds with other flocks, but is the Voice of our own shepherd that we hear and follow. It is a fact that wolves will not hear the gentle commands of the Good Shepherd. It is not their intent to hear, but to tear and destroy the sheep. They do not hear and follow because it is not in their nature to hear and follow.

48 *Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?* Since Christ has truly identified these culprits as not true members of the family of God, they return to their old, trite argument of bloodlines. They call Christ a Samaritan (which they do not consider members of Israel). Suddenly, just by merely speaking words of reason and logic – and doing or saying nothing vile – Christ is labelled as having a devil! Need I remind you that rulers of the Jews have committed blasphemy and, this, not the first time?

49 *Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.* Christ has accused these men of nothing that is not an absolute of the Holy Scriptures. Since Christ honors the Word of God the Father, and these men do not, which of the two have a devil? The Pharisees and Jews refuted, in custom, tradition, and action, the Word of God. They dishonor God thereby and even so His Son.

50 *And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.* Christ came to redeem and not to judge. The judgment has already been made by God's Holy Word. It is by the standard of that Word that men are judged. If we are IN Christ, we are not under the terms of the Law and condemnation. But these men were far from the gates of the Holy City of God. Their deeds would judge them by that perfect standard of the Law.

51 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.* This solution is too simple – too plain bread – for the sophisticated oracles of Judaism. How short a stride from hate and condemnation to freedom and liberty in Christ, but East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet:

OH, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet,
Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God's great Judgment Seat;

Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936)

52 *Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.* They are actually accusing Jesus of denying that Abraham followed God. They know that there is a grave in Machpelah that contains the bones of Abraham. Their dim wits, lighted by darkness only, cannot comprehend (or refuse to) the words of Christ. All they know and understand is the "here and now". An eternal Heaven escapes their imagination. They may make allusions to that Heaven, just as false professor of our own time do, but they do not believe that any "educated" marvel could ever seriously believe it.

53 *Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?* They know DEATH, but they do not know LIFE!

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Their scale-covered eyes do not see because they have dwelt in darkness so very long that they are blinded by Light.

54 *Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:* How can men know intimately a great King and not recognize His sons and daughters? It is actually impossible. The King sends His Son to greet those who claim His sovereignty. He forewarns them of His son's Coming. He has written to them of it, spoken of it to them by the prophets whom they killed, and now the genuine Article stands before them and they know it not – or DO they?

55 *Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.* It is likely that the Jews have a head knowledge of God, but they have changed His character and description from that which He claims to be, to one which suits their own passions. When we know God of a truth we cannot disavow His sayings as the Chart and Compass of our lives.

56 *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.* Quite often we fail to remember that Abraham was a Christian like unto the true Christian of this day. His view of Christ was ALL of faith. He looked forward, in faith, to the Coming Redeemer in Christ. He was preached the Gospel and he believed the Gospel. *Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. (Gal 3:6-8)* It was not the Stones of Sinai, or of Moses, that saves, but the Grace of God in Christ Jesus.

57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? God is the God of the living and not the dead. Of course, Jesus has seen Abraham. As a matter of fact, grasp this: He saw Abraham before Abraham saw himself.

58 *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.* Yes, He was before Abraham, He was before Adam, He was before the worlds (which He made) were cast into orbit by the artful Finger of God. He was before Gabriel and all created angels. Don't we recall that He was before the beginning of all things? There was never a time when Christ was not in the Eternal Presence – I AM!

59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. Ah, yes, the **Ancien' Regime!** Destroy all opposition – if not by words, then, by all means, with stones. Though truth may lie trampled beneath the iron heel of hate, it cannot be destroyed. Like the Spirit Itself, Truth shall arise time and again after the futile attempts of the ungodly to silence it. But, alas, it was not the appointed time of Christ to offer Himself. Though they would have stoned Him, He wonderfully passed through them, out of the Temple, under cover of Light. So may we all be protected from the wiles of the devil!

It is a great comfort to realize that our Lord is Eternally Present with His people, and He passes by unobserved by those who reject Him. Do you know the Presence of Christ in your heart today?

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

Bishop Roy is pastor of the biggest AOC parish West of the Mississippi and is in charge of the Diocese of the MidAmerica. Roy's sermons are well done and easy to understand. You always get something good out of them. Today is no exception.



Fifth Sunday in Lent
commonly called Passion Sunday
The Spirit v the Flesh
6 April 2014

Epistle: Hebrews: 9:11-15 Gospel: John 8:46-59

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

In this passage from the letter to the Hebrews the author explains the fulfillment that Christ complete with his perfection. He outlines that all the sacrifices from the time of inception in the Levitical and Mosaic laws were only good enough for purifying the flesh. The implication being, that as one bathes and yet gets dirty again, one is purified by these sacrifices, but they get 'dirty' again. The big difference being that the blood of Christ will purge your conscience or spirit of the dead works that permeate each human soul.

The perfect sacrifice, foreshadowed in the rites and sacrifices of the Old Testament, are now fulfilled in Christ. This scripture is the validation of Christ's work, the certification that he has because of what he did. The last verse ties this all up.

15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

49 Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honor my Father, and ye do dishonor me.

50 And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.

51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

In this Gospel passage, Christ is winnowing out the wheat from the tares. He is explaining to those who understand his words, that they by their understanding, have accepted Christ for who he is. Those who will not understand his words are not of Christ. When he spoke of not seeing death, of course he was speaking of spiritual death. Those who were questioning Christ were attacking Christ's character, they were impugning him by calling him a Samaritan or a devil.

Ironic, when the enemy has no ammunition, they make reasons for not believing Christ. That is not a new tactic, we see it used daily in political recourse. Attack the person, not their message.

52 Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

Once again, the crowd does not understand what Jesus is saying. They only see the surface, not the spiritual. They are fleshly minded, not spiritually minded. What Jesus was doing was certifying himself by expressing a number of prophetic concepts that these learned Jews should have known. An example can be made looking back to Christ early days on earth. When the Magi came to worship the king of the Jews, they used their secular sense to find him. They went to the capital city, Jerusalem to inquire the whereabouts of the newborn king. Herod, the Jewish king asked his scholars and scribes to read the prophets and find out where this king would be born. The scribes found the prophecy that indicated Bethlehem, just a few miles south of Jerusalem.

54 Jesus answered, If I honor myself, my honor is nothing: it is my Father that honoreth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

Again, Christ references the prophecies as to his coming. Notice in verse 54 he even gives them a nudge about their claim that they say God is who they worship. But then Jesus rebukes them in verse 55, indicating that they really don't know God. He also points to the fact that their earthly father, Abraham, rejoiced to see this day. Now that really gets their goat.

57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

These last three verses are a capstone of what is soon to be the coming passion and death of Christ. The Jews say that Christ couldn't possibly know Abraham, he, Christ was less than fifty years old. Jesus then tells them the truth, before Abraham was...I AM. Wow, not a static state, a state of being always. Never created, always...I AM. We can't wrap our minds around that concept. He is the alpha and the omega..to us. The beginning and the end, but he has always been. The great I AM.

And thus the great struggle that continues to this day. The fight between the Spirit and the Flesh. The Spirit which transcends all time and history against that which will one day fall away. The flesh that will one day cease to have life. The mortal that struggles against the immortal.

This sums up the forty days of Lent. We see this great war that took place. Christ, in the wilderness, at the beginning of his ministry, is tempted by Satan. Christ who will in just a few years lay down his life for our redemption, will be tempted by Satan to throw it all away. The fleshly world of the devil fought against the Spiritual world of the Son of God, the Spiritual world will win.

In the great sacrifice that Christ Jesus does for us, Death will be defanged. Death will lose its sting, Death will be defeated, not having the hold on Christ's own. The believer knows that there is resurrection, the believer knows that because of Jesus we will see that glorious day; there will be final victory.

15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

This coming promise, of eternal inheritance, is the keystone to the whole work of Jesus Christ, which we will commemorate in the next couple of weeks.

Let us rejoice in the coming Light. This season of lengthening days,(Lent) gives us hope of that redemption of those transgressions we inherited from our earthly father Adam will now be covered by the Blood of Jesus death, burial and resurrection...to the promise of eternal inheritance.

Alleluia and Amen.

Let us pray:

O GOD, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord; Vouchsafe us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy service; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O GOD of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength; by the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*



Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sermon

Bishop Dennis is a brilliant speaker. He is able to take biblical precepts and make them perfectly understandable, even to me. Oft he provides the text of his sermons and I take the utmost pleasure in passing them on:



Is God Fair?⁴

Psalm 51, Isaiah 1:10-20, 1 Peter 4:12-19

Is God fair? In the Monday night video we heard a university student tell the speaker religion is culturally conditioned, and, if there were a God He would not send anyone the hell for not being a Christian. He was basically saying four things:

First, all religions are invented by people to express their cultural views and prejudices in order to give themselves a sense of identity, unity, and divine approval.

Second, since all religions are human inventions they are not true.

Third, since they are invented by a culture they are culturally acquired much like taste in hairstyles and clothing fashions.

Fourth, if Christianity is true, and God does send people to hell only because they had the accidental misfortune to be born into a culture whose religion is not Christianity, then God is an arbitrary, cruel demon, rather than the loving God Christians talk about so much.

The speaker did a good job of refuting the student. He said if religion is culturally conditioned and acquired, then atheism is too, and a person becomes an atheist by being in a culture of atheism. And if atheism, or agnosticism, is culturally conditioned and acquired, it, too, is just an expression of the subjective values and beliefs of its culture, and has no more claim to be a true expression of reality than Christianity. Furthermore, a person cannot claim to know Christianity, or any other religion or belief, is culturally acquired unless he is given superior knowledge that is above the claim of all cultures and religions. But if all beliefs are culturally acquired, including atheism/agnosticism the atheist/agnostic can't even say all beliefs are culturally acquired because he would be speaking his own culturally acquired beliefs, and culturally acquired beliefs only express the cultural beliefs and prejudices of that culture. So that argument against Christianity is just absolutely devastating to atheism, agnosticism, and any view of morality, values, or the meaning of life, unless God exists, and gives knowledge that is above all human cultures and prejudices and views.

So the speaker did a good job of refuting culturally acquired religion. But the student who asked the question, also said it would be unfair of God to send someone to hell for being born into a culture that does not have Christianity as its religion. He was saying, "It's not my fault if I was born into a culture of atheism, and accept what that culture teaches. That is just an accident of birth. Therefore, it would be unfair of God to send me to hell for not being a Christian."

This brings me to the point of today's sermon; God doesn't send people to hell for not

⁴ The word FAIRNESS is not in the Bible. The word FAIR is, but only in the sense of nice to look at. Interesting, is it not?

being Christians. God sends people to hell for doing what they know is wrong. In other words, people don't go to hell because they don't have the full light of the Gospel of Christ. They go to hell because they aren't faithful to the light they do have. According to the Bible, they have quite a lot of light. Acts 14:16 and 17 tell us God suffers (allows) people to walk in their own ways. He allows them to make up their own religions and values and laws, and live by them. "Nevertheless He left not Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." The Bible is talking here about what theologians call Natural Revelation. It is saying God lets us do what we want, but He has also left a witness to Himself. We can deny His existence, but we all know about Him because He has been good to us. The implication, then, is, since God has been good to us, we should honour and love Him. But Natural Revelation goes further, saying we know God exists because nature reveals Him. "The heavens declare the glory of God," says Psalm 19:1. Romans 1:19 and 20 tell us "that which may be known of God is manifest," revealed to all, "For the invisible things of Him... are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead." According to the Bible, the problem of all people in all places is not the shortage of revelation, it is the rejection of the revelation they have. When they knew God through His revelation in creation, "they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Romans 1:18 explains this, saying, they "hold" meaning to hold in suppression "the truth in unrighteousness." The Gospel of John expresses this well, saying, "men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (Jn. 3:19). The light is there, but people love darkness.

Let's talk about those evil deeds for a moment. People have an innate sense of right and wrong. We may disagree on the details, but almost all of us would agree that some things are good and others are bad. And we expect others to recognize this. We talk about fairness and justice as self evident truth that is above all human inventions, philosophies, and ideals. We appeal to these truths in every day life. If a strong man pushes a sick man out of line at the grocery store, even an absolute moral relativist will say, "That's not fair. Go pick on someone your own size." He will appeal to sense of moral oughtness. We all have a sense that all people everywhere ought to live in accordance with a self-evident code of conduct. Again, we may differ over the details, but the general code is agreed upon. This is what the Bible refers to in Romans 2:14 and 15 as having the law of God written in our hearts. We often call this conscience. Yes, we can quench our consciences. But we are born with them and they must be quenched before they will allow us to do evil without remorse. This is the point, all have consciences. All have the law of God written in their hearts. No one goes to hell for breaking a commandment of God he doesn't know about or not believing in a Christ he hasn't heard about. He goes to hell for leaving undone the good he knows he ought to have done, and for doing the evil he knows he ought not to have done.

So, is God unfair to punish a person for an accident of birth? According to the Bible it is not just an accident of birth, it is a deliberate choice and way of life that intentionally excludes God and breaks His commandments. For God to exclude such a person is not unfair, it is justice.

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+Dennis Campbell
Bishop, Anglican Orthodox Church Diocese of Virginia
Rector, Holy Trinity Anglican Orthodox Church
Powhatan, Virginia

Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon

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



Fifth Sunday in Lent

In our gospel for today, our Lord said, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin. And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God (8:42-47). In a previous chapter, our Lord said, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life (St. John 5:24) Do you see the distinction being drawn? There were two groups: the unregenerate masses who belong to our adversary, and a believing remnant who are God's.

The unregenerate are the children of disobedience (Ephesians 5:6). They do not understand the words of Christ because they cannot hear them. As the apostle Paul explained, But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is image of God, should shine unto them (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

The remnant, on the other hand, have heard the words of Christ and have accepted them. Throughout the ages, they have sought to honor God through their obedience to his word. As the apostle John noted in his first epistle, And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in [Christ] and [Christ] in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us (3:24).

Now God did not give us his word as a draft for our approval, so either one accepts God's word written, or one will, by default, be in rejection of it. There are no exceptions. St. Paul wrote extensively on the Christian ethos. He knew what it meant to join "the dark side". He had once been an ignorant tool of the devil prior to his conversion via his persecution of the body of Christ (Acts 9:1-20). But after his conversion, the apostle proved to be a passionate and successful minister of the gospel.

But O how things have changed. Sadly, there are many within the mainline denominations who have sought to diminish St. Paul's credibility as a spokesman for our God. Those who would deny him his rightful place ought to "stand and deliver" on their position by answering the following queries: 1) Who, pray tell, appeared to Saul of Tarsus on that dusty road to Damascus?, and 2) With whom did the apostle commune in the wilderness of Arabia for some three years?, and 3) If the apostle was truly called of our Lord on that dusty road so long ago, then how on earth can any so-called Christian church or minister disparage him without being labeled a false church, with those who teach such being rightly called antichrist?

And think about the totality of the apostle's works on behalf of our Lord. His epistles contain the rubrics for church order and worship. He was called to supply form to the substance—to flesh out the specifics of what it means to have a church. He was called to preach and be heard of the remnant that they might be saved by the effectual working of the Holy Ghost. Thus to deny the credentials of the last apostle is to in effect close one's ears to the gospel of truth that he preached, and which was recorded for our edification.

So what have those churches and pastors which have rejected St. Paul's teachings gained for all their efforts? They have, in essence, exchanged the true gospel of our risen Lord for another gospel (Galatians 1:6-9), and on that account they have received a curse. Through their false teaching, they have slain the concept of inerrancy regarding God's word written in the hearts and minds of their congregations. They have also become cultists who gather around a figment of Christ, but not the only begotten Son of the Father. This is that other Christ or the spirit of antichrist which has been sown by Satan throughout the world since our Lord's first advent. And on account of this evil spiritual presence within an ever increasing number of churches, our Lord has been forced to stand outside their doors knocking to come in (Revelation 3:20). Sadly, this is in agreement with our gospel lesson, as the modern church has become like the unregenerate of the Jews, for only a remnant will hear and receive the truth.

J. C. Ryle once wrote concerning these last days, "...that the world will never be completely converted to Christianity by any existing agency, before the end comes. In spite of all that can be done by ministers, churches, schools and missions, the wheat and the tares will grow together until the harvest; and when the end comes, it will find the earth in much the same state that it was when the flood came in the days of Noah (St. Matthew 13:24-30; 24:37-39)... [and] that the widespread unbelief, indifference, formalism and wickedness, which are to be seen throughout Christendom, are only what we are taught to expect in God's Word. Troublous times, departures from the faith, evil men waxing worse and worse, love waxing cold, are things distinctly predicted."

Our Lord said of Noah's time that, ... as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be (St. Matthew 24:37-39). . Let us now look at the spiritual condition of humanity as described in Genesis 6: And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (v.5). And St. Paul noted in his second epistle to St. Timothy that, ...in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves... unthankful, unholy... lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof... (vv.2-5).

The apostle also forewarned that the church would experience apostasy prior to the return of our Lord. Consider his words in II Thessalonians 2: We beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be reveal, the son of perdition (vv.1-3). It will be that man of sin who will use a great

deception to cloud the minds of the unregenerated so that they will not turn unto Christ and be saved (II Thessalonians 2:7-12).

The prophet Isaiah was given a message which God had told him ahead of time would not be received and believed (6:9-13). It was a message meant for those who would hear even though they were few. God is interested in proclaiming the truth to all, but he knows that only a small segment of those who will hear will believe and turn unto him. They are the remnant. To quote Bishop Ryle once more: "I believe the grand purpose of the present dispensation is to gather out of the world an elect people, and not convert all mankind. It does not surprise me at all to hear that the heathen are not all converted when missionaries preach, and that believers are but a little flock in any congregation in my own land... The gospel is to be preached as a witness, and then the end shall come. This is the dispensation of election, and not of universal conversion."

And so it has been the solemn duty of every faithful Christian to be salt and light in this sinful world regardless of whether or not the masses accept our witness. As St. Paul wrote, knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men (II Corinthians 5:11). In that vein, we should pray for God's gift of faith to be spread abroad, and that God would bring a spirit of revival into the world in these last days. The power of praying Christians is infinite, for the Lord we serve is a mighty and sovereign God who cares for us and hears us. St. James tells us in his epistle that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (5:16).

St. Paul reminded young Timothy in his second epistle: And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will (2:25-26). Though many will perish, still we ought to pray for the unregenerate around us. Our duty is to give them the gospel of truth, to give it to them straight, and to keep giving it to them as God gives us the occasion so to do.

We closed our worship of Evening Prayer with A Prayer of St. Chrysostom which states in part, "Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them..." We may not always understand why God acts, or does not act in a particular matter for which we have petitioned. But we can rest assured that in his love for us, he will hear us. To that end, let us close with an excerpt from St. John 10:14, I am the good shepherd and know my sheep, and am known of mine. For the Remnant, those are most comfortable words indeed, so let us work to expand that Remnant as God gives us the leave to do in his service.

Let us pray,

O GOOD and gracious God, whose everlasting purpose has been to redeem thine elect saints from thy wrath to come, and to bring us into thy rest; assist us we pray that by means of thy most holy Spirit, we would be made a people fit not only for our work here, but in thy coming kingdom as well; for this we ask in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

After Church Hospitality

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

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
13 April 2013	Opportunity Available – Palm Sunday
20 April 2013	Opportunity Available – Easter Sunday

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

Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.

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

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

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

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

What is the commitment from the prayer team?

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

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

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

What should I ask for?

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

Updating the Team

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

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

them.

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

Travel

Paul Martin is on travel to San Diego, California this week.

Kurt Thomas is on travel this week.

Jack Arnold is on travel 26 March 2014 – 16 April 2014, visiting the Thomas family in Okinawa, Japan.

Birth

Joel Phillip Thompson, fifth child of Rev Paul and Elicia Thompson was born 9 February 2014. Both baby and mother are doing fine. Joel battled some jaundice for about three weeks, but he is looking much better and is over 10 pounds. He was baptized 9 March 2014, with a record crowd at church - 28. Please give thanks for the safe birth and pray that Joel will grow into a fine man.

Birthday

Dru Arnold celebrated her 59th Birthday on 2 February 2014.

Anniversary

Hap and Dru Arnold celebrated their 27th Anniversary on 21 February 2014.

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

Edsel passed away after a difficult time on 22 March 2014. Please give thanks for Edsel's time here on earth and for comfort, understanding, strength and guidance for his family who of necessity remain behind.

Judy Spencer left for home on 17 March 2014. Her family will be comforted in the days and weeks ahead for they know that today, she rejoices in the presence of her Lord. Please give thanks for her time here on earth and for comfort, understanding, strength and guidance for her husband Christian and their family who of necessity remain behind.

Dempsey passed away on 13 March 2014 from the complications of congestive heart failure. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and for comfort, understanding, strength and guidance for his family who of necessity remain behind.

Grace passed away on 8 March 2014. Please give thanks for her time here on earth and for comfort, understanding, strength and guidance for Grace and her family who of necessity remain behind.

Nearing the end of their time here on earth

Alan is a victim of metastasized colon cancer already destroying his liver. His youngest sister has put aside her hard-earned career to care for her brother in these days on earth. Please pray for him as he prepares to go home to be with his family who have gone before him. Please pray for comfort, understanding, strength and

guidance for Alan and his family who will of necessity remain behind.

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

Martha and Irene both have Alzheimer's Disease. Pray that their hearts will stay close to Jesus.

Walter has many health issues and is growing weaker and weaker. Pray Walter will learn to be able to swallow correctly.

Joan has had serious medical problems that have kept her confined. On 26 September 2013, she took a fall. 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

Brian has been treating for upper lung and bronchial area cancer. He has undergone radiation and four courses of chemotherapy; it has not worked. At present, it does not appear there is more the medical people can do. Brian has been advised his time here on earth is short. Please pray for a miraculous remission; if that not be God's will, please pray Brian's remaining time here on earth might be good and when the time to leave comes, it will be short and acceptable. Help Brian and his wonderful wife Mel keep their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry.

Sarah, wife of Rev Geordie (AOC – UK), has been treating for ovarian cancer. The treatment has not worked and she has been advised her time here on earth is short. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that Sarah's remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Sarah, Geordie and their family put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry.

Rev. Thomas Brooks is not improving and being kept alive by artificial machines. Please pray for a miraculous recovery and if that not be God's Will, a rapid passing to home. Help Thomas' family put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry

Ronnie has kidney cancer that has spread and the surgeons are very concerned. Please pray the medical team to formulate a successful treatment plan and for a miraculous remission; that Ronnie's remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Ronnie and family put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry.

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.

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

Sasha a young lady with a husband and two children had diagnosed with breast cancer whose cells have spread. They are now in the bone marrow, without a miracle from God she will be leaving soon. Right now she is in the hospital. 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

Weir is a survivor of two malignancies (prostate and colon). Recently Weir underwent further tests and he will have to have almost all of his large intestine removed. His surgery will be Friday 28 March 2014. All will appreciate your prayer.

Timothy Howes, age 90, is expected to undergo resection surgery for a twisted bowel on 16 March 2014, due to his age and other complications this is an extremely tense surgery. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also Timothy and his family, in particular his son Rev Ken, to put their worry on God's shoulders.

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 had surgery. Pray for complete remission and that 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

Liz Strauch had a pineal cyst, which in the end responded well to a surgical draining last year. Since November 2013, similar symptoms have returned. A CT Scan turned up what is thought to be either a new cyst or an enlarged pineal gland. More testing, including an EEG is in the works. She can no longer work. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Liz and her family, in particular her husband Ken and sons Caleb and Nathan; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find the best course of treatment and allow Liz to heal completely.

Steve fell from a roof Saturday, 5 April 2014, and is in critical condition in the hospital trauma unit. His injuries are multiple, extensive, severe, and life threatening. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Steve and his family; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment and allow Steve to heal completely.

Diane was hospitalized 25 March 2014, with a serious gastrointestinal related. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Diane and her family; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find the best course of treatment and allow Diane to heal completely.

Faye is in the hospital because she is weak has been receiving blood transfusions. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Faye and her family; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find the best course of treatment and allow Faye to heal completely.

Tom has heart and kidney problems. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Tom and his family; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment and allow Tom to heal completely.

Harold has had a severe stroke. He is now home, but his family is looking for a rehabilitation facility to help him recuperate. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Harold and his family; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people caring for him that they might find the best treatment facility to allow Harold to heal completely.

Amos was in the hospital a few months ago because of severe eye problems and is back there with the doctors examining him. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Amos and his family; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

Nathan has a tumor near his heart. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Nathan and his family; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

Joe has had a preliminary ALS diagnosis. Pray the final diagnosis will something that will allow him to continue taking care of his devoted young family. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Joe and his family; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of 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.

Preston is reacting poorly to recent neck surgery and now has problems with his liver count; Physicians feel that dialysis will help. There may be a blockage in the bowel and an operation might be necessary. Please pray for the medical team to pay attention and to their best to determine how to help Preston and for a good outcome. Pray also that Preston and family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders while Preston does his best to facilitate a return to good health.

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 which cannot be surgically removed due to the size and location. They are going to attempt chemotherapy. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Erica, 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.

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.

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.

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 has been having great difficulty breathing. Some days he can barely move, other days he feels almost perfect, he would like to know why and how to avoid the bad. Please pray doctors will find the problem and a solution. Pray he will be able to follow the medical advice. Pray that Mark and his family will be able to put their worry on God's back.

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.

Healing

Lucius Dabney (father of Rev Bryan Dabney) is now at home recovering from an infection. Please pray for a complete healing of the infection and return to health.

David has many concussions and unable to go to school, read books, watch TV and has headaches and migraines. He has trouble sleeping and his family will appreciate your prayers for this 10 year old young man.

Barbara Apple fell the week of 11 January 2014, in her home, breaking her right humerus (the large upper arm bone) in a spiral fracture, which cannot be set. Movement is very painful and due to a total lack of energy, she is more or less bedridden. Healing is going well at this point, but there is still some to go. Please pray for Barbara to put her trust in the Lord, look to Him for strength and for her to gain energy so she does not lose the mobility she has; pray for a full and rapid recovery. Please pray also for her husband Bob who is taking care of her that he might be comforted and strengthened in this time of stress.

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. Mary starts chemotherapy this week and it will go for six months, every other week. 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.

Gladys has breast cancer and has had a lumpectomy. She needs to take a year off of her work to have chemo treatments.

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.

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.

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 one more year. He has 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

Jane, US Army Fort Riley, KS, had a tumor, it was removed, it was thought that another had appeared; the pain is very great. She saw her new consulting surgeon and he determined the tumor has NOT returned and her pain is the result of the interior wounds from last year's surgery not being allowed to heal. Long story short...she was on a long-term Army medical profile from the surgical team that performed the surgery last year. The Army docs in Korea and Ft. Riley did not honor that profile and she was on normal unrestricted duty and this did not allow complete healing. She is now on restricted physical duty so she should be just fine in good time. Jane and her family ask that you give thanks for the healing and pray for a full recovery.

Jim has been hospitalized and had several operations for cancer the last few years. The physicians discovered a number of spots; but his exam was better than expected-prayer changes things and he thanks you for your prayers. Please continue him in prayer for he will have another scan in April.

Al had an abscess found on his liver for which he was hospitalized, it turned out to be benign and will not require surgery, he has been released from the hospital. Please give thanks for this good result and pray for continued healing.

Elma is suffering from cancer. She was taken home from the hospital on the advice of her Doctor. We were asked to pray that Elma's remaining time here on earth might be good and that Elma and family might put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry. Since then, Elma's Bishop told us a great Miracle of the Lord is working over Elma. Doctors sent her home to die, but now she seems to be doing all right. On behalf of her, thank you for all of your prayers. Please continue praying for her complete healing.

Ian Allen had back surgery on 5 February 2014, which went very very well. He is home and pain free. There is a recovery process ahead, but he has his daughter with him for the next week to help with that. Please give thanks for the surgical team paying close attention, doing their very best and for a good outcome. Pray for peace of mind for Ian and his family as healing continues.

Erica had surgery on 7 January 2014, for a non-malignant brain tumor. They got most, but not all of the tumor, things seem good for now. Please give thanks for the surgical team doing their very best and for a good outcome. Pray for peace of mind for Erica's family as healing and treatment continues.

Jim Curl had a stroke November 2013; he has recovered pretty well, but still has memory issues. Jim asks that you give thanks for his great recovery and pray that his memory will continue to improve.

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*.

Dennis has heart problems; now the medical people treating him discovered a large mass on his liver which turned out to be a cyst! 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.

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. While the surgery 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. She still requires 24 hour care, which *Mike* provides with little help

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.

Financial Guidance and Employment

Charlie is in need of both financial guidance and employment. Charlie feels that he has no skills, which is clearly incorrect, but nonetheless he feels that way. While on the one hand, he knows that is not right, on the other hand, he cannot shake that belief. Ask that God send the Holy Ghost into his heart for guidance. In addition, Charlie needs God's guidance as to how to handle his life from this point forward. After many years in the aerospace industry, he is looking for a place to employ his talents to the mutual benefit of a company. He asks that you pray for God to guide him to a new place to allow him to gain an even financial keel.

Carmine is looking for employment. Pray God will guide her and she will accept his guidance; something she has not always done, so your prayers will be especially appreciated.

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

Linda, Rick, Christian and Sawyer are a family experiencing spiritual, emotional and financial crisis at the current time. Pleaser pray for their guidance as to how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves ad more importantly have them draw closer to God and each other.

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. Pleaser pray for Lorna's healing and guidance on how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves.

Guidance

Kristen, Rickey and their two children ask you to pray for grace, wisdom and understanding as they attempt to cope with infidelity, separation and possibly divorce as a result of backsliding from the Lord into the World.

Erica is having school exams for the next several weeks. Please pray her mind will be open to what she has learned and her heart opened more and more as the years go by to Jesus.

Aaron has a problem seeing is where his life should be leading him. Please pray that he can listen to his father Paul and those around him who want him to work hard and obtain a real education now rather than just coast towards oblivion.

Danielle has accepted Christ as her Saviour. Pray she will read the Bible and meditate on His Word so she can grow in him.

Laurie is going through very trying personal problems right now. Please help her to open her heart to God's solutions to her problems.

Helene and her family ask your prayers for them as they deal with the loss of Alan, husband and father.

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.

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 for her business so that she might remain gainfully employed 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.

Anglican Orthodox Church

On 21 March 2014, *Faith Theological Seminary* in Gujranwala, Pakistan graduated a class. Please pray the Holy Ghost will fill the hearts of the graduates as they go forth to spread The Word of Jesus Christ our Saviour

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. 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

Nathalie is teaching English in a small western Ukrainian town where they are having so many problems. Pray for Nathalie and others around the world who are standing up for Christian principles in their countries.

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.

Thanksgiving

Paul Martin gives thanks for safe travel last week.

Hope DeLong gives thanks for safe travel last week.

Hap and Dru Arnold give thanks for safe travel last week.

Question that only you can ask

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

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

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

Epistleers

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

Date	Reader
13 April 2013	Dru Arnold – Palm Sunday
20 April 2013	Dru Arnold – Easter Sunday

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

13 April 2013 – Palm Sunday – 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**

20 April 2013 – Easter Sunday – Holy Communion – Mite Box Collection – What will we have? Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

27 April 2013 – First Sunday After Easter – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

4 May 2013 – Second Sunday After Easter – 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**

11 May 2013 – Third Sunday After Easter – Mothers Day – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

18 May 2013 – Fourth Sunday After Easter – 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**