



# Anglican Orthodox Church Worldwide Communion



## The Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles The First Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday Report



### The Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles

What a long title for a simple thought. The Epiphany is the title of the feast recalling the arrival of the Magi to pay homage to the Lord Jesus. Epiphany means revealing or becoming aware. Our Lord was revealed first to the Hebrews through the shepherds. The first gentiles (non-Hebrews) to whom He was first revealed were the Magi or Wise Men who came from afar to pay Him honor.

Epiphany is a fixed day, it is always the Sixth of January, twelve or thirteen days after Christmas Day, depending on how you count.

#### *Propers*

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, with the Collect for the actual Sunday read also. Some days are particularly special, such as the Epiphany, and the Collect is read for eight days (the legendary Octave) The Propers for the Epiphany are found on Page 107-109 with the Collect first:

#### The Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

[January 6.]

*The Collect.*

**O** GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; Mercifully grant that we, who know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ This Collect is to be said daily throughout the Octave

The Epistle for the evening came from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, the Third Chapter beginning at the First Verse:

**F**OR this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God, which is given me to you-ward: how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: in whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

The Gospel for the evening came from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, the Second Chapter beginning at the First Verse:

**W**HEN Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa, in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

### *Thought for the Day*

At least in Descanso, the Epiphany service was not much different than that first Epiphany. Except this time there was one wise woman and two wise guys! Most important, Jesus was there! We had a great time worshipping. Join your local service some time, it is a lot of fun. It seems as if there is always plenty of room in the inn when there is church service going on. Cold outside, though!

### *Sermon – Reverend Jack Arnold - Time and Action*

Through the leading of the star, the wise men from Persia (modern day Iran) were led to seek the Christ Child. This was the “revealing” of Christ to the Gentiles, and the first such event. Though he mainly ministered to the Jews of Israel, it is important that he ministered to the Roman governor and the Faithful Centurion (from which our parish gets its name) whom were Gentiles.

Though the Apostles in the early church did not think that ministering to the Gentiles was worthy, through the actions of St. Paul, The Word began spreading to the Gentiles. Paul says in his Epistle that the time has come that we should start spreading to the Gentiles, and bring our gifts (talents) to His Service (as our talents are on loan from God, as Rush Limbaugh says) and use them accordingly to further His purpose on this planet.

Paul also said that he was charged by God to bring The Word to all, not just the Jews. The time was now ripe to expand past the original target market (the Jews), and to spread it to all. He said that he wished to explain the mysteries (The Word) of God to all, including the Gentiles, that they might see and hear The Word.

In the Gospel, Herod tries to entice the wise-men to find the Christ child and report His whereabouts to him that, he claims “that I will come and will worship him.” But like most modern leaders of the world today, his words were duplicitous in nature. “I will come and worship him” translated to that he would come and murder Christ, as he did the Holy Innocents, while Christ was in Egypt.

The wise—men however, fortunately, were warned in a dream, after visiting the Christ child, by God, of Herod’s true intentions, and went home a different way, that they would avoid a confrontation with Herod. They brought him frankincense, incense and myrrh. In a way, they did what Paul talked about and brought Him “gifts” for His Service. Now we do not know if these gifts were ever used in Christ’s life. But, like present time gift giving, it is not necessarily the gifts that are important. It is the thought and the meaning behind the giving of gifts that could be the most.

Now in this troubled time, we must be ready to bring our talents to Him, to use for His Glory and to Spread His Word. In this time, we must spread The Word and without ceasing praise Him and His Majesty. In order to institute a turn around of the moral decay, we must first act. If we do not act, then how can we expect to stem the tide of the moral decay. We must act with steadfast purpose.

This may require some courage on our behalf, as we will get mocked and perhaps in this troubled time, may come a day, where we like the apostles are thrown in jail. However scary this time may be for spreading His Word, no matter how hostile it is, we must do it anyway. We must be like the men who brought freedom to this land, who defended our country when its freedom was threatened in all its wars from the War of Independence, through to the present, having been reading recently a lot on World War II, I think of the fear that must have gone through the hearts of those who participated in the amphibious assaults of D-Day, Tarawa, Peleleiu, Guam, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Yet, they did what was to be done. Proper action under very fearful circumstances, doing what must be done.

The important thing to remember about these men is they showed steadfast purpose and courage. It was a nerve racking thing as one approached a foreign beach of an island/land, not knowing what hell the enemy planned. But, the important lesson is that they stepped their boots forward into danger, knowing that they would most likely pay for this advance with their lives.

As they stepped forward into danger, we must step forward into this hostile world, and charge forward against the fire of the hostile media and people, whose hearts have been turned to stone. We must charge against them, using The Word as our defense and our

offense against Satan. The greatest defense is the best offense. And we truly have both in The Word of God. We must remember that God wants everybody to follow Him, not just certain ethnic groups (like the Jews), and that we must concentrate on spreading His Word, through bringing our Gifts and Talents to His Service.

He comes!

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

# The First Sunday after the Epiphany

Today was the first Sunday after the Epiphany and Second Sunday of the New Year 2015.

## *On Point*

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

Let us not look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around in awareness.

*James Thurber*  
American writer

Few skills are so well rewarded as the ability to convince parasites that they are victims.

*Thomas Sowell*

## *Creative Evolution*

One reason why many people find Creative Evolution so attractive is that it gives one much of the emotional comfort of believing in God and none of the less pleasant consequences. When you are feeling fit and the sun is shining and you do not want to believe that the whole universe is a mere mechanical dance of atoms, it is nice to be able to think of this great mysterious Force rolling on through the centuries and carrying you on its crest. If, on the other hand, you want to do something rather shabby, the Life-Force, being only a blind force, with no morals and no mind, will never interfere with you like that troublesome God we learned about when we were children. The Life-Force is a sort of tame God. You can switch it on when you want, but it will not bother you. All the thrills of religion and none of the cost. Is the Life-Force the greatest achievement of wishful thinking the world has yet seen?

*Jack Lewis*  
Mere Christianity

He's wild, you know. Not like a tame lion.

*Mr. Beaver*  
Chronicles of Narnia

Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

*President George Washington*  
Farewell Address, 1796

Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you - not because they are nice, but because you are.

*Author Unknown*

I've seen men die because they were sure that what should not happen, would not.

*Robert Jordan*

What at first was plunder assumed the softer name of revenue.

*Thomas Paine*

### *The World*

If you do not take the distinction between good and bad very seriously, then it is easy to say that anything you find in this world is a part of God. But, of course, if you think some things really bad, and God really good, then you cannot talk like that. You must believe that God is separate from the world and that some of the things we see in it are contrary to His will. Confronted with a cancer or a slum the Pantheist can say, 'If you could only see it from the divine point of view, you would realise that this also is God.' The Christian replies, 'Don't talk damned nonsense.' For Christianity is a fighting religion. It thinks God made the world—that space and time, heat and cold, and all the colours and tastes, and all the animals and vegetables, are things that God 'made up out of His head' as a man makes up a story. But it also thinks that a great many things have gone wrong with the world that God made and that God insists, and insists very loudly, on our putting them right again.

*Jack Lewis*  
Mere Christianity

### *The Bible*

Unless the religious claims of the Bible are again acknowledged, its literary claims will, I think, be given only "mouth honour" and that decreasingly. . . . It is, if you like to put it that way, not merely a sacred book but a book so remorselessly and continuously sacred that it does not invite, it excludes or repels, the merely aesthetic approach. You can read it as literature only by a tour de force. You are cutting the wood against the grain, using the tool for a purpose it was not intended to serve. It demands incessantly to be taken on its own terms: it will not continue to give literary delight very long except to those who go to it for something quite different.

*Jack Lewis*  
Selected Literary Essays

We have all heard people foolishly joke that when they die and go to Hell, they will hold a great party because all of their friends will be there as well. These careless jokes reflect the almost total absence of belief in the reality and the horror of an eternity in Hell.

*Dr. Grant Jeffrey*  
20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Canadian Christian author  
(Journey Into Eternity, p. 221)

### *Effort*

I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle - victorious.

*Vince Lombardi*

The wicked, through pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

*Psalm 10:4*

He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

*Proverbs 13:20*

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

*Isaiah 5:20*

Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.

*St. Luke 12:8*

Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law?

*St. John 7:19*

A church in which the Bible is not the standard of faith and practice... in which repentance, faith, and holiness are not prominently put forward as essential to salvation...in which forms, and ceremonies, and ordinances not commanded in the Bible are the chief things urged upon the attention of the members— such a church is in a very diseased and unsatisfactory condition. It may not formally deny any article of the Christian faith. It may have been founded originally by the apostles. It may boast that it is catholic. But if the apostles were to rise from the dead and visit such a church, I believe they would command it to repent, and have no communion with it till it did.

*JC Ryle*

19<sup>th</sup> century Anglican bishop and author  
Knots Untied, p. 235

There can be no greater crisis for a nation than a spiritual or religious crisis, because it has to do with the identity and character of the nation. It touches the spirit, the will and the morale of a people, and it must be evident that these things are of primary importance. The spirit takes priority over everything else. If a nation has vision and the will to strive for its realization, these spiritual qualities will ensure its survival... But whatever natural or material resources a nation may have, if it lacks these qualities of the spirit it will fail.

*David N. Samuel*

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century former Presiding Bishop of the Church of England (Continuing)  
The Church In Crisis, p. 126

Satan seizes and directs all the mighty forces of this world! War is seized... and is no longer the patriot's struggle for freedom or the defense of home and native land.

Instead, it becomes the tool of despotism; it crushes liberty and enslaves freedom. War carries on a campaign of lust, rape, cruelty, desolation, and death... Money... is diverted by Satan for selfish and unholy purposes... Men become illustrious and esteemed... when they are money-getters and money-keepers. Education... becomes a source of pride and ungodly power... Under the guise of Christian learning, education becomes the most powerful ally to Satan by unsettling faith in God's Word and opening a wide door of skepticism in the temple of God.

*EM Bounds*

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian and author  
Guide to Spiritual Warfare, pp. 72-73

Those that bind up their happiness in the favor of men make themselves an easy prey to the temptations of Satan.

*Matthew Henry*

17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century English pastor and author

Yet, partisans on the 'winning' side of this faux [election] campaign will celebrate their 'freedom,' if for no other reason that they got to choose their dictator. Americans, except the elite, will be the losers again. They will remain debt slaves, tax donkeys and work mules for the owners. They will watch their dollars become more worthless than they already are, become poorer and more dependent, and soothe their pain with the bread and circuses provided by those in control – alcohol and sport. They will cheer on their gladiators, their teenage sons dying in foreign lands, and not even notice they are being strip-searched daily and their phone calls, email and Facebook feeds monitored. While the spokesman for the owners will change, the owners will not...because most voters on both sides are too lazy, ignorant or disinterested to go further than campaign rhetoric.

*Jim Karger*

21<sup>st</sup> century American lawyer and author

When We Wake Up November 7th... Nothing Will Have Changed, 8-29-12

Liberty ... is a political situation denoting the lawful capability of the citizen to defend himself and his near and dear without interference from the state.

*Colonel Jeff Cooper*

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American patriot and firearms expert

. . . The slaughter perpetrated... by people who are legally armed by their state doesn't really interest anybody. What shocks the enlightened world... is not the millions slaughtered by states, but rather, those exceptions to the rule in which individuals— not regimes— perpetrate the slaughter. The authors of the American constitution wrote a document about as close to perfection as is humanly possible. They understood well that the first stop on the path to slavery is to rescind the citizen's right to defend himself, leaving him alone, helpless and vulnerable to the 'kindness' of the regime. Wherever a regime has become totalitarian, its first step is to disarm its citizens. We automatically assume that the state is a responsible power acting, first and foremost, for the benefit of its citizens. We feel good thinking that there is a big brother out there with whom we can deposit the responsibility for our fate. When a shocking shooting spree... takes place, nobody seriously checks what violent films children are watching. Nobody talks about training armed citizens to prevent more of these insane shootings. The easy solution – the solution that does not require taking responsibility – is to deposit arms

and responsibility in the hands of the state... It is easy to slide down the slippery slope of totalitarianism. The loss of the ability to protect oneself is the loss of liberty.

*Moshe Feiglin*

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Israeli statesman and author

### *Propers*

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

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

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

The Propers are found on Page 109-111 with the Collect first:

#### **The First Sunday after The Epiphany.**

*The Collect.*

**O** LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

#### **The Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.**

**[January 6.]**

*The Collect.*

**O** GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; Mercifully grant that we, who know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ This Collect is to be said daily throughout the Octave

The Epistle for today came from the Twelfth Chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans beginning at the First Verse. Paul asks not only those long gone Romans, but us, as well, to "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." He tells us our home is in heaven. Life here is not the end, rather

the stepping off point, either to heaven or hell. Thus were are “not conformed to this world: but to be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that we ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Some of us may be better than others, but all fall short of the minimum standard. Through Christ we attain eternal life. In the meantime, each of us should not “think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Each of us has a place in the church, a reason to be and job to do. “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”

**I** BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

The Gospel for today came from the Second Chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke beginning at the Forty-First Verse. It tells the story of when Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem after the Passover Feast in his twelfth year. When they were done, the family group, for they likely traveled with their extended family for safety, left together. After the first day's travel they stopped for the night and could not find Jesus. So, fearing the worst, they headed back at night for Jerusalem. Braving robbers and worse, they made their way back. After looking for three days, they went to the temple, where lo, they found him. He was among the learned men “both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.” His parents were amazed and confounded. He asked them why they worried and why they did not understand that he was about his Father's business. It is noteworthy that Jesus at twelve was able to “hold his own” with the learned scholars of Judah. He was able to out reason those who lived to dissect the Law. “A little child shall lead them,” (Isaiah 11:1-10)

**N**OW his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto

them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

### *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**

First Sunday after The Epiphany  
11 January 2015, Anno Domini (in the Year of Our Lord)

#### **The First Sunday after The Epiphany.**

*The Collect.*

**O** LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



#### **The Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.**

[January 6.]

*The Collect.*

**O** GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; Mercifully grant that we, who know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ This Collect is to be said daily throughout the Octave

**A**T THE same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? <sup>2</sup> And Jesus called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them, <sup>3</sup> And said, **Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.** <sup>4</sup> Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> And whoso shall receive one such little child in My name receiveth Me. <sup>6</sup> But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. <sup>7</sup> Woe unto the world because of offences for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! <sup>8</sup> Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee; it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be east into everlasting fire. <sup>9</sup> And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. <sup>10</sup> Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> For the Son of Man is come to save that which was lost. <sup>12</sup> How think ye! if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray! <sup>13</sup> And if so be that he find it,

verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. <sup>14</sup> Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. (Matthew 18:1-14)

Who, indeed, is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven? What motivates the question? Is it a covetous and proud spirit?

Man wants to always have the prominent position. Little children could care less about position – they simply desire the company of someone who loves them and whom they love. Three points:

### **One**

Jesus shows the conditions for entrance of the Kingdom by example:

Jesus here sets an excellent example for us: He does not use the old approach of parents – "Because I said so!" He sets an example of a little child. Let a little child teach them.....Isaiah 11:6

*The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. Jesus called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them,*

Notice that the little child does not recoil from the arms of Jesus. The child, though not having known Christ for more than a short few minutes, trust this heart of His implicitly.

Children are generally excellent judges of character.

This is the manner and state of the Kingdom of Heaven – it is like the innocent heart of a little child and, yet, there are those in it who wish to be first in the Kingdom.

Those who wish to be first will always persecute those of less stature. They will forbid, as much as possible, others from coming near to Christ. This is demonstrated also in Mark:

*10:13 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. 10:14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. 10:15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. 10:16 And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.*

He shows the conditions of entrance into and eminence in His kingdom by a living example.

There were always children at hand round Him, when He wanted them.

Their quick instinct for pure and loving souls drew them to Him; and this little one was not afraid to be taken by the hand, and to be afterwards caught up in His arms, and pressed to His heart.

The discussion of the disciples made a certain presumption which was not entirely

correct. They presumed that each present would be in the Kingdom of Heaven. We know this was not true for at least one among them – namely, Judas Iscariot.

Greatest in the kingdom? Make sure that you go in at all, first; which you will never do, so long as you keep your present ambitious minds.'

What a child is naturally, and without effort or merit, by reason of age and position, we must become, if we are to pass the narrow portal which admits into the Kingdom of Heaven. "*For broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be they go in thereat.*"

Before becoming the star of the team, be certain that you first make the team!

The child is, by its very position, lowly and modest, and makes no claims, and lives by instinctive confidence, and does not care about honours, and has these qualities which in us are virtues, and is not puffed up by possessing them.

That is the ideal which is realized more generally in the child than analogous ideals are in mature manhood. Such simplicity, modesty, humility, must be ours.

We must be made small ere we can enter that door.

And as is the requirement for entrance, so is it for eminence. The child does not humble himself, but is humble by nature; but we must humble ourselves if we would be great.

## Two

After answering the question of preeminence in the Kingdom, Christ goes on to express our duties and responsibilities for little ones in vv 5 & 6.

*<sup>5</sup> And whoso shall receive one such little child in My name receiveth Me. <sup>6</sup> But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*

The subject, then, of these verses is the blessedness of recognizing and welcoming Christ-like lowly believers, and the fatal effect of the opposite conduct.

To 'receive one such little child in My name' is just to have a sympathetic appreciation of, and to be ready to welcome to heart and home, those who are lowly in their own and in the world's estimate, but princes of Christ's court and kingdom.

"In my Name"

'In My name' is equivalent to 'for the sake of My revealed character,' and refers both to the receiver and to the received. The blessedness of such reception, so far as the receiver is concerned, is not merely that he thereby comes into happy relations with Christ's foremost servants, but that he gets Christ Himself into his heart

When a person is an agent for a company, he acts in the name of the company and in the best interests and purposes of the company. When we act in the Name of Christ, we act in every way as much as if it were our Lord Himself giving the directions.

## Three

Christ summarizes the honor and dignity of His 'little ones.'

*14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.'*

If God wills a thing, it will surely come to pass. Even the smallest and weakest among us, devoted to Christ, will not perish, but have ever-lasting life.

*Sermon - Rev Jack Arnold*

*Church of the Faithful Centurion - Descanso, California*

Today's sermon ties together the propers, that is to say the prayer and readings for this week. Consider these words from the Collect:



...grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same...

As imperfect creatures with free will, we will never figure out what we should be doing, let alone do it, on our own. That was the part of the reason God sent the Holy Ghost; that we might listen to Him and understand. He will give us the knowledge to figure out and know what and how we are to do the things we need to do here on Earth for Him. Not just understand The Word that had been spoken to us through Jesus and the Scriptures, but to understand what we should do, hence the prayer to figure out what we need to do, then give us the power or strength to do what we are supposed to do. We might have some difficulties, some nervousness, some stumbling, but in the end as long as we do our best to follow His will, and not worry, things shall be ok. Because then we will be on the path to eternal life and happiness, as he wants us to be happy. To be on that path and not just think or talk about being on it. We need to actively follow Our Lord and not be passive about it, but actually physically do it. We need to act, using the Scriptures as our Holy Handbook for our actions within our lives. He did not mean for us to simply read it only, but to digest it and use what we learned in the real world.

After all isn't that what the school system was supposedly put in place for? University, the words comprise it are "Una Veritas", meaning "One Truth", as it was supposed to be a place of Godly learning, where one would learn the "One Truth". The school system was intended that we might have Godly children growing up in the faith, therefore strengthening them as men/women of great moral character. If we put back the Scriptures in our schools and held the kids to the standards of those Scriptures, then we would find ourselves on a moral higher ground. The Scriptures are the only true truth, as they are based on the Word of God, who is truth in every sense of the word. It is something we should use to help develop ourselves in life, to use a term from the Japanese, kai-zen, or continuous self improvement.

The first thing tsunami watchers would tell people, is at the first sign of a tsunami approaching, go to higher ground. Therefore, I would like apply that same principle to our lives. At the first sign of any sort of evil, temptation or sin, that we headed to the higher ground that God lives on and seek him out, rather than wait for the wave of evil to envelop us. We also have to recognize the signs that we are in trouble and

immediately consult Him and His Word and figure out an action plan according to the principles in Scripture.

We are asking God to help us know what we should do and then help us to do it right. Seems pretty simple. That is the root of almost all our problems. It is harder to do what is right than what seems easy to us. First, even if we ask God what He wants us to do, "There are none so deaf as those who will not hear." Then, if we hear what He wants us to do, and hear it correctly, we often find it "too hard." Do you recall this quote from GK Chesterton:

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

So once we find out what God wants, we often rationalize our way around it. Think about the 613 Mosaic laws and the Pharisees who made a good living telling people how to comply with them to the letter and still do just what they wanted to do. So, then even if we find out what God wants and decide to actually do it instead of avoid it, we are faced with the often huge problem of where do we get the strength to accomplish this task. The answer is circular, from God. He never asks us to do anything we cannot do good enough for Him if we rely on Him. Never. End of that discussion.

Now, once you have managed to get this far, you gain the power needed to become one of Paul's New Men, a person who has accepted God's Grace, turning to God and relying on Him for guidance, strength, courage and perseverance. To do that, we need to turn outward. Not think of ourselves, but of God and our fellow Christians. Speaking of that, one of the tools God gives us to get things done is a Team, that Team is fellow Christians. So, we need to work together as a Team. Think not of your glory, but that of God. President Reagan had a sign on his desk which read:

"There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit."

Paul tells us not to concentrate on our status, position or grandeur, but to see what we can do to help. Just like our body would not function if all parts were brains, neither will Christ's Team function if everyone is concerned about their position.

When we look at the Gospel today, aside from the historical function telling us that Jesus was in the temple bringing the light of the gospel to the rabbis, I am reminded there are other lessons. It is not that we want to micromanage your life, but keep your friends and family informed of what you are doing and where you are going. Jesus' earthly parents risked life and limb going back up the road to Jerusalem at night. But, that was their duty as parents. A duty which must have been done, no matter the cost. The lesson here is to keep your family and friends well informed of what you are doing, rather than going off on your own, figuring you can handle it. Except most of the times, we cannot, as we are not like Jesus, we are not the Son of God, but rather mortals adopted into God's Family. There are somethings we cannot do on our own without His Help and without the help of our family and friends.

Duty means to do what you are supposed to do, then count the cost. There is no sense of duty if you are merely doing what is easiest for you at the time. While doing your duty will in the end be the right thing, thus the easiest thing, it may not be at the time.

Doing one's duty can result in one's temporal death, the end of their time here on earth. Not an easy way. But, recall that easy downhill path leads to the pit, it does not lead to the summit. Our country is where it is today because of those who preceded us, those who did their duty. It will not keep going up if, as a country we stroll down that wide smooth downhill boulevard. We must struggle to stay on the narrow path which leads to the summit.

Look back at those who stepped forward when the country called, Concord, Veracruz, Gettysburg, San Juan Hill, Chateau Thierry, Pearl Harbor, Normandy, Peleliu, Bastogne, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Chosin Reservoir, Ia Drang Valley, Khe Sanh, Hanoi, Laos, Cambodia and countless unfamiliar names in Southwest Asia. In them, you find a unifying theme of Duty, doing what you have to do, no matter what it takes, then count the cost. Those who fought for our country did it out of duty to their country and God and to protect their family. We must emulate their purpose and serve God dutifully. Christ is the ultimate example of this, the only begotten Son of God, yet doing His duty to die for us, which is what God wanted Him to do, to save us from eternal hellfire. So it was His Duty and He did it with honor. Through duty, we too might have a noble death and welcoming in the afterlife.

Duty –

### **God • Honor • Country • Family**

But, back to the Gospel and the parents arrival at the temple, where lo, they found him. He was among the learned men “both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.” His parents were amazed and confounded. He asked them why they worried and why they did not understand that he was about his Father's business. It is noteworthy to see Jesus at twelve was able to “hold his own” with the learned scholars of Judah. He was able to out reason those who lived to dissect the Law. “A little child shall lead them,” Isaiah 11:1-10

He comes!

### **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:



#### **First Sunday after Epiphany**

Genesis 18:1-3, 9-14 • Matthew 7:24-28 • Psalm 58  
January 11, 2015

God is speaking. This is not an unusual event. God speaks to us every time we read the Bible. The Bible is the Word of God, and in its pages God tells us what He wants us to believe, and what He wants us to do. Do not expect God to speak to you in

dreams or visions or feelings. Expect Him to speak through the Bible. That's why He gave it.

But in Genesis 18, God is speaking to Abraham, and Abraham doesn't have a Bible. There is no Bible at that point in history. So God speaks to Abraham in various ways, as He does to many people before the Bible is completed. We sometimes envy the people God spoke to audibly, or in dreams and visions, but we are actually the ones to be envied. They had only bits and pieces of God's revelation. We have the full revelation of God. We have far more "light" than they had. I think every one of them would gladly trade his visions for a Bible.

In Genesis 18 God appears to Abraham as Three Men. Obviously this is a revelation of the Holy Trinity, the Triune God. Abraham probably doesn't understand it, but he knows this is God, standing before him, sitting by his campfire, sharing a meal with him. And God has a message for Abraham, and for Sarah. He says:

"I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life: and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son."

This is a restatement and re-verification of God's earlier promise to Abraham, to make him a great nation, with descendants like the stars in the sky, and all people of earth will be blessed in him. Sarah is in the tent during this time. I don't know whether she is there out of decorum, or out of a sense of holy fear at the presence of God, but I admire her for it. Decorum in the presence of God is a good thing. Holy fear in the presence of God is a good thing. Today people saunter into the presence of God as casually as they walk into a shopping mall. But Abraham bows to God and treats God as someone high and holy and special. Sarah remains in the tent. Many people could learn from their example.

But Sarah also laughs. Not a happy laugh, a derisive laugh that expresses scorn and disappointment. Why? Because it has "ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women" (18:11). Sarah's monthly issue of blood has ended. As long as it continued, she probably believed God would give her a son. But when it ended, her hope, and probably much of her faith ended too.

The words, "according to the time of life," are very significant. Sarah is in the time of life when women no longer bear children. Conception seems completely impossible to her. But not to God. God designed, created, and sovereignly controls every cell in every human body. He can open a womb, or close it. He can make it conceive, or He can prevent it from conceiving. He can even make a virgin's womb conceive. God has intentionally waited until this time of life to give Sarah a son so she, and all the world will know this child is a miracle child, not an accident.

When God does something, He does in His own time and in His own way and for His own purposes. Our job is to trust Him, and to have faith. Our job is to live quiet and holy lives. Our job is to obey His commandments, and leave the rest to Him. As Robert E. Lee is believed to have said, "Duty is ours: consequences are God's." As an old Gospel song says, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." That's what Sarah needs to do. Don't we all?

Psalm 58 begins in sadness. It is the cry of people suffering under crushing oppression. Evil people are in control. Their minds are not set on righteousness. They imagine

mischievous on the earth, and their hands deal with wickedness. The ancient Hebrews were constantly invaded by Canaanite tribes, who wanted the Jews annihilated. I can imagine the Jews crying out, "Break their teeth, O God." "Let them fall away like water that runneth apace." I can imagine our own ancestors, down through history, sometimes gathered around hearth and home, sometimes gathered around the fires of army camps, reading this Psalm, wondering when God will rise up and finally conquer evil. During Christmas we often sing an old song that says, "Then in despair I bowed my head, there is no peace on earth I said, for hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth good will toward men." That song captures something of the despair this Psalm expresses.

But, as surely as God gave Sarah a son, so will He also deliver His people from the hand of evil. Psalm 58 closes with a picture of God coming to earth to crush evil and punish evil doers. It also pictures the great relief of those who suffer and wait for God's justice. "Verily there is a reward for the righteous." "There is a God that judgeth the earth."

There is another point in today's readings. It is made in Matthew 7, the close of the famous Sermon on the Mount. Build your house on the rock of the word of God. The life, the family, the nation, the culture that is built upon the shifting sands of human folly, cannot stand the storms of life. We are seeing this truth graphically illustrated in our own country. A few generations ago, I would have said America is drifting away from the faith that gave its identity and power. Now I would say we are not drifting away, we are intentionally sailing away under full power. We are angrily chopping away at the very roots of our culture. If we continue as we are, one day the beautiful tree supported by these roots, will crash to the ground and die.

Likewise, the life, or culture that does not stand on the solid rock cannot stand in the day of God's wrath. His wrath will come like a hurricane to a straw hut on a sandy beach, and it will wash away every trace of it.

This is not a cause for fear for the Christian. The life that is built upon the rock will stand the storms of life, and the day of God's wrath. It is evil that will fall. Like the Flood, God's wrath will wash away evil. By His grace, His people will be saved. Here is the point. God, who keeps His promise to Abraham and Sarah, who miraculously gives a child to Sarah, whose word is a rock and a hiding place for His people, now and forever, will rise up and bring evil to a swift and terrifying end. Therefore, trust in Him.

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+Dennis Campbell

Bishop, Anglican Orthodox Church Diocese of Virginia  
Rector, Holy Trinity Anglican Orthodox Church - Powhatan, Virginia

*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.

**First Sunday after the Epiphany**

11 January 2015

Psalm 97 • Prov. 8:22-35 • Col. 1:9-29

**The First Sunday after The Epiphany.**

*The Collect.*

**O** LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Do you sometimes feel as if the Lord has abandoned you? Do you sometimes think that living a Christ-like life doesn't seem to work? What is going on when these thoughts invade your mind? If you think about it, the Prince of the power of the air, Satan, has the ability to cloud or redirect our minds from the heavenly direction we should strive for. What does this mean?

If we focus on St. Paul's letter to the Colossians, we read of encouragement, prayers of strength, thanksgiving for salvation, and all the tenet of the Christian faith.

This seems to be following a pattern, Paul is showing that believers do have problems with their faith and yet should not give up, they should seek the Lord; 'being filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding'.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

It wasn't that Paul was writing in circles, he was pointing to the variable in everyday Christian life. One day you seem to be following the Lord, the next day you question or doubt the very foundations of your faith. This is not really that hard to understand. Here is a fact: if you were Satan's, if you were without faith, if you had no hope in the Resurrection, then you would not doubt, you would not wonder if you were saved. Does that make sense? 'A house divided against itself cannot stand'. If you are in Satan's camp, why in the world would he get you to doubt your salvation? He'd leave well enough alone, he doesn't want you wondering about the afterlife. He wants you to

think all is well; there is no need for salvation, after all you aren't that bad...right? He does this to keep the lost blinded to the fact that dying without Christ is eternal damnation.

Notice what Paul writes, '...sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works....yet now hath he reconciled'. We can be turned about by our own thoughts, we can be led away from Christ by wicked enemies in your mind, or wicked works in your mind, but in the work of Christ death, he reconciles us, he presents us holy, unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight.

Now look at these next couple of verses from the letter to the church at Colossi.

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

So instead of wasting time worrying about things that don't really exist, let us look at the job we are to do. We are to show the world, by our example, by the hope of glory, by the very fiber of our being, that there is a reason for the hope that we have. As St. Peter wrote in 1Peter 3:15, "...But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear..."

No matter who we are in Christ, we are constantly showing the Gospel in our lives. We don't have to be ordained ministers, church leaders or workers per se, we just have to live our lives in such a manner that they become the Gospel.

Let us go and do likewise.

Let us pray:

**A**LMIGHTY God, who in the former time didst lead our fathers forth into a wealthy place and set their feet in a large room; Give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to us their children, that we may always approve ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners. Defend our liberties; preserve our unity. Save us from lawlessness and violence; from discord and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Fashion into one .godly people .the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those whom we entrust in thy Name with the authority of governance, to the end that there may be good government at home and peace with all the world. In the time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness; and in the day of trouble suffer not our trust in thee to fail. All which we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. AMEN.

**H**EAVENLY Father, we beseech Thee to help us in the personal influence, both Hconscious and. unconscious, which we exert from day to day, May we be a hindrance to no one either by word or example, but by the purity, gentleness and unselfishness of our lives. may' we lead many to serve their fellow-men and glorify Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

**O** ALMIGHTY God, the supreme Governor of all things, whose power no creature is able to resist, to whom it belongeth justly to punish sinners, and to be merciful to them that truly repent: Save and deliver us, we humbly beseech thee, from the hands of our enemies; that, we, being armed with thy defence, may be preserved evermore from all perils, to glorify thee, who art the only giver of all victory; through the merits of thy only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.



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

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



**First Sunday after Epiphany**

The Old Testament lesson for today (I Samuel 1:21-28) presents a mother who vowed to the LORD if he would give her a son she would give him over to his service all the days of his life. How often do people make vows to God and fail to keep them? We are admonished in Scripture to fulfil our promises to the LORD. Hannah did as she had vowed, and because of her faith in the LORD, she received five other children that she had not asked for (I Samuel 2:18-21). God supplies more than we ask or could conceive in our mind's eye, we need only trust in him and keep his word and commandment.

So then, how did the LORD make use of this child who had been lent to his service? Samuel was trained by Eli the chief priest of the tabernacle to minister before God. It was in that capacity that God came and spoke to Samuel. He informed him about the nature of the chief priest's sons as well as Eli's failure to deal with them (I Samuel 3:8-18). Eventually the LORD permitted the ark of the covenant— over which Eli and his sons were charged with the care of— to be captured in battle by the Philistines which also included the deaths of Eli's sons (I Samuel 4:11). Eli himself died after hearing the news that the ark had been captured and his sons slain (I Samuel 4:18). It wasn't long after they had captured it that the Philistines returned the ark to the land of Israel. The LORD put upon them a terrible plague and he humiliated their god, Dagon, whose image was found dismembered and face down before the ark in their temple at Ashdod (I Samuel 5:1-12).

The return of the ark to the Israelites, though initially a joyous occasion, turned to tragedy when some of the men looked into the ark which resulted in the LORD's judgment upon that whole region of Beth-shemesh (I Samuel 6:14-21). Afterwards, the ark was carried to Kirjath-jearim and the house of Eleazar who kept it safe for twenty years (I Samuel 7:1-2). It was at the end of this period of safe-keeping that Samuel again is mentioned, but this time not only as a priest but as a judge also (I Samuel 7:3-17). He encouraged the people to come back to the LORD their God. He called on them to put away the false gods of their rebellious past and accept the one true and living God who

had delivered them on so many previous occasions. And this they did in response to Samuel's preaching (vv.3-4).

The Philistines sought to take advantage of the Israelites at that time, but God stood up for them and discomfited the Philistines so that the Israelites were able to chase them off and, as the Bible tells us, the Philistines came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. The Israelites even got back territories which the Philistines had seized in time past when they were in rebellion against God (vv. 10-14). Even Israel's arch-enemy the Amorites were at peace with them during the administration of Samuel. That last point is affirmed by Proverbs 16:7 which states that, When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Samuel served as a judge over Israel until near the end of his life when the representatives of the people came to him with their request for a king. They told him that he was old and that his sons were unjust so they wanted a king to rule over them (I Samuel 8:1-5). Samuel was unhappy with their request but he nevertheless took it to the LORD (v.6). The message which he received of God made plain that the people were not rejecting Samuel so much as they were rejecting the LORD himself. Consider God's reply to Samuel: Harken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them (v.7).

The LORD then instructed Samuel to tell them in no uncertain terms just what having a king would mean. Often people are deluded into believing that government is a great house of good and that one need only have the right doorkeeper and then all of its benefits will flow out and down to them. What such persons do not understand is that the great house of government is a store or hold for them that administer it, and with the right amount of power they can fill it and keep it full even to the detriment of the people under them. God's omniscience foresaw this, and through Samuel he tried to warn the people of their folly. Unfortunately, the vast majority of people before and since have rejected God's counsel. From an historical perspective, governments tend to be rapacious, grasping and dictatorial and such is made plain within the pages of Scripture. God laid out in very clear language just what a king would do TO the people (vv. 9-17). He then closed his warning with these words, And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day (v.18). In spite of his warning, the people called out for a king over them which the LORD then approved (vv. 19-22).

Samuel then went on to anoint the LORD's first choice for a king: Saul of Benjamin (I Samuel 10:1). Later, he appeared before all Israel gathered at Gilgal and sacrificed on their behalf (I Samuel 11:15) and afterwards presented to them their king with a very telling sermon (I Samuel 12:1-25). He reminded them that he had done what their elders had asked of him in seeking of the LORD for a king to rule over them, and that he had done them no harm, and that he and the king were witnesses of their agreement of such (vv. 1-5). He then proceeded to recount for the people the mighty acts of God on their behalf from the time of Moses and Aaron and the several judges which had served Israel so well even unto that very day (vv. 6-11).

He also presented the reality behind their request for a king. And, as we all should know, the reality of a request can turn out to be a bit more than we might have imagined. As Charles Stanley once said, "God knows both sides of our requests." That is why John Chrysostom's prayer with which we close Morning and Evening Prayer is

apropos: "Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them..." When we pray that prayer, we are putting our requests in God's hands to grant, or not to grant to us those things as he sees fit. This did not happen in the case of the Israelites regarding their desire for a king as they were rejecting him who was their true king, even the LORD their God (v.12). To confirm these things, Samuel prayed to the LORD and he sent thunder and rain upon the land at an uncommon time for such as it was the harvest season (vv. 16-18).

Samuel then closed his message to the people with words of encouragement that if they would serve the LORD and turn from their wicked ways that he would not forsake them and would be pleased with them (vv. 20-22). He said that he would continue to pray for them and teach them the right way to go to which he added one final caveat: Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king (vv.23-25). Samuel's closing message holds true even today. God will judge a people for not only their personal misdeeds and sins, but corporately for those of their rulers. From Genesis on, there are accounts where the LORD brought his righteous judgments upon wickedness of every sort. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Nineveh, Babylon, and Jerusalem on two occasions (along with many others for which little may be noted in history but who were well known to God) are perfect examples of God's judgment falling on those who would continue in sin and think that he does not see nor care. Samuel's witness is one that every living soul ought to read and heed before thinking that human government, administered by imperfect souls such as themselves, will solve their problems apart from divine Providence. Needless to say, the books of Kings and Chronicles illustrates that last point plain enough.

Consider the words of II Chronicles 36:15-16 wherein it was written, And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place; but they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. No remedy? None! Those who survived Nebuchadnezzar's assault and conquest of Jerusalem were carted away in captivity with only the poorest of souls left to tend the fields and farms about the land. If God would do that to those he called his people will he do any less to those who are openly and aggressively acting against his will and purpose? Samuel has already supplied us the answer if you will hear it— No, God will not!

Samuel was used of God to take the throne away from Saul for his disobedience and willfulness (I Samuel 15:1-35). Samuel was called of God to anoint David the son of Jesse to be king over Israel (I Samuel 16:11-14). Some years later, on account of Saul's final act of disobedience at Endor, Samuel was permitted to rise from his rest in Paradise to communicate God's judgment on Saul which resulted in not only his death and the deaths of his sons at the Battle of Mount Gilboa, but the defeat of the Israelite army by the Philistines (I Samuel 28:1-19; 31:1-7).

So when we consider the life of Samuel, we learned that he was a priest, a prophet and a judge over Israel. He was a godly child whose mother had prayed for a son whom she promised to lend to the LORD all the days of his life. He sought to do God's will even in difficult times. He had heard the voice of God as a youth and ever after as an adult. Even in death, the prophet was permitted to do something not recorded before or since in the Bible— to return from the lower world— and his place of rest— to the land of the living as a spirit and speak directly with those of the living. Samuel's testimony to us is

one that we as Christians should read and heed. Every word of Scripture is inspired and acceptable for our use and instruction (II St. Timothy 4:16-17), so then let us live as people inspired of God to seek his will for as the young prophet said to God when he called to him, Speak; for thy servant heareth (I Samuel 3:10).

Let us pray,

**F**ATHER, we pray for wisdom: that we might be wise to evils of this world and avoid them; we also pray for knowledge: that we might come to know thee better and what you would have us to do in thy service; and we pray for understanding: that whereas the scriptures are a sealed book to those who are in unbelief, that we who are of the faith may come to know the truth contained within thy word and so conform our lives to that knowledge for our eternal good and thy greater glory; all of which we pray in the name of thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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](mailto:jack@faithfulcenturion.org) or Dru - [dru@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto: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***

*Tuck Arnold, Albert Esquivel and Gene Hillger* are on business travel this week to London; pray for safe travels for them, as well as for them to do their very best on the trip.

### ***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***

*Hap Arnold* celebrated his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday 27 December 2014.

*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***

*Harriet Elrod* who passed away the week of 4 January 2015. Harriet was a godly teacher and a good friend of Rev Bryan Dabney. Please give thanks for her time here on earth and pray for comfort and strength for those she leaves behind.

*Pat Cooney* passed away early the morning of 8 January 2015 after an extended illness, a long time member of the California Air National Guard, he will be missed by friends and family alike. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and pray for comfort and strength for those he leaves behind, in particular his wife Donna.

*Dorothy Sivyver* (Hap Arnold's aunt) passed away about 0500L 31 December 2014, the last of her generation, she leaves behind five daughters and their families. Please give

thanks for her time here on earth and pray for comfort for her family members who remain behind, give them faith and comfort.

*Miney Farrell* passed away about 0700L 20 December 2014, after about 99 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 terrorists 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***

*Sonnie*, a 77 year old woman, lives alone and is affected by severe pneumonia and could use some help to care for her in her home. Please pray for a complete recovery and for God to send an angel of mercy to tend to her needs.

*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***

*Sarah*, wife of Rev Geordie (AOC – UK), has been treating for ovarian cancer. Alas the cancer is spreading causing fluid on the lungs, which is discomforting to say the least. There is a hope this side effect can be stopped by further chemotherapy; however, the last time this particular drug was tried it sent her into potentially life threatening anaphylactic shock. Please pray for guidance for the medical personnel treating Sarah, 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. Give thanks for the great courage and trust in God made manifest in Sarah and Geordie.

*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.

*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.

*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***

*Eli* has some mental issues and has lost his way. He was admitted to the hospital for a 72 hour Psychological evaluation to get a proper diagnosis and medications. He has been in isolation and even refused to see his brother *Carl*. Please give thanks for *Eli* cooperating with the evaluation, pray he will benefit from the treatment and return to the Lord and his family.

*Karen* is in the hospital with dehydration and double pneumonia. Your prayers will be appreciated.

*Nancy* has been diagnosed with Schizophrenia and has quit taking her medications causing instability and difficulty in her family. Please pray the Lord will help the doctors find the right medications and she will take them and return her to mental and emotional stability.

*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.

*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.

Dear Prayer Partners,

I wanted to let you know that I have had my seventh chemo-therapy treatment. There is to be one more at the end of the month. The tumour in my abdomen is now roughly 2/5's of what it was when we began and is described as "stable". But I have also learned this week from the oncologist that even though the tumour is still some 7.5 cms by 5.3 cms, the recent CAT scan we did does not tell them exactly what they are looking at. That is to say what is left of the tumour may, in fact, no longer be cancerous. After the eighth chemo treatment, they will do what is called a PET scan, which will tell them whether or not cancer is still

present. At that point, a decision will be made whether or not to undergo a week of radiation therapy as well, to conclude the treatment and help prevent the cancer from returning. I have come through this last treatment with a minimum of side-effects, for which I am very grateful.

Once again, I want to express my thanks for everyone's continuing, faithful prayers and to Almighty God for His grace, mercy, love, peace, and strength.  
*Garth Neel*

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 Wilson's* breathing seems to be under control at present, he is getting oxygen, which is a huge blessing for which he is grateful. He has continuous body wide pain similar to arthritis gone wrong for which he needs some kind of relief so he can rest. Pray for God's guidance for the doctors and medical people treating him that they might figure out a way to treat him that will work and not adversely affect other parts of his body, particularly his oxygenation levels, kidney and liver function. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Mark, as well as for his family.

*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*

*Betsy Lane* has a very bad cold which precluded her from coming to church. Normally, one might not associate that with needing prayer, so to speak. But, if you know *Betsy*, you know that this means she is very very sick. Please pray for a rapid and full recovery for her, as well as peace of mind for her, as well as her daughter *Marianne* who is no doubt concerned.

*Scott Winters* underwent apparently successful ligament replacement surgery on his knee on 8 January 2015, however he contracted an infection somehow which is causing him great difficulty. Please give thanks for the successful surgery and pray the infection will be overcome.

*Amy* has melanoma in her lungs, liver and kidneys; they have found a treatment for her that has a high success rate however the side effects are debilitating. Please pray that she will be able to tolerate the side effects and the treatment is successful. *Amy* has full trust in the Lord, but would still appreciate your prayers.

*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***

*Marv Rogge* had successful heart valve replacement surgery on or about 20 December 2014. Other than a desire to chew his food way too much, Marv is doing great, up and about. Please join Marv, his lovely wife Marian and the rest of the family in giving thanks to God for the great result. Pray for a full and complete recovery.

*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 has had other complications which preclude her from making a full recovery; please pray those will be overcome. 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. Please 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

#### *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 cogan in Nambaran. Its 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**

*This Letter from a Pastor in India - Please Pray*

This is to inform you that yesterday our dear believers (from Muslim background) at Nutangram village celebrated Milad –un – AL Masih (Christmas) for the first time in their own village. A good number of women & their sons & daughters from MUSLIM FAMILY attended at Christmas program openly and they were very happy to attend for such kind of fellowship. There were more than 100 people attended at Christmas (Milad-un- Masih) fellowship.

Today a group of Militant Muslims asked those Muslims who have attended at Christmas program yesterday and they are trying to create pressure on them and asking them why they have attended at Christmas fellowship? Even they are trying to boycott them socially and threatened them.

However, I humbly request you please pray for God's protection for these new Muslim families who are interested to know about Jesus. Also pray for God's wisdom, knowledge and His guidance in the lives of our dear believer family.

Regards,

Bashir

### **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.

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

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

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

18 January 2015 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

25 January 2015 – Conversion of Saint Paul superseding the Third Sunday after the Epiphany – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

1 February 2015 – Septuagesima – 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**

8 February 2015 – Sexagesima – 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**

15 February 2015 – Quinquagesima – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

18 February 2015 – Ashe Wednesday – Evening Prayer - Service start time 1800 (6:00 pm); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 1745 (5:45 pm); **Time 1800 (6:00 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

22 February 2015 – First Sunday in Lent – 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**

1 March 2015 – Second Sunday in Lent – 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**

8 March 2015 – Third Sunday in Lent – Morning Prayer – **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS IN THE USA – SPRING FORWARD OR BE LATE** - 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**

15 March 2015 – Fourth Sunday in Lent – 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**

22 March 2015 – Passion Sunday - Fourth Sunday in Lent – 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**

29 March 2015 – Palm Sunday – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

2 April 2015 – Maunday Thursday – Evening Prayer - Service start time 1800 (6:00 pm); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 1745 (5:45 pm); **Time 1800 (6:00 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

3 April 2015 – Good Friday – Evening Prayer - Service start time 1800 (6:00 pm); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 1745 (5:45 pm); **Time 1800 (6:00 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

5 April 2015 – Easter Sunday – Holy Communion - **SONRISE SERVICE** - 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**