



# Anglican Orthodox Church Worldwide Communion Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday Report



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



Christmas is the coming Thursday, thus it is fitting that we run the annual Christmas letter from our worldwide Presiding Bishop Jerry L. Ogles:



## O Come let us adore Him, Christ the King

*And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)*

### **Here Comes Santa Claus!**

Long ago and far away, a colorful character was introduced to children as the main attraction for the Christmas season. Like God, this jolly old man in the red suit was omniscient. He knows when you are sleeping; he knows when you're awake; he knows if you've been good or bad so be good for goodness sake. Like God, this character could be at all places at all times, and could fly through the air

like an angel on a sled. He became the great benefactor of Christmas and gradually took the place of the forgotten Baby in a Manger – the Son of God. Every child would respond "Santa Claus" if you asked them what they looked forward to a Christmas. They were not told by their parents Santa Claus was merely another fairy tale, but the REAL thing. If they were good, Santa Claus would know, and reward them at Christmas. (and the devil smiled)

Believe it or not, Santa Claus is based upon a real live person – St. Nicolas, Bishop of Myra. I have attended the church named after him in Slankamen. He was very kind and compassionate, and gave gifts freely to the poor – but he was not Christ! He was merely a good man and servant of the Lord. Though Santa Claus had become the main attraction at Christmas, his advent came at a time in history in which no one dared call the day anything else but CHRISTMAS!

Time passed, and many of our youth who believed in the literal Santa Claus became adults. Except for gift-giving, there was no longer anything very special about the name of the Holy-Day (the term from which holiday derived), so they believed it would be perfectly OK to omit that longer title of the holiday and rid themselves of the troubling name of Christ – so they came up with the idea of omitting Christ’s name altogether. They would call the day, X-Mas! Even Christians fell for the trick and, if asked, would give some semi-implausible explanation about the special meaning of ‘X’ in the Greek alphabet. For whatever reason, there can be no name like unto that of Christ. He cannot be replaced by either English or Greek letter. But those who insisted on brevity, for the sake of brevity, brought the term, X-Mas, into wide use. It began to show up on all public advertisements and in the print media. (and the devil smiled)

When the professing Christian frogs had adapted themselves to the rising temperature of the water, a new term for the holiday was conceived by men who were not so much concerned with brevity, but deplored any spiritual application whatsoever to the Season of Christmas. Why not teach our children to call the day by an altogether different term? Shall we call it ‘Winter Break,’ or ‘Winter Holiday?’ Yes, that will do fine even if more letters are required to write Winter Holiday than Christmas! So all of the schools, and most of the print and televised media, fell into line to call the former day commemorating the birth of Christ by the term The Winter Holiday. (and the devil smiled broadly for he had achieved his prime purpose)

The point of this Christmas letter is to remind us of the Reason for the Season – the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no great harm in teaching our children the legend of Santa Claus as a fairy tale, but I know many children who truly believed the lie until they were mature enough to question the credibility of such an outlandish tale. They may have asked as well, “Were my par- ents lying as well about Jesus Christ?”

MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

(Do not allow store clerks to get away with any other greeting!)

For

THE ANGLICAN ORTHODOX COMMUNION WORLDWIDE,

*Jerry L. Ogles*

Jerry L. Ogles  
Presiding Bishop

PS: This letter will probably evoke greater umbrage among adults than if I wrote claiming Christmas was not about Jesus. Why do you suppose that may be the case?

### *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 –

It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.

*General George S. Patton*

I ... place economy among the first and most important of republican virtues, and public debt as the greatest of the dangers to be feared.

*Thomas Jefferson*  
Letter to William Plumer, 1816

### *On worry*

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

*Jack Lewis*  
The Collected Letters of CS Lewis, Volume II

O LORD, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

*Psalms 51:15*

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

*Jeremiah 23:5-6*

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

*Daniel 7:13-14*

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteous arise with healing in his wings...

*Malachi 4:2*

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

*St. Matthew 5:14*

They that are whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

*St. Mark 2:17*

For as by one man's disobedience many were many sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

*Romans 5:19*

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

*II St. Peter 1:16*

In [the Christian] faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't.

*Blaise Pascal*

17<sup>th</sup> century French mathematician, philosopher and author

The Bible is God's road map for mankind. Everyone who reads his Word and heeds it, will be a traveler who will reach God's destination and who will experience the love, joy and peace which he has prepared for them who love him and keep his commandments.

*Bryan Dabney*  
AOC Minister

In the cold, dark winter of our souls, God sent Light and warmth to us in the Person of His Beloved Son, Jesus, knowing full well that His Son would be murdered by the keepers of the vineyard. How could God send His Beloved as a ransom for the miserable and stubborn creatures that rebelled time and again against his Sovereignty? There is only one explanation— unmerited Love and Grace!

*Jerry L. Ogles*

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Anglican Orthodox Presiding Bishop

We have heard the children say— gentle children whom we love— Long ago, on Christmas Day, came a message from above. Still, as Christmas-tide comes round, they remember it again— Echo still the joyful sound 'Peace on earth, good-will to men!' Yet the hearts must childlike be where such heavenly guests abide; unto children, in their glee, all the year is Christmas-tide.

*Lewis Carroll*

19<sup>th</sup> century English author

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

We have been made for eternity! Yet though such a belief exists in every ancient religion from the Egyptians to the Persian to the Assyrian and Babylonian, the Chinese and the Hindu, everywhere it has waited for Jesus Christ to give to it a certitude nothing else could grant.

*D. James Kennedy*

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American theologian, teacher and author

*Why I Believe*, p.65

We are more than the sum of our institutions, we are our parents and our grandparents, we are the things we read and the things we believe, we are the sense of mission that brought our ancestors through thousands of years of trouble and we are their strengths and their weaknesses. It's not our institutions that make our successes possible. It is our beliefs that make all the difference.

*Daniel Greenfield*

21<sup>st</sup> century American commentator

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

### The Fourth Sunday in Advent

*The Collect.*

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

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

### The First Sunday in Advent

*The Collect.*

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

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

The Epistle for today came from Paul's first letter to the Philippians, starting at the Fourth Verse of the Fourth Chapter.

Paul calls on us to "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." We are to lead the world to Christ by example, to "Let (y)our moderation be known unto all men." In this Advent season, as always, "The Lord is at hand." We are to worry about nothing, "but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Be joyful in all things, not for all things. And in the words we

find at the end of the Holy Communion Service, may “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Or to quote another, “Trust in God and Dread Naught.”

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

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

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

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

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



## *Bishop Ogles' Sermon*

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

### **Sermon Notes**

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
21 December 2014, Anno Domini

#### **The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

*The Collect.*

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#### **The First Sunday in Advent**

*The Collect.*

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

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

**N**OW in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which

is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages. And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable. (St. Luke 3:1-17)

Evil men of that day ruled in the Holy Place of Jerusalem just as the *abomination that maketh desolate* is now standing in the Holy Place of America's churches. That abomination has been severely censored by God in both the Old and New Testament. We have ordained and consecrated men (and women) who are openly homosexual to the ministry in the churches in America. These wicked people now stand in pulpits and even in episcopal authority over those pulpits. How long do we feel God will withhold His wrath for this willful disregard for His Word? "*.....and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.*" (Daniel 11:31, 37) and "*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*" (Matt 24:15) This has direct reference to the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus of Romans in 70 A.D., but it also has a parallel meaning for us today who disregard the Word of God and allow unholy men to serve in ministry. Christ fulfilled the law of sacrifice so, regardless of what is done on an altar has no relevance, but what happens in the pulpits of the Church have a gravity that we had best begin to deal with or suffer the wrath to come.

God establishes a definite chronology for the Coming of His only Begotten Son so that the Scriptures will all agree as to the words spoken of the prophets centuries past. He sets the stage for our understanding. The Scripture cannot be broken regardless the futile attempts of higher critics and textual 'engineers' to the contrary. "*Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene.*"

The stage is set for the arraignment of all of those despots who would, not only preside over the land throughout the ministry of Christ, but also at its closing through their direct complicity in His trial and crucifixion. It was to Tiberius Caesar that the land must pay obeisance, and to a local Pro-Consul named Pontius Pilate that would preside over the enforcement of that obeisance. Annas and Caiaphas sat in the seat of High Priest. Little did they realize that their own wickedness would be consummated in the de-thronement of their role as High Priests and the One whom they wish to destroy would take that title in Eternity future. "*Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests.*"

"*.....the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.*" It is amazing how clearly and often the Word of God comes to His people in the Wilderness. Perhaps, in the providence of God, only one man has been determined to receive that particular Word, therefore, the Wilderness is the appropriate place for its being revealed to him. Our prayers are better heard when we pray, not for the recognition of men, but in our closets alone with God. The Word of God is such an all-potent and valuable sound! *FRIENDS, if there is one great thing in this world, it is the Word*



of God; 'great in origin, great in thought, great in promise, great in beauty, great in purpose, great in power, great in its results ! It hangs as by a golden cord from the throne of the Highest, and all heaven's light, life, love, and sweetness come down into it for us. It hangs there like a celestial harp ; the daughters of sorrow tune it, and awake a strain of consolation. The hand of joy strikes it, and feels a diviner note of gladness. The sinner comes to it, and it discourses to him of repentance and salvation. The saint bends an ear to it, and then it talks to him of an intercessor and immortal kingdom. The dying man lays his trembling hand on it, and there steals thence into his soul the promise, "**Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.**" "**When thou passest through the waters, they shall not overflow thee, and through the fires, thou shalt not be burned.**" "**Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world!**" "**The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**" "**This mortal shall put on immortality, and this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and death shall be swallowed up in victory.**" Where is promise, where is song like this ? Magnify the Word of God! E.E. Adams (The Reformed manner of preaching is the expositional approach.) If we wish to preach with authority, we must preach the Word of God and not the word of the man delivering the sermon.

"And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." Has this approach in preaching been disannulled? Should we, too, not be as fervent as George Whitfield, John Wesley, and Charles Spurgeon in preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins? But, alas, I must be dreaming – SIN is no longer fashionable to be condemned – not in our very modern and broad-minded world! He came into the country about Jordan, the same waters in which our Lord was baptized by John, and whose sweet waters never fail the wilderness traveler. Luke does not even mention the apparel of John, but goes directly to the heart of his mission as a bolt of lightning to the lightning rod – "...preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

"As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God." Here again God inexorably joins His prophetic utterances of the prophet to the events unfolding before us. (Isaiah 40:3-5) If you are preaching sound doctrine, sound truth, sin, repentance, and grace, you will also be today as a "Voice crying in the wilderness." You shall not find yourself flocked about with souls of men and women starving and thirsting for the pure Water of Life and Bread of Heaven. They have their own synthetic bread and impure, polluted waters to drink, and they desire none other. But, to their detriment, like Herod, Annas, Caiaphas, and Pilot, men do not seek refuge in the City of God because they feel a false security already in their world-favoring sin. In the Old Testament Law, the children of Israel were commanded to establish cities of refuge throughout the land to which men guilty of serious crimes could flee for refuge. Now comes to Jordan Waters the perfect likeness of that City of Refuge in Jesus Christ. We are guilty beyond doubt. We are murderers and sinners yet, God has provided a Refuge and an Ark for our salvation! Flee to Christ, and He will receive you. In those ancient cities of refuge, the gates were never shut – night or day, but always welcoming to the refugee from justice who we all are. If we are granted justice, we shall be condemned; but, if granted grace, we shall be accounted righteous and forgiven.

"Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

***“Generation of Vipers!”*** Careful John, you are going to hurt someone’s feelings by being so ‘judgmental.’ Or perhaps you recognize them for what God’s Word has called them? Political correctness is the furthest thought from John. Here John refers not only to the men who unworthily occupy the seat of Moses and of David, but to the people at large. Israel has rejected God as a nation. Christ tells the Jewish leaders that the Kingdom shall be taken from them and given to a people bearing the fruits thereof.” (Matthew 21:43) So do we long to see the stone temple rebuilt and the daily sacrifices begun anew in rejection of that once-and-for-all sacrifice made by our Lord? Has America become a generation of vipers? Though there remain many devoted Christians among us, have we given our powers over to evil forces in propagating every immoral concept through our vast control of media? Have we used our national resources to impose values on Third World countries that they would otherwise righteously abhor? Yes, we have done, and we continue to escalate that policy through the IMF and World Bank. Our national voice has often spewed poison from our mouths (media).

***“Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”*** Fruits worthy of repentance have their birth in a ***“broken and contrite heart.”*** (Psalms 51:17). Before repentance can come nationally, it must come personally, for every nation is comprised of ever so many hearts. The sum total of hearts measure the righteousness of the nation. We cannot forever count upon the favor of God based on the Godliness of the Founding Fathers, and neither can Israel count on their bloodline in Abraham to merit salvation. Only those who possess the likeness of Abraham shall be the children of Abraham – in thought, word, deed, and faith. The Seed of Promise was only foreshadowed in his son, Isaac, born out of time of child-bearing. Christ is the ultimate Seed of Promise and we cannot count Abraham to be our father if we have not accepted the promise of forgiveness and salvation in Christ. If the natural seed fail, God is able even to raise up children from the stones. The promise is made available to all for the acceptance or rejection of it.

***“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”*** Here is the dire warning which we would prefer to avoid! We are all as trees of either righteousness or unrighteousness. The axe has already been brought to our place of standing. The Woodsmen sizes us up to determine if our fruits are worthy of justifying our remaining in the forest, or has our hearts rotted away and rendered us a waste of forest space. The axe is already about to swing at our root – our character and testimony in Christ. If we have not been fruitful trees, we shall be cut down and burned – and so has the moment of decision come for this old Israel. Instead of works mete for repentance and mercy, their fruit is bitter and condemning. Perhaps that axe hangs over the prairies and alabaster mountains of American today as well.

Is there no remedy for our national and personal sins? There IS an answer! ***“And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?”*** What shall you do to regain the favor of God? What can the nation do to re-establish that favor? ***“He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.”*** A greedy man cannot abide this counsel, neither a man of fashion and sophistication. We covet our fine suits and robes. We are fond of our full and elaborate pantries stocked with every dainty food and cuisine. But even a greedy man (as Scrooge in Charles Dickens’ story) can be rendered not greedy by one single quality – LOVE! This was lacking in Israel, and it may be becoming scarce in our

nation which mislabels Love as SEX and value of persons by fame and money. I recently read of an occasion of more than seventy years ago when an elderly missionary couple were returning from the harsh mission fields of Africa. They had deprived themselves of a luxurious home, fine food, and the benefits of society for the straw-covered hut, the rough diet, and the inconvenience of living in a wild land for all of their adult lives. They had given all they had of resources, health, and vigor to the service of God's less fortunate people. Now, broken and tired, their continuance on the mission field had been deemed 'unproductive' by their church and they were called home to be "put out to pasture" as an old work horse in its waning years. As they began to disembark from the ship at the port of New York, they struggled to drag their few belongings with them, but the crowds were overwhelming and cheering. The old couple was prevented from leaving the ship until a famous Hollywood celebrity, returning from a European cruise, had received the adoration of the gathered crowd and had been met by his chauffeur-driven limousine. When the crowd thinned, the old couple continued down from the ship and awaited the next taxi. They waited alone because no one took notice of their years of sacrifice. Is that LOVE? These two had given, not of their extra coat, but their ONLY coat. They had given their meats and received gruel for the sake of their service to God and man. Of what value was the fruit of the Hollywood celebrity's vanity?

Every man and woman has a calling in Christ. It may not be as an active missionary on the foreign field, but it shall always be a missionary in the place where you are placed whether as a doctor, a lawyer, a butcher, a teacher, or a carpenter. Whatever our calling, we must reflect the nature of a virtuous and loving heart. *"Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages."* We do not often think of 'publicans' (tax collectors) and soldiers as serving God directly, but we have the words of John to suggest otherwise! If we deal in money, do so with honesty. If we are serving our country as soldiers, we are to do no violence to any man (unwarranted force or mean-spirited action). We must not take from the enemy land that which does not belong to us, but we must be satisfied, as good soldiers, with our pay allowance.

The people began to wonder about John because of the beauty of his words. Remember, his words have been entreating them to repent; and he has been warning them of the destruction to come if they fail to repent. Today, most people would walk away, but these people had enough presence of mind to know that he spoke truth in beauty. Many today lack that discretion. *"And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not."* When a minister or a layperson speaks the truth of God, his words will have the force and power of God behind them.

*"John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose."* John did not suffer that same vanity of many ministers. He discerned the thoughts of the multitude and answered humbly. Here we see the greatest of all prophets confessing his own inadequacy before the One who's Way he was preparing. He's not even worthy, as a household servant's role, to unloose the shoe latches of Christ. Do we stop to reflect that we have no merit whatsoever apart from that imparted to us by Christ Himself?

“He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.” He is the REFINER of Gold and Silver. His instrument of purification is fire. The Fire of the Holy Ghost will purify those who are called and chosen of God. They are made more and more pure through the refining process (sanctification). Fire and Wind will be the choice tools of Christ at purging the wheat from the chaff. He will fan the wheat as it falls to earth (from the Tribulatum) and the chaff will be blown aside while the pure wheat falls to earth. The chaff will then be burned as death and Hell are cast into the Lake of Fire. (Rev 20:14)

We will celebrate Christmas at Christmas Eve Worship. Of course, Advent is our early celebration of Christmas as well. Let us remember that our beautifully lighted and ornamented trees represent that beautiful Tree of Life that came down to us a Christmas. The Star top the Tree can symbolize that Bright and Morning Star that all Wise Men still follow. Even the candles will remind us of that Light which led the Wise Men and, later, burst out in the brilliance of the Day Star and the Sun of Righteousness. Let us not forget to wish all we meet a very Merry Christmas (not holiday)! There is no reason that we must abandon the joys and love of Christmas on December 26<sup>th</sup>. We should clasp those to our bosoms every waking moment of the coming year.

### *Sermon - Rev Jack Arnold*

*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.

#### **The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

*The Collect.*

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

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

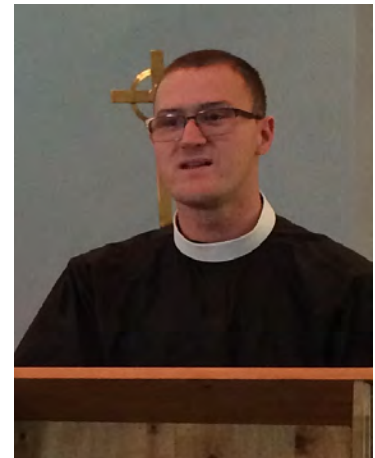
#### **The First Sunday in Advent**

*The Collect.*

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

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

As is oft the case, today's propers all tie together to reinforce a point and build our understanding of what God wants and expects from each of us. The Collect asks for God's help for us to accept His Help and do it His Way. That is a thought that permeates or at least should permeate our entire lives. It is oft supposed Christians are dour souls, with no sense of happiness or humor. Perhaps this thought comes from those who have heard what the Bible says, filtered through some odd prism, but have



never actually read it. That may have been the way the Puritians thought, but then again, the Puritians were not holding to the consistent truth of the Bible. After all God commands us to make a "joyful" noise unto the Lord! Not, a dour, grumbling and solemn noise, but an exceedingly JOYFUL noise unto the Lord! There is nothing in the Bible that says you cannot have fun whilst worshipping our Lord, in fact that is the preferred way to worship Him! In fact, if we enjoy worshipping the Lord, then we are most apt to do more of our best to follow Him, if we are enjoying ourselves whilst doing so!

After all, the one said to be the most dour of all, Paul, tells us to be happy. Not just happy, but to REJOICE. REJOICE in the Lord ALWAYS and AGAIN I say REJOICE! How much more fun can you have? We are also to be moderate in everything we do, no excesses, an even keel. Work hard, but maintain a time and space for our family, honor our country, and above all honor God. He goes on to tell us if we think we need something, simply ask God for it! Speaking of God, John recounts John the Baptist's role in preparing the way for Jesus. The Pharisees just had trouble with the simplicity of his message. They were looking for something more complex, less straightforward, something more like themselves.

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

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

Jesus also tells us to put our trust in the Lord, then not to worry. He knows how counterproductive, indeed how destructive worry can be in our lives. We know it not only cannot, but will not do good, we know it will only hurt our cause; yet we do it. Is this not a proof positive of how much we need His Help? How hard is it to Trust in God and Dread Naught? Very! Yet to make progress this we must do. Even though it is very hard to trust somebody you can't see physically, you must trust your spiritual sense and follow Him anyway! Knowing you will see Him physically one day, is one of our great rewards.

The world is extremely complex; it is full of problems, temptations and difficulties. It is full of obstacles for us, yet all Christianity offers is a few simple solutions. We often hear there are no simple answers to complex questions. Actually, that is not true. There are simple answers to complex problems, they are the only ones which can and will

work. The problem is they are not the answers people want. Most people do not want to know what they are supposed to do, lest they have to do it. They want to be told what they want to do is at least okay, even though it is clearly not okay. But we need to know what we are doing is the actual "Okay." thing, and not what Joe on the corner claims is Okay. To do that, we have to read the Scriptures and listen to what God says is Okay, because He really does know the best in this matter for us.

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

- Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried.
- The word good has many meanings. For example, if a man were to shoot his grandmother at a range of five hundred yards, I should call him a good shot, but not necessarily a good man.
- The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people.
- Tolerance is the virtue of the man without convictions.
- A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it.

G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

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

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

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

It is by our actions we are known.

### **Be of God - Live of God - Act of God**

#### ***Bishop 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:

**The Lord Is at Hand**  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 21, 2014



By the grace of God, we are gathered in this house of prayer on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Year of Our Lord, 2014. Since we are in Advent we are thinking about the Coming of Christ. We are thinking about His coming physically into history by being conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago. We are thinking about His coming to us spiritually in the Holy Spirit and the means of grace. We are thinking about His coming judicially

when He comes again at the end of the world to judge the quick and the dead. The coming of Christ is taught in today's reading in Philippians, in the very shocking words, "Christ is at hand."

"Christ is at hand." Many people think this refers to the Second Coming. They believe "at hand" means "soon." We are in the last days, they say, and Christ will return at any moment. But we need to remember that the Biblical term "last days" means last in order, not last in number. In other words we are not necessarily in the final few days, numerically speaking, but we are in the days of the last era before the return of Christ.

When we look at Paul's words in Philippians 4 we see they are very similar to Christ's words in the Gospels when, after His baptism, He first began to preach: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." Like us today, the Jews looked for the miraculous arrival of the Kingdom of God. And the point of Jesus' words is that the Kingdom has arrived. He is not saying the Kingdom is coming soon. He is saying it is here now. He, Jesus of Nazareth, is the Kingdom, and wherever He is, the Kingdom is.

Joseph, in Matthew 1:23, has decided not to marry Mary. Why? Joseph was a just man. He was a righteous man. This means he kept his own desires in check. In Philippians 4, Paul wrote about moderation, and one of the meanings of that word is self control. It means to keep your emotions and your fleshly appetites under control so that you rule them instead of being ruled by them. You do this because it is good and right and because you love God. You do this because your faith is not just an idea, it is a relationship with God Almighty, and it is the central, driving force of your life.

Joseph was a righteous man. Joseph's moderation was known to all. But Mary was pregnant. Joseph could only conclude that her moderation had slipped a little. So Joseph was going to end the engagement, until the angel came to him saying, "Fear not to take unto thee Mary for thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." The angel then went on to say Mary's pregnancy is the fulfillment of the words of Isaiah, "Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Jesus is God with us. Where Jesus is, God is. Where God is, the Kingdom of God is. The Lord is at hand.

I have been making the point that the Lord is present with us outwardly. He was present physically in His Incarnation, but He is also outwardly present in the Church, the Bible, prayer and worship, and all the means of grace. That is one of the meanings of Paul's words, "The Lord is at hand. But there is another meaning here, the Lord is present with us inwardly.

In Luke 17:21, Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees about the Kingdom of God. Our Lord says something to them that shocks them to the core of their being: "the kingdom of God is within you." Christ is affirming here what I have just said, that God is with us outwardly when Christ was here on earth in the flesh. He is also saying He is with us inwardly. The presence of Christ is also an inward thing. It does not consist of signs and wonders and emotions, but of faith and obedience to God. It is a reign of grace, and all who trust that grace are in the Kingdom. "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him" says Psalm 145:18. These words remind me of the words of James 4:8, "Draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh unto you" says James 4:8.

How do we draw nigh unto God? By faith. By faith we trust the promises of God. Like Abraham, we believe God. We hear His word, we see His grace. We hear the preaching of the cross. The Bible tells us the cross is foolishness to those who are

perishing. But to we who hear it in faith it is the power of God unto our salvation.

The Lord is still at hand. He has not deserted us. He has not left us orphans. The fact that He is not with us in His bodily presence does not mean He is not here with us in reality. He is with us outwardly in all the means of grace. He is with us inwardly in the Spirit, and in the means of grace He is with us inwardly when we partake of the means of grace in faith. He comes to us as we worship, in the reading and preaching and hearing of the Scriptures, at the communion table, and in the prayers. In these things, "The Lord is at hand."

+Dennis Campbell  
Bishop, Anglican Orthodox Church Diocese of Virginia  
Rector, Holy Trinity Anglican Orthodox Church  
Powhatan, Virginia  
[www.HolyTrinityAnglicanOrthodoxChurch.org](http://www.HolyTrinityAnglicanOrthodoxChurch.org)  
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**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.

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

*21 December 2014*

Psalm 80 • Isaiah 40:1-11 • Luke 3:1-17

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

*The Collect.*

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



**The First Sunday in Advent**

*The Collect.*

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

For almost 200 years skeptics have tried to separate the Old Testament from the New Testament. If you can show that there is little to any relationship between the two testaments then you can call into question the whole concept of foreshadowing, prophecy, and fulfillment of said prophecy. The skeptics have to have a strong faith to NOT believe that the two testaments are connected. They really must ignore so many related verses pertaining to the first Advent of the Messiah and the second Advent. For



again and again we see written prophecy fulfilled time and again during the season of reflection, anticipation, revelation and the Word made flesh to dwell amongst us; Immanuel.

At the Advent season we can see so many connections as in our scripture passages for the Fourth Sunday in Advent. The connection between the verses in Isaiah and Luke; where he makes reference to Isaiah (Esaias), we see the ministry of John the baptizer who proceeds the coming Messiah, with both a message of repentance and of salvation.

John makes it very the behavior that is expected of those who have repented and turned from their evil ways. In the list of things they are to do, John points out the need to do righteous things. Notice the parallels concepts that will also be taught by Jesus. "...don't take advantage of your position or authority..., only do what you are supposed to do, be kind, share, help the helpless..." All of these ideas are bound up in the Golden Rule.

Now we see John explaining who he is. He baptizes with water, he who comes after him, he will baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire. John very humbly points to the ONE who will take away the sins of the world. The ONE who will bring comfort to his own, he will feed his sheep, he will gently lead those who are helpless. When Christ left the earth after his resurrection he indeed provided a comforter {the Holy Spirit}, he left shepherds {the disciples}, and he left his sheep {believers in him}. Look at what Isaiah writes in verse 9 & 10....

**O** ZION, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!  
10 Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

We see that work before him as the beginning of the church, the Word made flesh, shared with the rest of the world . Notice the contrast the prophet makes between man and God.

"...All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever..."

The Word of God shall stand for ever. That promise is fulfilled in the coming Savior.

Let us spend the next couple of days reflecting upon the events that happened so many years ago in that dusty little town called Bethlehem. That little town, where the Word was made flesh, where God met man face to face, without man being in danger of instant death because God cannot look upon evil. Here God, by allowing his Son to become a little baby, entered into a three decade mission to reach mankind on his dimension, where God would provide the only means of salvation to his creations. God with us; Immanuel.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Folks, we have no excuse. God has made his salvation visible to us, the first century people saw Jesus face to face. We see Jesus in the word of God that has been preserved for us, the Holy Bible is the message, Christ Jesus is the messenger, he is the reason for this season and why we should celebrate his coming; and most especially why we should share this message with our families, friends and strangers around us.

Let us celebrate His coming. Jesus Christ the Son of God came once as a helpless child, will come again in a triumphal procession. His glory shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

**G**OD bless you all this holy season. May the Peace that passeth all understanding be with you now and forever. *Amen.*

Let us pray:

**O** MOST mighty God, and merciful Father, who hast compassion upon all men, and who wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his sin, and be saved; Mercifully forgive us our trespasses; receive and comfort us, who are grieved and wearied with the burden of our sins. Thy property is always to have mercy; to thee only it appertaineth to forgive sins. Spare us therefore, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed; enter not into judgment with thy servants, who are vile earth, and miserable sinners; but so turn thine anger from us who meekly acknowledge our vileness, and truly repent us of our faults, and so make haste to help us in this world, that we may ever live with thee in the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**O** LORD Jesus Christ, who didst endure unto the end, and whose courage never failed in the midst of great dangers: Grant that inspired by Thy example I may trust completely in Thy promise to be with me even unto the world's end, and that so, amidst all dangers I may have a heart inflamed by Thy courage, and a spirit inspired by Thy faith; through Thy mercy, O our God, who art blessed, and dost reign, and govern all things, world without end. *Amen.*

**O** LORD Jesus Christ, who has said, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work"; Grant us, we beseech Thee, such zeal in Thy service, that we may never be weary in well doing, but may labor steadfastly unto the end; through Thy mercy, O our God, who art blessed, and livest and reignest for ever and ever. *Amen.*

No matter where you read this, please go to your own parish or a local church to worship the Lord on the upcoming celebration of His birth! Christmas Eve we have our service, others will celebrate Christmas Day. Go somewhere. If you have no where, find somewhere. If there is no where, at least read the propers on your own and give thanks that God sent His only Son that we might have everlasting life. Life that begins the instant you accept it.

**M**AY God bless and keep you, may His light shine upon you and give you peace. In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Amen*



### *Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon*

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



#### **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

In the epistle (Philippians 4:4-7) Paul encourages the church at Philippi to rejoice in the Lord always and in all things with thanksgiving. Unfortunately in today's world, many do not rejoice in the Lord on a daily basis. They focus on their ills and difficulties instead of giving God the glory for what they have already received from his hands. There is an old expression that was made into a hymn entitled Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

The Scriptures are our guide to a life of fellowship with the LORD. In Leviticus 23:40 we read, ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God... In Deuteronomy 26:11 we learn that we should, ...rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee... In Psalm 5:11 we learn of God's expectation for us: But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

In St. Luke 6:23, our Lord spoke these words of comfort to all who would suffer oppression: Rejoice ye in that day and leap for joy: for, behold your reward is great in heaven... He also spoke of rejoicing because our names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20). And we are to rejoice because as Christians, we have an invitation to the greatest feast ever as noted in Revelation 19:7, Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come...

The true worshipers of God will willingly rejoice in the free gift of salvation which comes by means of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Those who are his will not question his grace. They will not stand skeptically, at a distance, examining with clinical coldness the gift which has been given. Only those who have not received the gift in their hearts will question its validity because as St. Paul noted in I Corinthians 2:14, 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.

And while it is natural for us to rejoice when our enemies run into trouble. We are warned not to do so. Examine Proverbs 24:17: Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth. God knows who are his now as well as those who will come to him in the future. But we have not been given to know such things. In that light, we should not cheer at the downfall of an enemy today because tomorrow, if God wills, he or she might become a brother or a sister in Christ. It is better to let God judge. For if, in his judgment, they fall and we are preserved it should be enough for us. His will and pleasure has no rival as he is sovereign. For if those who meant us harm are eventually regenerated, then it would be sinful on our part to either wish them ill or rejoice over their errors and misfortunes.

Truly God desires that we rejoice when one has turned from evil and become a brother or a sister in Christ. God is merciful and not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (II St. Peter 3:9). As our Lord said, I say unto you that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than the ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance (St. Luke 15:7).

St. Luke recorded in his gospel account that following our Lord's ascension into heaven the disciples worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: and were in the temple, praising and blessing God (24:52-53). Later, in the Book of Acts, he wrote about the day of Pentecost where the flaming tongues descended upon the disciples and they began preaching the gospel to all who were in Jerusalem (2:1-11).

Hear now the words of St. Peter as he was moved to speak by the Holy Ghost: For David speaketh concerning [Jesus Christ], I foresaw the Lord always before my face...therefore did my heart rejoice and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance (Acts 2:14-36).

To fully realize the joy of God, we must order our lives around his teachings. As St. Paul instructed Timothy, If a man therefore purge himself from [iniquity], he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use and prepared for every good work (II St. Timothy 2:21).

So count your blessings this Advent season and be thankful, giving God the glory, rejoicing always in his gift of grace to us through Jesus Christ. Rejoice alway. Again I say **Rejoice!**

Let us pray,

**O** MERCIFUL and loving God, we rejoice with thanksgiving for thy most wonderful gift of thine all-sufficient grace; we also pray that through the work of the Holy Ghost we would be empowered in our witness to others that they too might come to know Christ as their personal Saviour. For this we ask in his most holy name. Amen.

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

### *After Church Hospitality*

We would like some pictures of your after service gatherings. Come on! Help out!

*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 Anglican Orthodox Church 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 Anglican Orthodox Church to be prayed for?**

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

### **What is the commitment from the prayer team?**

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

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

You can email one of the prayer team leaders: Jack - jack@faithfulcenturion.org or Dru - dru@faithfulcenturion.org, or call the 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**

No reported travel this week.

### **Birth to Come**

*Maggie* is a very young lady who is expecting a baby. There are many problems and she has been urged to have abortion as a means to simplify her "problem." She has come to understand that killing her baby will not solve any problems, but result in far more. Her family is with her, but others press her. Please pray she will let the Lord deep into her heart.

### **Birthday**

*Lucius Dabney* celebrated his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday 23 November 2014. Lucius, father of Rev Bryan Dabney is an attorney who still practices, opening his office every weekday as he has since 1949. A veteran of both World War II and Korea, a Bible teacher and lay reader, Lucius is our country.

### **Wedding**

*Erma Jacob* and *Ashbil Gill* were married the afternoon of Friday 28 November 2014, Peshawar, Pakistan. A reception followed and the next day the wedding couple and others continued to Lahore, Pakistan where the groom's parents had a Walima dinner and reception. Erma is the daughter of Bishop and Mrs. Ernest Jacob. Please pray for Erma and Ashbil as they work to come together as a single unit and grow closer to our Lord.

### **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.

### *Departed*

*Miney Farrell* passed away about 0700L 20 December 2014, after about 98 years on earth, she joins much of her family gone before.

*Lew Valkenaar* passed away about 0100L 18 December 2014, in Spokane, Washington after a stroke last month. It was a hard fight for Lew, he hung in as long as he could. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and pray for comfort for his family members who remain behind, in particular his wife Dotty, strengthen their strong faith and comfort them.

*Pakistan – 16 December 2014-* Today at 11.00 a.m. six gunmen entered Army Public School 15 minutes drive from my house and opened the fire on school children ages from 10 to 16 killing 126; so far mostly children and female teachers and injuring 100 students. Army Public school is located on Warsak road few furlong from a Missionary St. Mary's School where my two brothers teach and two nephews studying. Thank God they all are safe. One Christian student who was studying in Army School is safe. One Christian teacher who works in Army school we do not know about her, I hope she is safe. The Army security is doing operation against these terrorist and have killed all of them.

Three days mourning nationwide declared.

Please do remember us in your prayers.

*Bishop Ernest Jacob*  
AOC Bishop of Pakistan

*David Raj*, father of Bishop Joshua Raj of Canada, passed away 1 December 2014, at age of 88. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and all that he left behind; pray for his family who remain behind, in particular his loving wife Gracelet Rajaram and son Joshua. David had a long life here, but it seems so short now that he is gone. Pray for comfort and strength for the family until they meet again.

*Doctor Man Jun Ryu* died suddenly of a heart attack. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and pray for his family members who of necessity remain behind and are not only grieving, but adjusting to the loss of the family leader who left without warning. This is so very hard. While we can never really prepare for the loss of a loved one, it is very hard when there is absolutely no warning whatsoever. Please pray for the Ryu family, remembering it can happen to any of us and they need your prayer.

### *Nearing the end of their time here on earth*

*Maggie* is nearing the end of her time here on earth. Please pray for Maggie and her husband Dub 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.

*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.

*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***

*Mary* is an elderly woman who had a hip replacement. Please pray her as she is home recovering.

*Joan* has had serious medical problems that have kept her confined. On 26 September 2013, she took a fall. Please pray her health will remain stable.

*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***

*June* found she has a recurrence of colon cancer, which is now Stage Four, that is it has spread. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that June's remaining time here on earth might be good. Help June and her family put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their sadness, fear, worry and terror.

*Cindy* has been diagnosed with an aggressive malignant brain tumor. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that Cindy's remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Cindy and her family put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their sadness, fear, worry and terror.

*Sarah*, wife of Rev Geordie (AOC – UK), has been treating for ovarian cancer. She has lost her son, as well as a long time furry family member; she is home from hospital having had fluid drained from her lungs. God will give us all the strength we need if we but let Him. Having said that, Sarah is under more stress than can be imagined. Pray that Sarah and Geordie be guided to the new kitten God has chosen for them. Please pray for a miraculous remission; and that Sarah might put all her sadness, fear, worry and terror on God's back so that her 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.

*Leon McKay* suffered a stroke a few weeks back that has left him unable to speak and while undergoing evaluation the doctors also found he has a very aggressive cancer. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that Leon's remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Leon and his 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.

*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.

*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*

*Jeff* has been undergoing surgery, chemo and radiation since October for pancreatitis and Pancreatic cancer. Please pray for the medical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that Jeff, his wife and family will be



able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

*Albert* had a pacemaker installed recently. He will require surgery soon for a leaking heart valve and has just been told he has esophageal cancer. Pray he will turn to God and come to know Him on a more personal basis as the days go by.

*Jane* underwent heart valve repair surgery on 3 July 2014. Please pray for full recovery. Pray also Jane and her family to put their worry on God's shoulders.

*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.

*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***

*Roman* has been ill with acute sinusitis for over a week. It has affected several areas and he is on strong antibiotics. The doctor feels he can heal without a surgical procedure. Please pray the Almighty will heal him without the need of hospitalization.

*Paul* has been hospitalized recently several time because of persistent high fevers. He is being tested and checked by physicians and seems to have a slight scoliosis, a node and Schuermann's disease. Please pray it will be discovered how to treat these problems and healing will begin so he will be inspired to continue his education.

*Maverick*, a newborn little boy, has congenital adrenal hyperplasia. This is an inherited genetic defect that limits production of one of the many enzymes the adrenal glands use to make cortisol.

Most of the problems caused by classic congenital adrenal hyperplasia are related to a lack of cortisol, which plays an important role in regulating your blood pressure, maintaining blood sugar and energy levels, and protecting your body against stress.

This condition has no cure, but can be managed. Prayers are requested for *Maverick*, and his parents *Kellie* and *Robert*, as they adjust their lives to deal with *Maverick's* condition.

*Carol Anne* needs God's comfort and healthy test results as she is anxiously undergoing tests related to previous hysterectomy and experiencing symptoms in the surrounding area.

*Garth* Neel is undergoing chemotherapy for lymphoma cancer. *Garth* is feeling a bit better, but the treatment is tiring. Pray for medical team contemplating and evaluating the treatment that they might be guided to the correct choice and do their very best. Pray also for peace of mind and trust in God for *Garth* and his family, as well as physical strength.

*Garth* is the AOC Bishop of Canada with oversight of South America and a really both good and nice fellow.

*Jennifer* has some lumps on the right side of her neck; they have grown and multiplied. In the last few months she has been having problems swallowing. *Jennifer* has an

appointment with specialist in several weeks to try and discover what it is. She is having a great deal of anxiety as she waits for her Doctors appointment and will appreciate your prayer for anxiety and health.

*Rick* has heart problems. Please pray for guidance for the medical people treating him that they might pay attention, do their very best and make the right recommendations regarding treatment. Pray for help for Rick and his wife Wanda to keep their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry.

*Clay* has melanoma. Please pray for guidance for the medical people treating him that they might pay attention, do their very best and make the right recommendations regarding treatment. Pray for help for Rick and his wife Pam to keep their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry.

*Tom* is battling cancer. Please pray for guidance for the medical people treating him that they might pay attention, do their very best and make the right recommendations regarding treatment. Pray for help for Tom to keep his trust in the Lord and let Him carry his worry.

*Atina* has been diagnosed with skin cancer. Pray for guidance for the medical people treating her that they might pay attention, do their very best and make the right recommendations regarding treatment. Pray for help for Atina to keep her trust in the Lord and let Him carry her worry.

*Evelyn* has been diagnosed with bone cancer. Pray for guidance for the medical people treating her that they might pay attention, do their very best and make the right recommendations regarding treatment. Pray for help for Evelyn to keep her trust in the Lord and let Him carry her worry.

*Stacy* has Multiple Sclerosis and was hospitalized for what turned out to be food poisoning. Pray for trust in God for Stacy and Chris as they deal with Stacy's illness.

*Dick Gray* had developed a Merkle Cell carcinoma just under his sternum carcinoma which is considered a stage four carcinoma since it has 'metastasized'. He traveled to Seattle, Washington where he was examined and considered for a new type of treatment. That treatment will not begin for at least three months, so they referred him to the Rutgers University Cancer Institute, New Brunswick, New Jersey. They have accepted him into the evaluation process, which will begin on Monday 11 August 2014. Rutgers started with monkeys and had good results, so now they are working with humans, Dick is hopeful as he has oft been referred to as an "Old Monkey." Please pray for peace of mind and safe travel for Dick and his lovely wife Jennifer as they travel to New Jersey this weekend. Pray for those contemplating the treatment that they might be guided to the correct choice and do their very best. Pray also for peace of mind and trust in God for Dick and his wife Jennifer. Dick is the Treasurer and a Vestryman at Saint Paul's AOC in Missouri.

*Janet Jessup* had a stroke on 3 July 2014. She has made some progress and is now out of the stroke unit and in the General Surgery and Care Unit. Please pray for those treating her to find the appropriate treatment and for trust in God and peace of mind for Name and her family, in particular her husband of 43 years, Rev Roger Jessup, minister of Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Orthodox Church.

*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.

*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.

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

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

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

*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.

*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 like 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.

*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 appreciates 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**

*Debbie* is just beginning chemotherapy for cancer of the lymph nodes. Prayer she will be able to tolerate the therapy acceptably and remain strong as she remembers the Lord is with her at all times.

*Liz* had a massive stroke at age thirty-seven. The prognosis is good but she has a long road ahead. . Please pray for guidance for those treating her, for trust in our Lord for *Liz* and her family, for healing.

*Ebick* is suffering from a severe ulcer but the Doctors cannot give her the proper dosage of the medicine due to her six month pregnancy. Please pray doctors will find an alternative avenue for treatment or that God will provide.

*Stan* is going through chemotherapy and radiation treatments for cancer. He is elderly and the treatments are tiring him. Please pray for his wife *Marvelene* as they do this together.

*Meg* recently found out she had heart problems causing low blood oxygen levels, loss of focus resulting in an emergency room crisis. As a result of the symptoms she made errors on the job that caused her to lose her job. She is grateful for the excellent medical care she has received and optimistic, feeling with God's intervention in her life her health may be reversed and a new job will become available.

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

*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.

*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.

*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* is home and doing pretty well. Pray for strength for Gil and his wife Mary as they deal with the stresses of Gil's paraplegia and the general aging process.

*Mary Garcia* had surgery, she is home, but not healing as well as she hoped. Please pray for her continued healing.

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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. 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 August 2014! 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.

### ***Healing and Patience***

*Christopher* has had problems with his leg for some time. Now he has to have it casted and it will stay that way for what to him seems an interminable time. Pray for patience and peace of mind for this young man who has much he wants to do.

### ***Thanksgiving and Continued Healing***

*Ian* had surgery to remove excess skin rendered a nuisance by controlled lost of 200 pounds. Please give thanks for the successful result and for those treating him to have paid attention and done their very best on the lengthy surgery, taking the best possible care of him. Please pray for his continued recovery and strength for his Mother who will be in charge of his after care.

*Jennifer* had surgery for breast cancer on 15 October 2014, which seemingly went well; please give thanks for that. She is in considerable pain and has an apparently minor infection. Please pray for the pain and infection to both subside. Pray for guidance for the medical people treating her that they might pay attention, do their very best and for a good outcome. Pray for help for Jennifer to keep her trust in the Lord and let Him carry her worry and concern as she recovers. Please pray also for strength and courage for her family as they try their best to help her.



*Earl* had successful surgery to remove a cancer on his nose. They had to go deeper than they originally thought, so he will need plastic surgery to rebuild the nose, but all the cancer was removed! Please join Earl and his family in giving thanks for the great result!

*Jim* had infection complications from diabetes in his foot. The infection appears to be under control and he has been released from the hospital. Please join in giving thanks for the quick and good result and pray for complete healing.

*DiAnne Thornton* had back surgery 23 September 2014, with apparently good result. Please give thanks for the good result and pray the L5 decompression will allow her walking abilities and balance to be restored.

*Alice* had a mastectomy on 17 September 2014, that apparently went very well with a good result. Please give thanks for the good outcome and pray for full healing and complete remission.

*Mary* had successful hip replacement on 10 September 2014. Please give thanks for the successful surgery and ask for God's help in her recovery.

*Kathy* had what seems to be very successful surgery on Wednesday, 3 September 2014, for cancer that returned somewhat unexpectedly. Please give thanks for the good results of the surgery and pray that the cancer will be held at bay by this action. Pray also for Kathy and her family to let God carry their worry, concern and terror so that Kathy can recover fully and quickly, so as to gain the best result. Help their entire family to keep their full trust in God.

*Peggy* had very successful knee replacement surgery 26 August 2014. She is going home on 29 August 2014 with no pain! Please give thanks for a great result.

*John Evetts* had successful extensive heart surgery; he is still in the hospital and recovering. He is in good spirits. John and his family thank God for the answer to many prayers on his behalf. John is a minister in the Anglican Episcopal Church which has a relationship with the AOC. We look forward to his return to his ministerial duties at St. George's Anglican Church in Ventura in the near future.

John Evetts entered the ministry after a lifetime of work in industry and business as well as service in the Armed Forces in Vietnam. Like the Apostles, he came to the ministry from the secular world of work. Rev. Evetts is married and has two daughters and two grandchildren.

We thank the Rev. Evetts for his service to our country and his continuing service to God and His people.

*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 finished chemotherapy 17 June 2014. Tests the week of 2 June 2014 showed totally clear scans. For now, treatment is done after the last chemotherapy session. Please give thanks for the great result and also for the strength, guidance and peace of mind our Lord gave Mary and her husband Jim, as well as daughter Janice and son Jimmy, she underwent treatment. Please pray she will stay free of the cancer in the future.

*Eli* a two month baby is back home after going to the ER the night of 28 May 2014, not able to breathe. Please give thanks for her recovery and pray for strength,

courage and understanding for Eli's family; as well as for God's guidance for the neurologists and other medical people treating Eli they might find the best course of treatment and allow Eli to heal completely, as well as for strength and understanding for the parents.

*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.

*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.

*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 ago. He has met with the oncologist's and reviewed the CAT scan. Good News! The tumor has been reduced in size—it was down to one half the size that it was in September and there was no indication of a new tumor in the chest area. Dick wanted the Prayer Partners to know and join him in thankfulness to our Lord. 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.

*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.

### ***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***

*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.

*Sara* 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***

*Clark* is in need of salvation; for God's Will to be done in his life. Pray his family will be blessed with the financial miracles that come from doing His Will.

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

### ***God's Strength and Peace of Soul***

*Tommy Dunning* is facing his first Christmas following the death of his only son to cancer. Please pray he can concentrate his heart on what he had and will have in his son through God.

### ***Guidance***

*Edward (45)* had the opportunity to meet with a Christian during the conversation she discovered *Edward* had some background about God but thought He was not relevant to this day. *Edward* asked many questions about the Bible and was surprised at the answers and continued to ask questions. They both went their separate ways and the Christian told *Edward* that she would pray for him. Will you join in prayer for *Edward*, please?

*Kathy* is experiencing severe anxiety and panic attacks. Please pray she can let the Lord

calm and direct her in the best path to take to help alleviate these problems.

*Michael and his Family* ask your prayers for wisdom as they are under trial and affliction to follow the law of the land and yet honor God in so doing.

*Flora* is in remission with cancer, but has high blood pressure and fatigue. Flora's Mother recently died and this has caused added stress. Please pray that she will be able to let God carry her worry and sorrow so she can do the things she needs to do.

*Elizabeth and Gunner* need your prayers for their general well being. Pray that they might see the Light of the Lord and let Him guide their lives. Pray they might open their hearts not only to the Lord, but to each other to become one in Him and happiness.

*Eric and Betty* need your prayers for their general well being. Pray that they might see the Light of the Lord and let Him guide their lives. Pray they might open their hearts not only to the Lord, but to each other to become one in Him and happiness.

*Eli* has lost his way both spiritually and mentally, please pray for him and his parents Ed and Barb, who are having great struggles seeing their son, go through these afflictions having brought up in a Christian home. Please pray his parents can find a way to help Eli.

*Marie* has suffered the loss of her husband, her job and her pet all in a short period of time. Please pray for peace of mind for Marie, as well as for trust in the Lord for her and those around her that she might adjust to the changes in her life and move forward to the honor and glory of our Lord with His Help. (140607)

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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.

### *School Challenges*

Destiny, Blake and Janet

### *Anglican Orthodox Church*

#### *Indonesia*

Please pray for the Lord's will regarding the establishment of an AOC church in Indonesia.

**A**LMIGHTY God and Father of all who trust and believe in thy dear Son, Jesus Christ: We seek thy divine will in the establishment of an Anglican Orthodox Church of Indonesia. In this present day of waning faith and compromising ministers, we hope to discover your will in this important matter. Keep us always strong in faith, worship, and practice; purify continually your visible church on earth, and lead us into green pastures of evangelism and love of truth. The people of Indonesia are a precious people in your sight, and we would seek the honor of preaching your Gospel in those great islands. Grant us wisdom to know and do your will always, for we ask it in the Name of thy dear Son, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN

#### *Kenya*

Saint Peter's Church (AOC) held its first service on 30 November 2014! There were 104 Christians who attended and 48 registered as members. This was preceded by evangelism and crusades. Pray for the church in Kenya that they may see the need to go back to their roots.

*Rev Macharia Wanjohi*

#### *Philippines*

Good news from Bishop Anthony of the Philippine Islands:

Dear Bishop+ Ogles:

Hello! I just arrived from Tabuk after consecrating the Chapel made out of cogon in Nambaran. It's exciting to see plenty of kids attending the service. On the opposite village, the whole community invited us to schedule a service in the place. Their sincerity was confirmed by the willingness of one couple, Mr. and Mrs. Nestor Binnuloc, to donate a portion of land for the purpose. I instructed The Rev. Sherwin to arrange a schedule of service in that place. Thank you again for your continuous prayer over our ministry here.

In Christ Jesus,  
Anthony Pangsiw  
Bishop of the Philippine Islands

#### *Pakistan*

*Tazeem Gill*, AOC Pastor of the church in Narrowal, returned home to be with our Lord after a heart attack on 7 November 2014. The congregation has been placed in the care of Rev Irshad Masih. Pray for inspiration, guidance, strength, perseverance and courage for Rev Masih as he moves forward.

#### *India*

1 November 2014 was the 118<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the India Diocese of our Church in South India. Throughout the area they will have prayer and would like us to join with them as they pray for the Completion of a new Church Building to be dedicated in December.

### **Central African Republic**

*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.

### **Diocese of the Epiphany**

*Saint Paul's, Moberly, Missouri* would like your prayers that the Holy Ghost might enter more fully into their hearts so that they might be more effective in spreading the Word of God.

### **Diocese of Virginia**

*Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Orthodox Church* is under a lot of stress. We all are, but they need even more prayer. Rev Roger Jessup, their wonderful minister, is pressed by the duties of a primary care giver, in addition to all the worries of this world. They have one of their family's primary breadwinners who will be soon unemployed, absent His intervention. As Rev Roger said so eloquently, "We must pray for those who mean us harm and deprive us of our property are our enemies: Our LORD has so commanded us." We must pray they will see light and cleave to it while turning their backs on the Prince of this World. Equally important, we must pray that the Lord will raise up a political leader from among us as He has done in the past. Pray also for trust in God for each member of the parish and for them to find economic relief.

### **Armed Forces & Contractors**

Kristyna Thomas (Fort Bragg, SC – Boot Camp), Airman Donny Patton (Hulbert Field, Florida), Jordan Brown (USMC – Fleet Marine Force - Pacific), Trevor Jennings (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator – New Jersey), Trevor Di Marco (USN – Whidbey Island, EF-18 Pilot), Kurt Thomas (USN – Camp Foster, Okinawa)

### **For Our Country**

Our country has lost its way. Over half the people that vote, voted for a government that promises them things it cannot deliver in return for their souls which it can, will and does take. Our foreign policy backs the rise of Islam, we turn our backs on those who would follow God and arm those who murder them. Pray God will raise up a leader from among the people who can turn the country's course 180° and attempt to come back to God. Pray the people will recognize that they are headed down a smooth wide road into the pit, a road that will get smoother and smoother, steeper and steeper until the only possible way is down. Down, into the depths of the pit. Pray people will recognize there is:

- One True and Triune God who is goodness in and of Himself
- All religions are not equal
- All ways of life are not equal;
- The Bible holds the Key to Life;
- All rights come from God, not the State;
- Good;
- Bad;
- Evil;
- Right;
- Wrong;
- Allah is the Devil;
- Abortion is no more than sacrifice of children to Baal.

Pray this recognition will not come too late. Pray we will, each of us, do our duty to God, Country and Family, putting His Honor above all.

### *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.

### *Thanksgiving*

*Nathan* had successful surgery on 4 August 2014, to remove a tumor near his heart; then underwent chemotherapy. During a visit on 2 December 2014, the PET Scan found no evidence of cancer. *Nathan* and his family thank God for the great result, the medical team for paying attention and doing their best and you for your prayers.

### *Various Special Requests*

The *Anglican Orthodox Church in Peshawar, Pakistan* sustained damage to their building as the result of heavy rains. At present the roof is being rebuilt and they have not been able to hold services. Pray it will be fixed very soon and a new place might be found until the church is restored.

*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.

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!

### *The near future, as well as Next Sunday*

25 December 2014 – Christmas Day – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

28 December 2014 – Holy Innocents – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**