



Anglican Orthodox Church

Worldwide Communion



Third Sunday after Easter

Mother's Day

Sunday Report



This is the third issue of the AOC Sunday Report. At the request of Bishop Jerry Ogles, the Faithful Centurion's Sunday Report has morphed into the AOC Worldwide Sunday Report. Bishop Jerry asks each of the parishes to contribute to the report, some as they have in the past others for the first time. If you have any suggestions for change, please send them to Bishop Jerry or me, rev_hap@faithfulcenturion.org.

Mothers Day - 11 May 2014, Anno Domini



Mothers Day 2014

Everyone's mother is SPECIAL, and rightly so. We owe our physical as well as social and spiritual (to an extent) being to our mother. At a time when our minds are easily influenced and molded, our mothers taught us earliest the meaning of right and wrong, courtesy and respect for others – especially our elders – and a love and regard for the great Being to whom we owe our Creation.

When just a toddler I can remember my mother going about her daily chores singing many of the great old hymns of the Church. They still ring in my mind's ear today....What a Friend we have in Jesus.....Alas, and did my Saviour Bleed.....At the Cross.....In the Garden.....Love lifted me.....Abide with me.....The Church's one Foundation.....Onward Christian Soldiers.....Amazing Grace.....and on, and on. Their beautiful words and melody have sustained me when times were difficult, and they have called me back home when I was oft a prodigal.

When I could barely speak and understand, my precious mother would sit me on her knee and tell me about Jesus. I did not understand her explanation of why He died for

me, but I knew that He did it out of an unknowable love because mother had said it. When I asked her where I came from, she answered from heaven.....and I believed it. We came from His Holy Presence as He had fashioned our members in the womb, from the Father, "trailing," as Longfellow has said, "clouds of glory."

I later went off to West Point and later to the service. I wandered away from some of the lessons my mother taught me. But ever in my memory were her words and her songs. Always and hauntingly they came back to my mind as consoling angels. My mother taught me that character mattered, that purity in all matters affecting life was the rule, and that love was greater than all else.

In May of 1991, my mother was taken to the hospital with chest pains. The physician did not consider them life-threatening, but admitted her to a private room for observation. That night my mother suffered a massive heart attack which destroyed much of her heart. The Doctor told us that she only had about 23% of usage left in her heart and that her outlook was grim. If she survived, she would never again be able to work in her treasured flower gardens or do anything else of note. I knew mother would not be happy in that sad state.

On the Saturday night before her death, she asked me, "Son, will you pray that I go easy?" I tried to make light of her comment and told her she would be fine, but she insisted. I did pray that the Lord would allow my mother's passing to be 'easy' and painless. Sunday morning, the Doctor called us in for an impromptu meeting. We feared the worst – and got it! The physician had gone in to see my mother around 10:00 A.M. on Sunday morning. She was in a light-hearted mood and responded to the doctor's joking comments with a smile. He said that as he reached up to get the attendant's chart, he looked back down at my mother and realized she was gone. Just like that! His heroic attempts at reviving her were futile. But mother had a great day beyond our knowing. She had gone to be with her Lord, Redeemer and Saviour – on Mother's Day.

Jerry L. Ogles
Presiding Bishop
Anglican Orthodox Church Worldwide

On Mothers

On this Mother's Day, it is very easy for us to look back at our mother's life and think of all the things we like about our mother. **We** like, it is all about our mother and what she did for us. The pivotal thought seems to be us. It is not about us, our / us is merely an adjective to describe a particular mother. For motherhood is about self-sacrifice. Putting the child's welfare above that of the mother.



The love of the mother for her children comes with a price. The price paid is not without return. The last words of almost all soldiers who die in battle are either "Mom" or "Jesus." There is a lesson all in of itself.

What did your mom chose? An extra child or an extra home or trailer? Your schooling, or her vacation without you? Dental work for you or a new car for her? Shoes for you or a fancy dress for her?

Jesus commanded us to follow Him, He who put our lives before His. Who on this

earth does this more consistently than mothers?

Saint James tells us in his Epistle, "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only." Who on this earth does this more consistently than mothers?

As Christians we need to uphold and recognize the example of sacrifice in motherhood so that we might understand the sacrifice made by God on our behalf in Jesus' death for our sin.



Third Sunday after Easter

Today was the Third Sunday after Easter, the central event of the Christian year, the celebration of our Lord, "Christ the Lord is Risen!"

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 –

If it were to be asked, What is the most sacred duty and the greatest source of our security in a Republic? The answer would be, An inviolable respect for the Constitution and Laws -- the first growing out of the last. ... A sacred respect for the constitutional law is the vital principle, the sustaining energy of a free government.

Alexander Hamilton
Essay in the American Daily Advertiser, 1794

TO MARY VAN DEUSEN, who had written him of her diagnosis of cancer: On his empathy for her and even more for those in her situation who do not have faith; on the right to happiness; and on how fear of cancer may be worse than the reality of cancer.

9 October 1955

I have just got your letter of the 3rd. The news which it contained came like a thunderbolt—especially as the letter began (and it was rather wonderful that it did begin) on such a trivial subject as my book. And if that first sentence flattered my egoism, imagine how I was rebuked when I came to the next, and was suddenly brought up against the real great issues.

It is difficult to write because you must know by now what I do not yet know. I can't tell whether I am writing to one who is giving thanks for an escape (oh how I hope you are in that position) or to one who is right up against the Cross. Thank heaven it is His Cross and not merely ours. I was most struck by your saying 'It doesn't seem too bad: for me, that is.' So I am sure you are being supported. (What must such a situation be to those who are the majority, who have no faith, who have never thought of death, and to whom all affliction is a mere meaningless, monstrous interruption of a worldly happiness to which they feel they have a right?)

God bless and keep you: and your husband too. You will indeed, indeed, be in my prayers. I once had a bad scare about cancer myself, so that part I can, I think, imagine. But of course it is now, for you, either better or worse than a scare. If the reality is worse. At any rate it must be different. (The Litany [in the Book of Common Prayer] distinguishes 'thine agony and blood sweat' from 'Thy cross and passion', the fear from the reality). You know how I shall await your next letter.

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

Refusing or not refusing to execute a law to stamp it with its final character ... makes the Judiciary department paramount in fact to the Legislature, which was never intended and can never be proper.

James Madison
letter to John Brown, 1788

On perfection and failure

No amount of falls will really undo us if we keep picking ourselves up each time. We shall of course be very muddy and tattered children by the time we reach home. But the bathrooms are all ready, the towels put out, & the clean clothes are in the airing cupboard. The only fatal thing is to lose one's temper and give it up. It is when we notice the dirt that God is most present in us; it is the very sign of His presence.

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

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

St. Mark 10:25

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

St. John 8:47

You call me eternal, then do not seek me. You call me fair, then do not love me.
You call me gracious, then do not trust me. You call me just, then do not fear me.
You call me life, then do not choose me. You call me light, then do not see me.
You call me Lord, then do not respect me. You call me Master, then do not obey me.
You call me merciful, then do not thank me. You call me mighty, then do not honor me.
You call me noble, then do not serve me. You call me rich, then do not ask me.
You call me Savior, then do not praise me.
You call me Shepherd, then do not follow me.
You call me the Way, then do not walk with me.
You call me wise, then do not heed me.
You call me Son of God, then do not worship me.
When I abandon you, then do not blame me.

A poem on the door of the Lubeck Cathedral in Lubeck, Germany.

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

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

Let us never be surprised at the wickedness there is in the world. Let us mourn over it and labour to make it less, but let us never be surprised at its extent. There is nothing that the heart of man is not capable of conceiving, or the hand of man of doing. As long as we live let us mistrust our own hearts (Jer. 17:9).

JC Ryle
19th century Anglican bishop and author

We have been in many a trial, but we have never yet been cast where we could not find in our God all that we needed. Let us then be encouraged to trust in the Lord for ever, assured that his ever lasting strength will be, as it has been, our succour and stay.

Charles H. Spurgeon
19th century English pastor and author
(Morning and Evening, p. 375).

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

Aesop
6th century BC Greek philosopher and author

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

William Jenner
20th century American senator

Even years after his death, the Roman Senate continued to cry ‘Hannibal is at the gates,’ using the peoples’ fear of Hannibal exactly as the U.S. government and its lapdog politicians today use the myth of terrorism. We are sacrificing liberty for ‘security’ because of the created, imagined threat of terrorists. The government bureaucracy will never accept responsibility for the collapsing economy, and the elite who run the United States will never give up power...The people are now the enemy of the state, and their remaining wealth is seen by the politicians as their solution to maintaining perpetual power. .. All governments turn on their own people in their final days in order to retain power... Something Americans don’t understand: There can be no free society once government has granted itself the power to confiscate property, imprison people under any pretext (or without a pretext) and without charge. This is now true in America... But even in the face of economic chaos, the United States is warmongering under one pretense or another. War hides the crimes of government... There is plenty of historical precedent for this, going back to the decline and fall of Rome... If you have been reading beyond the controlled media, you know very well the seriousness of the situation... Hannibal is not the enemy. The enemy comes from within.

Bob Livingston
20th and 21st century American conservative commentator
editor of the Personal Liberty Digest

The Global Warming hysteria is about absolute power over every man, woman and child on earth... Environmentalism is wealth redistribution on a global scale... The liberal billionaire who clamors about sustainability likes progress. What he dislikes is the middle class with its mass produced cars and homes... He thinks, in all sincerity,

that they would be happier and more spiritually fulfilled as peasants. It is not an original idea. The Industrial Revolution had hardly begun revolving when the 'Back to Nature' crowd began insisting that it was time to learn a more harmonious life by going back to the farm... The Soviet idea of progress was feudalism dressed up in Socialist red. Environmentalism dresses up feudalism in Green. It seeks to reverse all progress that we have made in the name of progress. Environmentalism is as sophisticated as a Soviet collective farm, as modern as the homeless people dragging bags of cans along on sticks... and as smart as a slum made of trash. Beneath all the empty chatter about social riches and sustainability is that need to impose progressive misery.

Daniel Greenfield

21st century American commentator
(The Environmental Apocalypse, 4-23-14).

Propers

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

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

The propers are the same each year, except if a Red Letter Feast, that is one with propers in the prayerbook, falls on a Sunday, then those propers are to be read instead, except in a White Season, where it is put off. Red Letter Feasts, so called because in the Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

The Propers for today are found on Page 173-174, with the Collect first:

The Third Sunday after Easter.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The Epistle for today came from the Second Chapter of the First Epistle of Saint Peter beginning at the Eleventh Verse. Peter tells us to live a good life, to follow the directions Jesus left us, to make ourselves positive examples of citizen to others, to be leaders of our community, drawing people towards God. To live out the life Jesus commanded, to do nothing to draw ill repute on the Word of God. To be truly free and follow freedom to where God wants us to be, not to Donkey Island, where false freedom takes so many.

DEARLY beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Today's Gospel came from the Sixteenth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John beginning at the Sixteenth Verse.

Jesus warns his disciples of the events about to unfold. He is to be taken from them shortly by the painful death on the Cross for our redemption. He will not be with them here on earth. Yet, after three days time He will Rise from death, having overcome death for us. When He is gone from us we are sorrowful, just like the disciples. He came back from death for us. And yet He was to leave again, yet not be gone from us as the Father would send the Holy Ghost to make His abode in our hearts and bring Jesus to us.

JESUS said to his disciples, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father? They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith. Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

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

Third Sunday after Easter

St Andrew's Anglican Orthodox Church

11 May 2014, Anno Domini (In the Year of our Lord)

The Third Sunday after Easter.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they



may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

1 *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.* 2 *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.* 3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* 4 *And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.* 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* 7 *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.* 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, *Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?* 10 *Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.* 11 *Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.* 12 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.* 13 *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.* 14 *If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.* (John 14:1-14)

The unsurpassed serenity of the heart of Christ is so well demonstrated in His counsel to us, moments before His passion, to not let **OUR** hearts be troubled. What magnanimity is demonstrated in a heart that cares for our peace at a time when the scurrilous clouds of pain and death hang, as the Sword of Damocles, over His virtuous head - but with a greater certainty of fulfillment. In fact, the Lord has only sought to lift our hearts and spirits in these last days of His Passion and Death. Should He not occupy His mind with the thoughts of a brutally unfair trial that looms ahead...the humiliation and suffering...the horrible death of the Cross? Yet, instead, His heart is possessed by an undying Love for His own whose fragile existence will be so rocked by the coming events. This is the perfect Man and the Perfect God.

General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur, was a stellar cadet in his early years at the US Military Academy at West Point. He later became the Superintendent of the Academy and made many improvements to the program there that prevail until today. Months before his death, MacArthur delivered his Farewell Address to the Corps of Cadets at West Point on May 12, 1962. The General concluded his remarks with: *"Today marks my final roll call with you. But I want you to know that when I cross the river, my last conscious thoughts will be of the Corps, and the Corps, and the Corps."* Those were memorable lines with which to conclude a remarkable and fascinating military career. But look at the concluding words of Christ, and His Love demonstrated in them, on the eve of an ordeal of which great men of history could never have contemplated without an overarching obsession. Truly, He loved us until the end.

1 *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.* In the concluding verse of the last chapter, Jesus has told Peter that he will deny Him thrice before the cock crows. Now, He continues with the loving counsel to us ward that we not allow our hearts to be troubled on account of events about to unfold. These words offer comfort to Peter, but not to him alone for the pronoun 'YE' is plural and signifies its meaning to each of us. There are considerations that transcend pain, suffering and

death. The kind of love that filled the heart of our Lord, and by adoption, our own hearts, is that which transcends death. Truth, Light, Life, Love – all transcend death for their quality is not of the temporary expanse of this earthly life, but comes from the Eternity of Heaven. It is not possible to have a firm faith in God the Father without a corresponding faith in God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.* As a good Hebrew Son upon betrothal to His future Bride, He will go and prepare a place of lodging for Himself and His Bride under the supervision of His Father. Of course, the provision is made by the Father as well in that He has many mansions that will afford residence for the fullness of the Wedding Feast. When preparation are complete, whether morning, noon, or late night, the Son will come for His Bride – the Church. He prepares a place for us in two ways at least: by dying on the Cross at Calvary thus purchasing our redemption so that we would be made worthy through that sacrifice; and, secondly, by ascending to the right hand of the Father to make timely intercession for His Elect.

3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* Noah found the only place of security was in the Ark of God when God said unto Noah, *And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.* (Gen 7:1) You will note that God did not tell Noah to GO into the Ark, but COME into the Ark, because the place of security is always the place of God's Presence. Our hope would not be full without the sure knowledge that we would be called to be with Christ at His Coming. We shall live by the Rovers of Waters and eat of the fruit of the Tree of Life, and every provision made for our souls in an Eternity with Christ. We shall not hang our harps in despondency upon the willows of Babylon, but sing our songs to Zion in the New Jerusalem prepared by our Lord. (Psalms 137:3-4)

4 *And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.* Do we KNOW the WAY? If not, we are about to be told. Oftentimes, we know more than we realize. The possession of knowledge itself is not always a guarantee of wisdom, but knowing the means of employing the knowledge that we have is the key to Wisdom. All of the disciples KNEW Christ, but did they truly know His full Person and nature? As we read the Gospels, does the beauty and nature of Christ burst upon our hearts with the warm love of KNOWING Him? Or do we simply read dead words. If the Words of Scripture are not accented with Love and Life, they remain dead to the marginal believer.

5 *Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?* If Christ says we KNOW the Way, do we believe Him? Apparently, Thomas had yet to learn that the Words of Christ were Truth only. It is, by the way, perfectly normal that we should at times question our faith and seek further assurance from Christ in study and in prayer. So we mustn't judge Thomas more harshly than we judge ourselves. Even when we began our Bible study with a complete trust in the Word, our studies should lead us to question and seek fuller Light.

6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* There is no Life apart from that offered in Christ. Have you believed that there is no life apart from that granted in Christ – that He is the Creator of life itself? *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.* (John 1:3-4) Have you believed that He is the Way (DOOR to the Sheepfold) and that there is no other entry

but by Him? If so, you will know that He is the WAY! *Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.* (John 10:7) Have you believed His message? Have you known Him to be the Truth personified? *But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:* (Eph 4:20-21) You may know all of the above facts intellectually, but if they have not come to be the Crown Jewel of your heart, they are dead facts to you.

⁷ *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.* The faith of Abraham was a great faith. It looked forward in promise and hope to the coming of Christ. In that faith, Abraham KNEW God the Father. Without that nature of Christ, made visible to us in His Incarnation, we could not know the mercy, truth, and grace of God the Father. Christ is, as we would have said in the Tennessee vernacular, "the spitting image of His Father!" In a note I earlier shared on the Trinity, Dr. Nathan Wood (The Secret of the Universe) illustrates its nature in terms of directions (dimensions) in space. Without three directions (dimensions) there is no space. All three dimensions are required to establish space. He further disannuls the claim, by some, of the impracticability of Three Persons in one Godhead when they offer the formula, $1+1+1=3$. They claim that this would cause God to be three gods. But Dr. Wood gives the formula another way, $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$ in which the very nature of each component part of the Trinity equals the whole and each member totally pervades the nature of each OTHER member.

⁸ *Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.* Light itself resides in God – the Father, the son, & the Holy Ghost. Light itself is not visible to the human eye. It can pass through a dark vacuum and never be seen by us, yet it is there. In order for us to know light, it must impact a material object. That material object of god the Father is Jesus Christ. He came in a physical body so that we may, by knowing and seeing Him, know the Father and see the Father. Philip desired some partial revelation of the Father by Christ not knowing that all that Christ was pictured the Father in full detail.

⁹ *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?* Jesus exercises a patience dictated by love when answering Philip. Philip was one of the first disciples to be called (John 1:43) yet he had not learned fully in his heart that Christ was a full revelation of the Father. After the Crucifixion and Resurrection of the Lord, we hear no more of these doubtful questions, for the Holy Ghost will bring all things to remembrance of those things written of Christ in the Scriptures.

¹⁰ *Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.* If we look closely, we may read a stinging rebuke to our own living testimony. All that Christ did and said was so much perfectly representative of the Father that it would be nigh on to impossible to miss. When men look at our actions and words, do they see the Father with whom we, too, are supposed to be One?

¹¹ *Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.* If you do not believe the very Words of Christ, than, at least, believe Him by His actions and life. Can humankind raise another from the sleep of death as Christ raised Lazarus? Can humankind restore vision to eyes that have been

dark from birth, or restore a leper, or heal the lame? Can humankind walk on water? Did Christ these things?

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. Please do not misunderstand these words to mean that believers can entertain with their works, or perform wonders for profit. If our minds are conformed to the Mind of God, we shall do the works of God without fanfare and solely to His Glory. Our works, therefore, will never be showy or prideful, but will reflect the perfect will of God. The Lord Jesus Christ was confined to a body while in this life. The physical limitations prevented Him from doing that which He could accomplish on our behalf when He was at the right hand of the Father. The Holy Ghost, our Comforter, is an omnipresent agency whereby all things may be accomplished at all places, and at all times, according to the Father's will.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. This does not have the meaning that many modern professors force upon it. As commissioned agents of the Lord Jesus Christ, we do have the authority to act in His name just as a commissioned officer of the military has the authority to act in the name of the President; but we do not have license to act outside the purpose, will, and intent of the authority in whose name we act. Those things that we ask in the Name of Christ will never be things that are contrary to His will to grant. The Father is glorified when the Redeemed of Christ ask only those things which it is the Father's good pleasure to grant.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. The charismatics have falsely insisted that we can demand things of God and that He must grant them or break His promise. Do you agree with this deceptive claim? Suppose we ask and God does not grant? Why has our prayer failed? There are two primary reasons given in Scripture, all relating to the Sovereign Will of God: 1) *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.* (James 4:3) or, 2) *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.* (Psalms 66:18) Where may we find the perfect solution to the dilemma we may face in the above? Why not resort to the very counsel of Christ given in Matthew 6 - ***Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*** (Matt 6:9-13) What untoward request does this prayer make? Not one! It opens with an honorific to God. It is a 'communion' prayer because it begins with "OUR". It prays for our daily bread which it is the Lord's will to grant always. It evokes the will of God on our lives on earth as well as it is done in heaven. It begs forgiveness for transgressions, which are many, and perseverance against the temptations of the world. It ends with a further acknowledgement of God, His Kingdom, His Power, and His Glory (not ours). AMEN. There is not a single selfish request in this prayer, and it only asks that the will of God be done – not MY will, but THINE!

Have your prayers been like unto this model of all prayers?

*Sermon – Reverend Jack Arnold - Time and Action
Church of the Faithful Centurion - Descanso, California*

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

We are in the Easter Season which consists of Easter and the following four Sundays, until we get to Rogation Sunday. This is a time we should work on centering our lives on the central figure in our religion, Jesus Christ.



Consider these words from the Collect:

... who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same...

If we will listen to Him, God will always provide the light to show us where "We have erred, and strayed from *His* ways like lost sheep. *Where* we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. *Where* we have offended against *His* holy laws. *Where* we have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done1..." He does this so that we might return to His Path. He does not show us where we have erred for no reason, but rather that we might use His Light to return to the path that brings us to His World. Then we can shine that Light for others to see, that they might pick up their torches and bring His Light into the darkness of the world, be it the Western Civilized World or the Eastern World. First we have to let His Light into our hearts before we can shine it to others that they may see the works of His Light. Then we shall transform the world from total darkness, to that of a total light. At least that is what we are always striving to work towards, even when evil is often thwarting our efforts to the maximum. If evil is thwarting our efforts than we all must put in 110% to stop evil and combat it across the world wherever it is. We must never, never, never, ever give up on this fight.

We must fight it wherever and whenever we run across it. We must not let the little and big evils in this life get us down or defeat us. We must rely on the guiding power of the Holy Ghost and God's unlimited grace to save the day. I know that this week, I am counting my blessings that God gave me the grace to deal with an absolutely horrific test situation and dealing with it. His Grace can help you out of any horrific situation, but first you have to ask and accept His help, which is a universal theme in our sermons here, because it is a truth and one that Jesus preached, that is that we have to accept Him into our hearts, if we are to become truly Christians.

I met a Navy SEAL in Guam, who gave the most excellent sermon that we must be on the offense in the battle against Satan, never defense. The SEAL noted that Paul did not describe any sort of back plating whatsoever, hinting that Christianity was an offense based, not defense based religion. We must never our back towards the enemy, but rather face forward and attack. The best defense is a good offense as in every case. We must never cease our fight against Satan, for he is powerful here on earth, tricking

1 General Confession – BCP Page 6

many. We are often outnumbered in the fight. Numbers matter not. We must always fight with all we have every time. We must carry on; we must storm the beaches of Hell itself, and keep on persevering in good times and in bad times.

Paul tells us that if we follow Christ's example, we will live lives like His to the extent we can. We will do good, be law abiding, work hard, be generous to our fellow human beings, help where we can, pray for help when we can find no physical way to help. It may be hard to do any physical help, but if you are generous and prayerful, you can often do good even when physical help is next to impossible. Be good citizens, be good neighbors, take particular care of our Christian family. In short, do what Christ would do as far as it is in us. Let us do our best to think in hard and trying times, what would Jesus do in our situation, and then act in a manner most like Him. In order to make the world a better place, we first have to start with our selves then work out word, applying the principles of Christ to our lives. God does not ask us to be perfect; He does ask us to do our best to try to be perfect, to follow Jesus' lead to the extent we have it in us. Each of us is different, some are in truth better than others. God holds us each to the same standard, that is to do our best. Not to be better than any other particular person, but to do our best to follow His Instructions. Being better than someone else is of no account, what is of account is following His Instructions to the best of YOUR ability.

Don't think of trying to be better than your neighbor, think of being better than you are. Be better than you were yesterday, if you do this, then you will improve day by day, year by year.

In the Gospel according to Saint John, Jesus tells of His impending bodily death and resurrection. He reminds us that if we have eternal life, sorrow, even the sorrow of death is transient, for He has conquered death. Any irritations or sorrows, large ones or small ones, are in the large scheme of things (eternity that is) very small and insignificant compared to our future with Him in heaven. We have to keep this in mind throughout our travel along the straight and narrow upward path. His One Sacrifice, made One Time, for All Mankind, for All Time is that joy that no man can take from us. But, if we want to share in that eternal life, we need to see the error of our ways in the Light of His Light and take actions to follow Him.

Often it seems much easier to take the path of least resistance, to quit our work at the first sign of effort, to goof off when "no one" is looking. But in the end, the right thing to do is always the easiest. The most profitable. The one that will result in happiness. It might seem hard, but it will not be as hard as doing the "easy" thing.

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

It is by our actions we are known.

Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

*God • Honor • Country • Family
for all eternity*

As we go off on our business, please recall this quote from GK Chesterton:

*"Christianity has not been tried and found wanting;
it has been found difficult and not tried."*

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:



What Makes You Happy? (Part Two)

John 16:16-22

Third Sunday after Easter

May 11, 2014

According to Thomas Jefferson and the people who signed the Declaration of Independence, "All men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." People have differing views about what makes us happy, but one thing is sure, we do pursue it. Most of us spend most of our lives pursuing happiness. Many of the best selling books are about finding happiness. Even many "Christian" books have happiness as their theme. Tim LaHaye's How to be Happy Though Married, and Phil Robertson's, Happy, Happy, Happy are examples of this.

Why do people have this preoccupation with happiness? The answer is found in the Bible, in Genesis 3:6: "she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." The "fruit" is the forbidden fruit, which Adam and Eve were commanded not to eat by God Himself. And the result of their disobedience is the loss of paradise and the fall into misery described in Genesis 3:7-24. That misery includes the pain of childbirth, discord between people, even in the family, natural disasters, sickness, death, and worst of all, the wrath of God for ruining His world and destroying ourselves. In other words, unhappiness, a deep, deep discontent, depression, and sickness of the soul, became the normal condition of human existence. This unhappiness is naturally accompanied by a frantic search for something to heal that condition, and that search has become the great quest of human life. It is this condition of misery that I am calling, "unhappiness," and I am calling the healing of this condition, "happiness."

But is the healing of this condition possible? Didn't God Himself say "cursed is the ground for thy sake: in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life"? In one sense, God was talking there about eating the fruits of the earth in sorrow due to the sweat and strain and grief involved in earning a living and growing the crops. In another sense, He was saying we will eat the curse every day of our lives. We will partake of this great sorrow of Fallenness and Sin, and we will partake of its devastating effects in this world, and in our lives, and in the lives of our families and friends and communities, and even our churches, every day for as long as we live. Even Christ said, "ye shall weep and lament," "ye shall be sorrowful."

Does God care about our condition? Should He? He is so vast and great, and He doesn't need us. He has everything He needs within Himself. There is a school of thought that says God created people because He was lonely and wanted someone to love Him. It interprets the Bible as a story of God begging people to love Him. But that

² Bishop Dennis is discussing happiness, this is a different word than fun. Please consider the difference between the two as you read this.

view is not accurate. God created us to enjoy Him. He created us to have the joy of seeing and knowing Him, of basking in His love. He didn't create us to fulfill a need in Him. He created us to share Himself with us.

But we have rejected Him. We have tried to find our happiness in other things, things that do not and cannot cure the sickness in our souls. So we naturally ask if God cares. And, those who really ponder this question ask, why should He? What is man that He should be mindful of us? Why should He bother with us? We left Him. We spurned His love, hated His commandments, and set ourselves up as gods of our own lives. Why should He care about our happiness?

I think God does care about our happiness, real happiness, which the Bible describes as joy, peace, contentment, and as eternal and abundant life. The disciples, in John 16, were in great sorrow. They had left everything to follow Christ, and He was talking about leaving them. As far as they were concerned He was deserting them. And with Him would go all their happiness because they defined happiness as worldly abundance and indulgence, and that is what they thought Jesus had come to give them. But Jesus said their sorrow shall be turned into joy (Jn. 16:20). They shall have exceeding gladness. Is He promising them health and wealth? No. Is He promising them the euphoric feelings some people confuse with happiness? No. He is talking about His resurrection, about His coming back to them from the grave and ending their sorrow over His death. But He is also talking about more. He is talking about giving them true happiness, real joy, abundant and eternal life. He is talking about breaking the power of sin and death and hell that has imprisoned humanity since the Fall. He is talking about giving them life as God intended it, and as we had it in the paradise of Eden.

Most of that will come to us in the future, when we lay down this tabernacle of flesh and dwell with Christ in Heaven. Ultimately it will come when Christ returns in His Second Advent to "judge the quick and the dead" and to restore the creation to its original goodness. In that new earth He will dry every tear and all the sorrows of earth will be will be turned to joy.

It is important to know that our Lord says this joy will come from seeing Him. It will not come from dwelling in the renewed earth, though that will be beautiful and wonderful. It will not come from the renewed bodies, pulsing with health and strength we can only imagine now, though that will be beautiful and wonderful. Our joy, our happiness will be found in Christ. When we see Him, everything else will seem insignificant.

Part of the message of our reading from John's Gospel is that we can see Jesus now, in this life, too. True, we see through a glass darkly. True, we see with the eyes of faith rather than our physical eyes. And, true, our view of Christ is often clouded by fears and doubts and the sorrows of life. But we do see. And it is as we are true to what we see in Him, as we know His grace, and trust His promises that we find true happiness even in the midst of this world of woe. Beloved, see Christ

--

+Dennis Campbell

Bishop, Anglican Orthodox Church Diocese of Virginia

Rector, Holy Trinity Anglican Orthodox Church

Powhatan, Virginia

www.HolyTrinityAnglicanOrthodoxChurch.org

www.lifeinthescrptures.blogspot.com

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 Epiphany.

Third Sunday after Easter

11 May 2014

Mother's Day

Ps 36:5 1 Sam 2:1b-10 Acts 2:22-36

Mothers in the Bible

Hannah-Samuel;

Naomi-Ruth;

Elizabeth-John B.;

Mary-Jesus;

Lois, Eunice-Timothy



AND Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

2 There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

4 The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

5 They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

6 The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

7 The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them.

9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

10 The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the Lord shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

The passage from is Hannah's prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for her first born son, Samuel. Hannah had been unable to have children. She prayed that God would give her a son and she promised to give that son to the Lord's work. Hannah would bear a son within that year. She dedicates him to the Lord and gives him to Eli the high priest to raise in holy orders. Hannah would have several other children, sons and daughters.

This story of Hannah is not the first, nor the last account of a loving mother and her children.

The mothers I have listed are just a few of the stories we can read in the Bible that will give us the great example of a loving mother.

In the story of Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth we find a mother who will love her son's wife as her own child. The story is that Naomi and her husband and two sons will go live in Moab. After a while Naomi's husband dies. Her two sons marry local girls and then they die. Naomi feels that it is time to return home to Judah. She tells her two daughter in laws that they should return to their own people. One does the other stays with Naomi. Ruth tells Naomi that her people are Ruth's people, her God is Ruth's God. This declaration speaks volumes about how Naomi must have treated her daughter in laws. There was great respect here.

So as the story continues Naomi and Ruth return to the town of Bethlehem. Naomi has a relative there who is quite wealthy, a major landowner and farmer. Ruth offers to glean the fields of this kinsman of Naomi to the two of them will be able to eat. The kinsman, Boaz by name notices Ruth. He wants to help Ruth because of her kindness to Naomi.

The rest of the story is the wonderful concept of redemption. Ruth is married to Boaz, she bares him a son named Obed. Obed has a son named Jesse who is the father of David. How is this redemption ? Ruth was a stranger to the people of Bethlehem. She was 'adopted' by her mother in law. From this great act of love Ruth will be part of the lineage of David who is in the lineage of Jesus. What a loving mother Naomi was to her daughter in law.

Elizabeth, a faithful wife of a priest in the tribe of Levi who was named Zacharias, will suffer the shame of being childless. In the narrative we find the angel Gabriel bringing great news to two families. When Mary, a virgin, was told by Gabriel that she would conceive of the Holy Ghost a son, who would be named Jesus. The angel would certify the miracle of the virgin birth with the miracle of Mary's cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy in her old age. Wonderful verse of scripture, Luke 1:37. "...For with God nothing shall be impossible."

With these two mothers, Elizabeth and Mary, they would give up their sons to the greatest ministry mankind has ever known. John would announce the coming of the long anticipated Messiah. Jesus would be that long anticipated One. He who would bring salvation unto all mankind. These mothers would give up their respective sons, to untimely deaths. And yet they would be the best mothers they could be, possibly only knowing part of what was to come in each life and yet still being the best they could in raising these boys to manhood.

In the last example of mothers today, let us look at the two women who would influence a young missionary/pastor and eventually bishop of the early church. Lois and her daughter Eunice would both be instrumental in raising a young boy, Timothy, in the way of the Lord.

5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Here we read St. Paul's charge to Timothy to remember what he has learned from the faith of his grandmother and mother. Paul is giving these two ladies great praise for what they did in raising Timothy to be a faithful young believer. Wow what a strong message to us today. When we look at the examples of the mothers down through the ages as depicted in the Scripture, let us bear in mind and meditate on the great work that they did in guiding their children in the faith.

As we remember our mothers this day let us understand that being a mother comes with a great responsibility. Mothers of all times and places in history, have been the bulwark of civilization. Because of faithful, strong, kind and loving mothers we have reason to rejoice.

Every mother is special to her children, every mother should be honored this day. (Ex.20:12 ...honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.)

Today is the day we honor mothers. Let us honor and love our mothers, grandmothers and those who are like mothers to us not only today but throughout the year.

Let us pray:

ALMIGHTY God, who alone gavest us the breath of life, and alone canst keep alive in us the holy desires thou dost impart; We beseech thee, for thy compassion's sake, to sanctify all our thoughts and endeavours; that we may neither begin an action without a pure intention nor continue it without thy blessing. And grant that, having the eyes of the mind opened to behold things invisible and unseen, we may in heart be inspired by thy wisdom, and in work be upheld by thy strength, and in the end be accepted of thee as thy faithful servants; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, we entrust all who are dear to us; most especially this day, our mothers; who to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come; knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon

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



Third Sunday after Easter

In his first general epistle (I St. Peter 2:11), the apostle Peter referred to Christians as, strangers and pilgrims. How true, for it is, after all, quite understandable for the Bible-believing Christian to find himself or herself "on the outs" as it were, in today's world. We are "on the outs" because we have chosen to follow a different path— one which leads to life everlasting in God's kingdom— as opposed to that wide path that leads to destruction (St. Matthew 7:13-14).

The word 'stranger' is translated from the Greek word *pariokos* which Thayer's Lexicon describes as being, "one who lives as a stranger and sojourner upon the earth". The word 'pilgrim' in Greek is *parepidemos* and is translated as "one who comes from a foreign place to reside in a new land." Taken together, they speak of our status as

believing Christians with regard to this world system, and how we are to live within the same. Their meaning is clear and may be expressed in this way: If we be in Christ Jesus, then we are not of this world. In point of fact, we are estranged from it.

Consider our Lord's words following the Last Supper when prayed for the disciples as well as for all who would accept him as their Saviour: ...They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world (St. John 17:16). And the apostle John warned us to, Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him (I St. John 2:15). And St. Paul noted that, Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual (I Corinthians 2:12-13).

Think on that for a moment. As born-again believers in Jesus Christ, we have received the Holy Ghost who guides us into all truth. We are no longer alive to this world system but have died to it being reborn into a new life and a new way of living. The apostle Peter noted that, Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles... wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you... (I St. Peter 4:1-4). Ergo, we are strangers to sin. We are not entertained by it. We desire to be distant from it. In our parlance, to be a stranger means being unfamiliar with someone or some thing. Strangers stand out. They appear detached. And because they are these things, they are often shunned as being "odd" or "different", even "alien". And we are pilgrims, as we are seeking a new place to live— a better country, that is an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city (Hebrews 11:16). Just like the Pilgrims of Plymouth Rock, we are in search of a new home, a place where we will be accepted into the beloved. That new land we are looking for is God's coming kingdom.

But those who merely call themselves by the name of Christ, yet do not live in Christ, are not "on the outs" with this world. Their continued participation in those behaviors and practices which the regenerate person might find repugnant mark them as acceptable, or at least tolerable, to the unregenerate masses. In short, these so-called Christians are enamored of the things of this world, and are thus captivated by them. As they are more natural than spiritual, so it follows that they will fall prey to the snares and devices which the devil sets for them. As the apostle Paul noted, But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (I Corinthians 2:14). He also warned the Philippian church to, mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things) (3:17-19).

We have been warned by our Lord and the apostles to avoid hypocrisy in our living the Christian life. You cannot run here and there amongst the heathen of this world and not be tainted by their godlessness. That said, we cannot leave the world until we are called home. So for us, being in society does not mean being involved in its several evils even

though we are surrounded by them. We are to note such and abstain from all appearance of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22).

While many Christians have established boundaries for themselves concerning their participation within secular society, still one can join in with those things that will not hurt their consciences. But a caveat is in order. We should be mindful that while there are things that are not unbiblical that we may enjoy; we should not be surprised to find a wicked angle that might lead us into situations where our faith might be compromised and our witness diminished by our participation in them. Therefore be discerning. Stay in control. Keep the commandments of God before you and the words of our Saviour. Avoid those things that would taint or vex your spirit.

Being regenerated in Christ Jesus may often mean separation from certain aspects of secular life. Just ask yourself: "Will my participation in whatever I want to do harm my Christian witness?" or, better yet, "Would God approve of what I am doing?" St. Paul once said that, All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not (I Corinthians 10:23). Doing what is expedient and edifying may often be challenging for us when we are being coaxed to act by those friends and family members who are as yet outside the fold of Christ. So whatever you do, make sure that you are right with God and that you stay in control so that the devil cannot turn your good into something evil, and that your good will not be evil spoken of (Romans 14:16).

The path of the stranger and the pilgrim is often a lonely course as the true and faithful Christian will not be part of the vast herd of mankind that is merrily on its way to perdition. The stranger and pilgrim in Christ is not a hermit— shunning participation in society— but is a witness— one who is standing in the open— revealing to those around them the true light of God's word written. We are beacons in a sin-darkened world. We are the bearers of God's light— candles on lampstands, blazing with the fire of the Holy Ghost. The stranger and pilgrim in Christ has been commanded by our Lord to do exactly that (St. Matthew 5:16).

So then let us be about our business. Let each of you purpose today to be that separated person— that stranger— that pilgrim— in Christ. Seek to separate yourselves from the world, the flesh and the devil. The apostle Paul once penned this passage for us regarding separation from evil in this life when he wrote, Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty (II Corinthians 6:14-18). This do and live.

Let us pray,

O MOST gracious and loving God, who art a Father to all who truly call upon thy name; bless us with wisdom and understanding so that we might better serve thee in this life by being effective witnesses on your behalf to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death; for this we ask in the name of thine only begotten Son, even Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

After Church Hospitality

Now that this is a worldwide report, we are soliciting snack pictures from parishes who actually have after church snacks.

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

Camilla has had a death in her family and 7 May 2014, and is flying to be with her sister and other family members. Please keep her in your prayers as she travels and for the family as they accept the death of the twenty one year old man.

Birthday

Terri Jennings celebrated her 58th Birthday on 26 April 2014.

Anniversary

Rev Rick and Virginia Reid celebrated their 35th Anniversary on 7 April 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

Brian Smith left for home on 21 April 2014, after a long battle with lung cancer; it cannot be said the cancer won, he is with the Lord in victory. He was able to do what he wanted and needed to do until two days before his death, for that we are all grateful. His only concern about leaving was for his wonderful wife Melany who of necessity remains behind. Please give thanks for his safe passage and pray that Mel will keep her trust in the Lord and let Him carry her worry.

Three hundred Korean high school students perished in the sinking of Korean passenger vessel, SEWOL, on 16 April 2014. Please pray for peace of mind, soul and heart for the families of those who perished. Please give thanks for the bravery and compassion of PARK Ji Young, aged 22 years, who remained on board to help rescue as many souls as possible. She even gave a student her own life vest. Her body was later found floating in the frigid waters of the sea. Ask God to help the families deal with their grief.

Andrew Scally passed away after a difficult time on 10 April 2014. Please pray for peace of mind for Andrew's family, in particular his son Keith who has been there to help him. Pray for his family to put their trust in our Lord and let God carry their worries as they adjust to his absence.

Selma Martinez passed away on 12 April 2014. Please pray for peace of mind for her husband Luis, as well as for trust in the Lord for him and the rest of the family, in particular her daughter Andrea.

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

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.

Jane has fourth stage cancer and is not doing well. Please pray for Jane and her family 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. *Pricilla* 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

Dennis, nephew in law of *Rev Rick Reid*, had a seizure at work on 28 April 2014, and is hospitalized at the Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, TN. A brain scan there

found a what they initially thought was a tumor, but turned out to be an abnormality of the vessels of the brain. He is awake, responding to treatment and may be released soon. There is much to be done. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Dennis and his family; as well as for God's guidance for the neurologists and other medical people treating him they might find the best course of treatment and allow Dennis to heal completely.

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. His injuries were multiple, extensive, severe, and life threatening. He is slowly making improvements. He still has a long road to travel and is still in great need of prayers. Yours are very much appreciated. 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 and had unsuccessful surgery. He is undergoing chemotherapy in an effort to shrink the tumor, the pain is great and he is on morphine. Please 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 be 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.

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

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

Jere Wolf (Melanie Zimmer's dad) was in ICU from Easter until the following Sunday, 4 May 2014, with Congestive Heart Failure and a blocked aortic valve. He is home now on oxygen and using a walker, but improving.

Please give thanks for Jere's recovery to this point so that he could go home and pray for Jere and his family, in particular his wife Doreen and daughters Cindy and Molly (or Melanie) to keep their faith strong in the Lord, as well as for guidance for the medical team treating him, as well as a strong recovery for Jere so that he and his family can enjoy his time here on earth.

Barbara has serious problems with her Sciatic Nerve. Please pray for guidance for those treating her, for relief of the severe pain, for trust in our Lord for Barbara and her family, for healing.

Donald is in the hospital and had his leg amputated on 14 April 2014. Pray he will adjust and healing will begin.

Dallmus has lost 40 to 50 percent of his sight. Pray he will learn to cope with the situation and that he will trust in God to heal as He will.

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 does not seem to be going well at this point. Pray for inspiration for those caring for her that they might find the appropriate treatment. 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.

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 an 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 16, 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.

Tracey is out of employment and has not received her unemployment compensation or found a new position; please pray these problems will be resolved.

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

Timothy and Sharon had their home foreclosed the morning of 15 April 2014. They are experiencing spiritual, emotional and financial crisis at the current time. Please pray for God's guidance as to how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves and more importantly have them draw closer to God and each other.

Linda, Rick, Christian and Sawyer are a family experiencing spiritual, emotional and financial crisis at the current time. Please pray for God's guidance as to how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves and 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. Please pray for *Lorna's* healing and guidance on how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves.

Guidance

Mitten has a Christian talking to him about Christ. *Mitten* does not believe and does not seem to care. Please pray *Mitten* will see the light.

Luis Martinez had a heart attack on 1 November 2013, and seems to have recovered fairly well. His wife *Selma* passed away on 12 April 2014. Please pray for peace of mind for *Luis*, as well as for trust in the Lord for him and the rest of the family.

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

Christians in the Central African Republic are experiencing the ravages of a war between the Muslim and Christians. We have both ministers and members of the Anglican Orthodox Church in Central African Republic. Please pray for God's guidance and protection for all persecuted Christians and those around them.

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.

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.

Ordination

John Evetts and *Edward Pressey* were on ordained as Deacons in at St. George AEC Church in Ventura, California. Both men are of the first order in character and faith. St. George is also celebrating their Anniversary on this date. Congratulations to all.

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

Hap and Dru Arnold give thanks for safe travel this past week to Phoenix.

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.

Congregations in the News!

Rev Rick Reid, of the GHQ Saint Peters and Saint Andrews in the Newton, NC, had the very nice Good Shepherd sermon from last week published in its entirety! It was a very nice sermon, it is great when the world outside gets to see it. Yes, we know you cannot read this one, we just wanted to show you the sermon made it! Please look at last week's Sunday Report if you missed it:

http://www.faithfulcenturion.org/sunday_report/140504sundayreport.pdf

PAGE 6 THE OBSERVER NEWS ENTERPRISE WEEKEND EDITION, MAY 10-12, 2014

TO SUBMIT CHURCH INFORMATION, E-MAIL ONENews@OBSERVERNEWSONLINE.COM OR FAX YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT TO (828) 464-1267. YOU CAN ALSO DROP YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE NEWSPAPER'S OFFICE AT 309 N. COLLEGE AVE., NEWTON, N.C. 28658 OR MAIL THEM BY SENDING THEM TO P.O. DRAWER 48, NEWTON, N.C. 28658.

The Good Shepherd



Rev. Rick Reid

In our Gospel reading, Jesus said, I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and know my sheep, and am known of mine, even as the Father knoweth me, and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one flock, and one shepherd.

In saying this, Jesus was referring to the unfaithful shepherds of Israel, the kings and the priests that Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel spoke of. He then declared that He would be our Shepherd, and that He would be a good and faithful Shepherd. Jesus was also telling us that He is the fulfillment of the prophecies such as this one from
sins, as sins. We do not always follow God. We follow our family, our friends, our neighbors, just like sheep, into things we ought not to do, and into attitudes and values which deny our God and betray the faith we confess. Like sheep, we allow ourselves to be drawn away from what is wholesome and good, many times, by our expectation of some pleasure, joy, and some "greener grass" on the other side of the fence.

When we do discover the danger, and see what we have done, we are not able to rectify it. Even when we know we have gone astray, we are all too often unwilling to turn around, unwilling to do the things that we know would bless and benefit us, unwilling to give up the things we have become accustomed to, or the high regard of the people we have learned to treasure. Instead we just stand still: right where we are, and await disaster rather than repent, ask for forgiveness, and turn away from whatever it is that threatens us.

The devil, the world and our own sins can threaten and destroy us, if we are
things which should have identified Him as the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, the Savior intended by God for our rescue from our sins.

Then Jesus died. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." He died on a cross, as we just celebrated on Good Friday. His death was ours. We had earned it and we deserved it, and He did not, but He died for us and in our place anyhow. Because of His great love and His self-giving sacrifice, we are forgiven. Our sins are not held against us. We are no longer considered guilty, and deserving punishment and death, but holy and righteous because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus won this for all men, and God has promised that all who trust His promises, and expect what He has promised will receive and possess those promises, forgiveness, love, and blessings, along with life everlasting, though His Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus' sheep hear His voice and follow Him. We follow Him trusting in His power of eternal life. We
his voice. He said so. Those who do not hear and follow Him are simply and sadly not His sheep. And Jesus is the Good Shepherd. There are other shepherds out there. They speak different words and lead in different directions. Each has his own agenda, and do not care for the sheep, except as a means to their own needs. They do not love the sheep because they do not own them, and they cannot save them, because the kind of saving the sheep need is beyond anyone but Jesus. When life's dangers confront the sheep, those false shepherds, those hirelings, run away and abandon the sheep to their destruction.

But Jesus is the Good Shepherd. That means you are safe. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He will protect and keep us in all things. He will guide and bless us. He will not desert us in our hour of need, because He is not merely a hired hand. We need have no fear of life or death. He is our Shepherd. He has loved us to death, and into everlasting life. Jesus knew that we were
flock. He has healed our deepest wounds, and He shed His blood for our sins. And He gives us the peace that passes all understanding. So listen for His voice. Be careful to hear His voice and not the voice of another. And when we have heard His voice, and know that it is His voice, we will follow Him.

Do not let anything, success, family, friends, pleasures, fear, troubles, or sorrows, or any other thing stand in your way, but follow Him. Be at peace in whatever circumstance you may find yourself; for Jesus Christ, your Shepherd, is the Good Shepherd.

Rev Rick Reid of Saint Andrew's Anglican Church, Newton, NC

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

18 May 2013 – Fourth Sunday After Easter – 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**

