



# Anglican Orthodox Church

## Worldwide Communion

### Thanksgiving Day

### Sunday next before Advent



AKA Stir Up Sunday  
Sunday Report



Today was the Sunday next before Advent. The last very Sunday in the liturgical year and what has seemed an almost everlasting Green Season; this past Thursday was Thanksgiving Day.

## Thanksgiving Day

I do recommend and assign Thursday ... next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be.

*George Washington*  
1789

This letter from Bishop Jerry is so important and critical that you read it, that we have put it right after the first President of the United States of America's message. If you read nothing else, read this. We have seen what happens when we ignore God in our country. If we want happiness, we need to follow His Will, His Directions, His Commands. It matters not if you believe in Him. He believes in you, thus you exist. If we want our country to survive and prosper, we need to do what He wants us to do. We cannot depend on others to do His Will, we must start, each of us, and NOW. Please read this.



23 November 2017, Anno Domini

## Thanksgiving Day

2017

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

### Venite, Exultemus Domino.

**O** COME, let us sing unto the LORD; \* let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; \* and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the LORD is a great God; \* and a great King above all gods. In his hand are all the corners of the earth; \* and the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it; \* and his hands prepared the dry land. O come, let us worship and fall down, \* and kneel before the LORD our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God; \* and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \* let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth; \* and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

In our Anglican Orthodox Church, after the English Reformed tradition, we repeat the Venite, Exultemus Domino (the great Thanksgiving) at every Morning Prayer Service each day of the week. But do we, in the churches across America, truly mean each word of this great Thanksgiving? Does the America of today observe the yearly Thanksgiving, and the gratitude for our daily bread, with the same reverence and sincerity as the America of decades long past? It may be that we have become as the ten lepers of the Gospel of St. Luke 17:12-19. All ten appealed to our Lord for healing, and all ten were, indeed, healed; but only one returned to the Lord to give thanksgiving for this wonderful act of mercy and grace. The other nine are like many in our pews today – they will gladly accept the miracle, but forget to thank the Providence that gave it.

Let us pray our great nation which has been the recipient and beneficiary of so many blessings and providential intercessions will soon sober up and awaken once more to that Ancient Light which guided us in the Wilderness of the Past.

A Happy and Heartfelt Thanksgiving to one and all, in our Lord Jesus Christ, AMEN.

*Jerry L. Ogles*  
Presiding Bishop

## Thanksgiving Day

Thursday brought us Thanksgiving Day; a day known primarily for the excess consumption of food in the company of all available family members. Sometimes we forget the origin of the thanksgiving in Thanksgiving Day. While we are, or certainly should be, grateful to God every day for the wonderful world, country and family He has given us, this is the day our country has set aside to give thanks to God. Not thanks in general, but thanks to God. If you look at other countries and other times, you cannot be but thankful to God we live here and now. The list of things to be thankful to God is endless. If nothing else, give thanks you are here now and able to praise Him. Here is the start of our family list of things for which we are fortunate and give thanks for:

- God's love for us;
- God sent His Son that we might have eternal life with Him;
- Our great country;
- Our families;
- Our military who protect our freedom at great cost to themselves and their families;
- Our church;
- Our friends (that would be each of you)
- Our health;
- Our earthly great fortune;

Surely your list is similar.

The propers for Thanksgiving Day are found on pages 265-266:

## Thanksgiving Day

### *The Collect.*

**O** MOST merciful Father, who hast blessed the labours of the husbandman in the returns of the fruits of the earth; We give thee humble and hearty thanks for this thy bounty; beseeching thee to continue thy loving-kindness to us, that our land may still yield her increase, to thy glory and our comfort; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Epistle for Thanksgiving Day uses one of our favorite phrases “superfluity of naughtiness” and comes from the Epistle of James, the First Chapter, beginning at the Sixteenth Verse. James counsels us, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.” God is the perfect source of good. What is good is of God. Through His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, we have been given instructions on how to act. Many of us have listened and claim to be followers of Christ. But James warns us, “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” With so much about us, we need ask, what is it to do the work of the Lord? The answer is simple, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

Being able to fluently and glibly talk the talk is meaningless, if you will not walk the walk. Your body must fulfill the promises your mouth made.

**D**o not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

The Thanksgiving Day Holy Gospel came from the Sixth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew beginning at the Twenty-Fifth Verse. Jesus tell us to “Trust in God and

Dread Naught". He reminds us that by worrying, none of us can add even one cubit, or one second for that matter, to the span of our life here on earth. In a very graphic example He points out that not even the raiment of Solomon, the most glorious of all kings, could approach the beauty of a lily, who toiled not at all. Do as God asks, put your faith in Him and all you need will come to you. Understand, this means doing as He asks, not just sitting by and watching the world go by. Note the words of James in the Epistle.

**J**esus said, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than food, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life? And why are ye anxious for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore be not anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

*Sermon – Rev Hap Arnold – Time and Action*

## Thanksgiving Day

*The Collect.*

**O**MOST merciful Father, who hast blessed the labours of the husbandman in the returns of the fruits of the earth; We give thee humble and hearty thanks for this thy bounty; beseeching thee to continue thy loving-kindness to us, that our land may still yield her increase, to thy glory and our comfort; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



The Collect acknowledges in effect God *hast blessed the efforts of the workers as shown by the things they produce from the natural resources God provided and that we give thanks for this great harvest of useful things, food and others, and that we pray God will continue to guide us and help us so we can stay prosperous and happy to show how great He is and for our own comfort, by the way.*

In his Epistle, James tells us all good is of God and if we are of God, we will act of God. Saint Matthew reminds us we should not worry about how things will be or what we will do. Remember, the line of time stretches from the unknowable past to the unfathomable eternity of the future. But, we humans here on earth live only today. Today is where God's finger touches that line of time. Just do what we are supposed to *now*. For yesterday will never come again and tomorrow will never get here. If we do not act today, it will not be done.

Few thinking people would dispute the rather obvious fact our country is in real trouble. More than it has ever been before. With the exception of the Civil War, in the past our threats have been external. We were able to come together around a common core and

eliminate the threat. For many years our enemy has been among us, causing division and strife; diverting our people from their common core values.

Make no mistake, this has been a Judeo-Christian country since it was first inhabited, read General Washington's proclamation regarding Thanksgiving. From the beginning, people came here to worship in freedom, the greater part of them serious Christians, almost all nominal Christians owing their heart's allegiance to our Lord. But, almost all in the end feeling their world would be best served with freedom of religion. None looked for freedom from religion. Even the very few agnostics valued the Christian religion as the only one suited for a Republic.

Christians are exhorted to pray hard, love hard, work hard and yes, play hard. We are not to be slothful in any thing, but moderate in all things. To be respectful, conservative and happy. We are not to be a burden on others, if possible. "...if any would not work, neither should he eat." (2 Thessalonians 3)

But, what do we find today? People being exhorted to do what feels good, accept all behavior as deserving of equal consideration and respect, to take it easy, to accept the handouts instead of working. To be slothful, disrespectful, immoral and illiterate. All this by our government and its minions.

With what result?

Record levels with regard to:

- Our country's respect level at its lowest since 1776;
- Increased crime;
- Inflation;
- Poverty;
- Unemployment;
- Suicides;
- Illegitimate Births;
- Cohabitation and Serial Habitation;
- Unhappiness!

So, what is the cure? Follow God's instructions.

What can you do?

Act! Action, not diction is the key!

Act on those right next to you. Spread the Gospel to the person next to you. It is your job! It is God's commandment. Start with yourself and work outward.

Accept nothing less than your best from you. Maintain a positive attitude, encourage your family to maintain a positive attitude. Attend church, so you can be around people with the right ideas at least once a week. Work with members of your church to stabilize their lives. Hope for the best, prepare for the worst. Remember, we all die. There are none so poor as cannot purchase a noble death. Act like today is your last day. Do what must be done. Accept nothing less from yourself. Encourage your friends and family.

God gave us a job to do. We must not fail. The country may survive, it may not. That is not our concern. Our concern is the battle at hand. I took an oath of office well over fifty years ago agreeing "I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States

against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God." Now is not the time to stop.

The oath of office I took lays out our job pretty clearly. We must do what we can to insure our country is here for the future. That means bring people around to the side of God. We need to be on His Side. God is never on our side, He expect us to come to His Side. The country's problems all stem from a failure to follow His Directions. So, one person at a time, we need to bring people over to His Side. Start with you and work outward. If one out of a hundred of us brings one person to His Side, things will be different soon.

Start today! Read Scripture every day. Figure out what at least one verse means. It will take a while, but you have the rest of your life to complete your study. Figure out what God wants you to do and do it. Try to pay your own way everywhere. If someone must owe, let others owe you. Do your part. Be part of the economic solution, not the problem. Remember, debt is not your friend. Be vigilant in protecting your civil rights. Do not surrender civil rights for temporary and illusory security. Take the time to talk to others and try to help them understand how much more freedom and hard work can bring compared to "free things" from a plantation government. Support free enterprise and this country. Remember you are free because of the blood shed on your behalf by those who have gone to war to protect you. Do not give up the freedom they died for.

Do not despair! All is not lo And, if all were lost, there would still be no room for despair, rather one last charge. There is a lot to be done. Go forth and do His Work.

This is a great country; not because God was on our side, but rather because it has always been on God's Side.

Let it return to that path!

### *Stir Up Sunday*

Stir Up Sunday is an informal term in the Anglican Church for the last Sunday before the season of Advent. The term comes from the opening words of the collect for the day in the Book of Common Prayer:

**S**TIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Through an association of ideas, the day subsequently became connected, especially in England, with the preparation of Christmas puddings in readiness for Christmas. Also, though with no real religious significance, Stir Up Sunday is located just the right time of the year to make the fruit cakes, Christmas Puddings and the like to be consumed on Christmas. In many English culture homes, the afternoon of Stir Up Sunday is dedicated to measuring, **stirring** and cooking the Christmas Pudding!



The Christmas pudding is an important part of the Christmas Day celebrations in the UK. Christmas pudding is a round, rich and heavy pudding made from fruit, eggs, sugar, breadcrumbs, suet, spices, and alcohol such as

brandy or rum. Many families have their favorite pudding recipe, which is often passed down through generations of family members.

Stir-up Sunday is traditionally the day for making your Christmas pudding; giving it a month to mature before eating it on Christmas day. Stir-up Sunday is on 23 November this year.

According to tradition, everyone in the family (especially the children) takes a turn to stir the pudding and makes a wish while stirring. Traditionally, the pudding should be stirred from east to west in honour of the three Kings who travelled from the East to see Jesus; and it should also have 13 ingredients to represent Christ and his disciples.

It used to be common for people to put a coin in their Christmas pudding. This was supposed to bring wealth in the coming year to the person who found it.

Christmas puddings are popular in the UK, but many people now buy their puddings from their local supermarket.

In the Book of Common Prayer of 1662 and later, this collect is listed for "The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Trinity", with accompanying rubric specifying that this collect "shall always be used upon the Sunday next before Advent". This reinforced the significance of this day as forming part of the preparation for the season of Advent. The rubric is necessary because the last Sunday before Advent does not always fall on the twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity: Trinity Sunday is a moveable feast and the Advent season is fixed, so the number of weeks in between varies from year to year. The 1928 Book of Common Prayer solves this dilemma by marking only 24 Sundays after Trinity, with provision for two more, and setting this Sunday apart as "Next before Advent."

### *On Point*

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

A "talebearer" carries all the stories he can pick up, true or false, from house to house, to make mischief and sow discord. He reveals secrets which he has been entrusted with, and so breaks the laws, and forfeits all the privileges of friendship and [citizenship].

*Matthew Henry*

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

*Influence*, n. In politics, a visionary quo given in exchange for a substantial quid.

*Ambrose Bierce*

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century American author and misanthrope

Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.

*Isaiah 26:4*

Take heed lest any man deceive you: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

*Mark 13:5-6*

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

*John 15:9*

Iniquity is daring enough even when human laws are against it, which often prove too weak to give an effectual check to it; but how mischievous is it when it is backed by a law!

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

Paul warned the Church against those who preach 'another gospel.' There is no way that Hindu and Christian faiths can be reconciled... the former preaches a gospel of occultic, idolatrous practices, man-gods and worship of devils, the latter... points to the exclusive Lordship of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, and instructs us to keep our eyes fixed only on Him. One sees in [modern] India the damage [of] Hinduism... The poverty-stricken and diseased Indian masses disprove the New Age lie that this religion can bring prosperity and health. The horrendous caste system... shows the harm that can befall people who trust in the false doctrines of karma and reincarnation. Yet, millions of New Age believers in America and the West insist that Hinduism is a scientific religion able to meet all of man's spiritual and material needs.

*Texe Marrs*  
20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American Christian author and commentator  
Dark Secrets of the New Age, p. 47

Our freedoms and liberties are guaranteed to us because the framers of our Constitution, through past experience and careful consideration, gave us a Constitutional Republic, not a Democracy . . . A governmental system based on the rule of law and not the rule of the majority.

*Dan Eichenbaum*  
20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American commentator  
The Genius and Necessity of the Electoral College, 12-18-2016

### *Propers*

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

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

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

The propers for the Sunday next before Advent can be found on Page 225-226:



## The Sunday next before Advent

*The Collect.*

**S**TIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, Splenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The reading for today's Epistle came from the Book of Jeremiah, the Twenty-Third Chapter, beginning at the Fifth Verse. Foretelling the arrival of Jesus, Jeremiah prophesied, "I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." He prophesied the New Covenant, moving reference of the Lord from Egypt to Israel and the return to one people of those driven out of their homeland across the world.

**B**EHOLD, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

The Holy Gospel for today came from the Gospel according to Saint John, the Sixth Chapter, beginning at the Fifth Verse. John relates one of the feeding the masses in the wilderness events. This foreshadows the arrival of the Christ at Christmas coming to feed our spiritual needs in the wilderness of this world.

With five thousand men with them looking for food in the wilderness, "One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down..." Reminding us that if the Son of God gave thanks to God for His food, so ought we, "Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, 'This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.'"

Compare to saving our souls and feeding the inner hunger we have for God's love, feeding a mere 5,000 men is child's play, but then Jesus said we should accept God and His love through Him as the children do. So perhaps it really is child's play.

**W**HEN Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, **Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?** And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, **Make the men sit down.** Now there was much grass in the place. So the

men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, **Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.** Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

### *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**

Sunday next before Advent  
Saint Andrew's Anglican Orthodox Church  
26 November 2017, Anno Domini

### **The Sunday next before Advent**

*The Collect.*

**S**TIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**W**HEN Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, **Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?** 6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? 10 And Jesus said, **Make the men sit down.** Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. 12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, **Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.** 13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. (John 6:4-14)

What a wonderful and awe-inspiring realization that our Lord, on His first Advent, drew all of His chosen to Himself as a magnet draws a rod of steel. But on His Second Advent, we will look up and see His glorious return in the clouds. In our Gospel text today, Jesus lifts up His eyes and sees a multitude coming unto Him. But in that Second Advent, we will lift up our eyes and behold the Lord coming to us. Nevertheless, in both events, we are drawn to Him.

It seems appropriate we should meditate upon the words of today's processional hymn, "Lo, He Comes!"

*1 Lo! He comes, with clouds descending,  
once for our salvation slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of His train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.*

*2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him,  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold Him,  
pierced, and nailed Him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.*

*3 Every island, sea, and mountain,  
heav'n and earth, shall flee away;  
all who hate Him must, confounded,  
hear the trump proclaim the day:  
Come to judgment! Come to judgment!  
Come to judgment, come away!*

*4 Now redemption, long expected,  
see in solemn pomp appear!  
And His saints, by men rejected,  
coming with Him in the air.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
See the day of God appear!*

*5 Yea, amen! Let all adore Thee,  
high on Thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
claim the kingdom for Thine own:  
O come quickly, O come quickly,  
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!*

What a wonderful Season of the Church Year is Advent. All good things in the lives of men – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the Apostles, and us – begins with the Coming of Christ, both spiritually and physically - to us! Having longed to see the fulfillment of God's promises in the Seed of Promise, Abraham hoped in the Gospel of Christ and was blessed to see His Coming. Christ comes to us that we may be enabled to come to Him. We see this truth enacted in today's Gospel sermon text. Those who hunger for Christ will find Him if even on the mountain heights of the Galilean coasts. Those who hunger for Christ will:

- 1) discover (through the Word and Spirit) where He may be found;
- 2) they will leave the place where that are presently (sin and error) and GO to Him;
- 3) they will not give thought of what the morrow may bring, but trust in Him to provide their every need; and,
- 4) they shall be fed with the Bread of Heaven.

When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him This is most prophetic of that company of souls that will come, over the expanse of centuries and millennia, to Him in faith and trust. They shall come seeking that Bread of Life which will satisfy eternally and not temporarily. They shall, on the day of God's own choosing – and not that of greedy spiritual speculators – come to meet Him in the air, and not a mountain, on His glorious Second Coming. *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* (1 Thess 4:16-17)

Christ often challenges the faith of His chosen vessels just as He tests that of Philip. Knowing the mind of Philip in His spiritual growth, Jesus asks: **Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?** A lesser prophet than Christ once asked the same question of God in the Wilderness: *Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.* (Num 11:13) It is certain that Christ wants us to know that a greater prophet than Moses stands before us. Without the presence and power of Christ, the world is in constant worry about this matter sustenance. Shall we have bread to eat and raiment to wear? Of course, the world takes the matter a step further: How can we enjoy the most opulent of cuisine and the most fashionable and elegant raiment – delicacies and raiment that will set us apart from the common people and that will exalt us in our pride? The starving child on the backstreets of Calcutta does not wish for delicacies, but only a morsel of bread to appease his gnawing hunger. It is so because the starving child knows not of delicacies or of elegant silken robes, but only his desperate NEED. So the sinner (rich or poor), when he comes face-to-face with his depravity, can recognize no righteousness at all in his feeble works, but starves for the Redemption made available in Christ. Rather than the bread of wheat, he starves for the Bread of Heaven. This Bread cannot be bought with money, so Christ gives Philip a thought to nourish his soul.

Philip's mind has not progressed to that perfection of understanding, as yet, that might be expected from so close a disciple! Clearly, under the terms of the world, a small fortune would be required to buy sufficient bread to feed so many. There were many more than five thousand present for there were five thousand men alone, plus women and children. Has Philip forgotten that He who provides food and lodging for the sparrows of the field is in his presence? **Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.** Two hundred pennyworth of bread would cost two hundred days of wages - **And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard** (Matt 20:2) And even at such an expense, there would certainly be no leftovers for each would only "take a little." All of our labors and wages from our birth until now will not purchase a single morsel of that Bread from Heaven. The combined wealth of the world would not do so. It is a gift of pure Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There was one disciple among the lot who accepted that there was a mystery in the Person of Christ that enabled Him to provide plenty from little of nothing. He knew not the manner in which might do it, but he nonetheless believed that the mystery would be realized even in a meager amount. God takes our talents and multiplies them when we are willing to share them. **One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?** What are five barley loaves among a multitude so great, yet, Andrew suspected that Christ would use even a small amount to supply a great need – and He did! Now, we must recognize the innocence of youth in this circumstance. The

little lad had labored to bring his two fishes and five loaves over a great distance and even up the slopes of the mountain. Were he a mature man of wisdom, he probably would have refused to share so little claiming that it would not suffice so many hungers and, moreover, he had the foresight to bring them for himself and it would be consumed by him. But the little child has a heart that is closer to the Kingdom of Heaven and has not grown calloused by the world. The child willingly shared his small treat with the Lord. Though we have little, if we share what we have, the Lord will multiply the gift an hundredfold, or more!

And Jesus said, *Make the men sit down.* The rubrics of the Prayer Book indicate when we are to kneel, stand, or sit, and we must comply with each and every rubric of the Prayer Book if we are able. The Lord expects all things to be done in good order and, here, He is about to feed the multitudes with His Bread. The Bread of the Prayer Book is the Sermon delivered from the Lectionary appointed for the day. So the people sit to hear the Word preached. It is the means by which faith is received and increased. *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* (Romans 10:17) Contrary to the Romanist approach, preaching takes precedence over every other act of worship including Communion for, without the Word, Communion is meaningless. So Christ asks that the men be seated to receive His blessing of Bread. When men receive from the Lord, they do not stand in their own power as if they contribute to His miracle. "Stop your labors, have a seat, and see the works of the Lord!"

The Lord will always comfort our needs in green pastures - *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures* (Psalm 23:2) *Now there was much grass in the place* (vv 10), *So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.* Obedience before the Lord comes most surely when men realize their need. These men were hungry and were expectant that Jesus could, indeed, feed them. They obeyed Him.

And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks Here, Jesus gives us the perfect example to follow in returning thanks for the blessings of Heaven. He never failed to thank His Father in Heaven for every blessing of food and drink. Do we do so, Friends? *"...he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would."* Please observe a stark lesson here for us. We do not serve ourselves at the Communion Rail, but kneel reverently (according to the Prayer Book form of worship – and the Holy Bible) to be served the Cup and the Bread. We do not innovate and do according to what seems right in our own eyes, but serve according to the good order required. The Lord allows His servants to have a hand in assisting in His important work. They servethe bread, but the Bread is given by Christ – it is not their own. We, as ministers, preach the Word, but the Word is His and not OURS! Note also, that each person on the grassy slopes received as much as they wanted of the bread and fish. The cupboard of the Lord has no bottom of blessings. There will always be more than enough to satisfy our hunger. We must return to the Bread Table daily for our *"Daily Bread."*

When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, *Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.* Notice that all were **FILLED!** You never come to the Lord hungry and go away hungry. He fills you with the desperate need of your heart. Another important lesson in this verse is the one of stewardship. We are to be good a faithful stewards in the economy of resources with which God has blessed us. We are to use His blessings of talents we receive in satisfying the hunger of those God has placed in our hands (parents included) but we are **to waste nothing!** When we travel field and forest to gather souls for Christ, our efforts do not end at the early confession of faith – we must continue to teach and nourish the soul in the Word so that the convert will grow strong

spiritual bones and muscles. We must not lose a single flower from the bouquet....*that nothing be lost!*

*Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.* Let us count the balance sheet of the Lord here: there were a mere five loaves at the start. Now the remnants taken up fill **TWELVE BASKETS!** Do you believe this is too amazing? Do you believe that the Creation of the stars in the expanse of space too amazing, or the earth with all of its wondrous beauty too amazing, or billions of people – all with different faces and features – amazing? What is so amazing that the Word which created all that has been created could multiply a few morsels of bread into such an immense supply? He is able to likewise multiply the smallest mite of the widow's heart when given out of her need to Christ! He is able to multiply that love scattered abroad from that heart brimming over with the love of God so that the residue is always of plenty.

What is the result of receiving the blessed Bread of Heaven? How should our hearts respond to so mighty a miracle as salvation, forgiveness, grace, and faith? *Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.* Faith is confirmed from pillar to post when we have tasted the Bread of Heaven. The multitude recognized that Christ was a prophet of even greater miraculous power and virtue than Moses – their greatest prophet beforehand. *The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken* (Deut 18:15) Christ is, indeed, that Prophet! *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men..... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth* (John 1:1-4,14) Friend, *believest thou this?*

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

Today's sermon brought the Collect, Epistle and Gospel together because as is always the case there is a unifying message in the Scripture for this Sunday.

**The Sunday next before Advent**  
*The Collect.*

**S**TIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

As is oft the case, today's propers are all tied together. As is usual, they call for action not just thoughts. In fact, the collect is among the most direct, asking God to stir our hearts that we might ACT in a manner which will result in good things! Jeremiah prophesies the coming of Jesus out of the branch of David that He might unite God's people as one under a New Covenant. Christ is the key piece to the puzzle of the Old Testament Prophecies. He is the answer to all of the prophecies the Old Testament contains about our savior. John tells us Jesus comes to fill both our spiritual and physical hunger. Our spiritual hunger in that by His Coming, we will have the Word as our spiritual bread and drink. And our



physical hunger by the fact if we follow what He says and do our best, we should not have any problems with getting food to eat. The collect says that we are asking God to stir up our will that we might be concentrating on performing good works for Him and noting that through those actions we will be plenteously rewarded.

This, of course ,requires us to let God into our hearts. Then once He is in our hearts, we are to let Him stir up His Will in our hearts, to incline us to perform good works for Him and to go out and actually perform those good works. Then through these actions we will truly get our just reward. Our wills are naturally inclined towards not following Him; we need to have our wills reset towards following Him.

We have to throw off our old man, to quote Saint Paul and to put on the new armor and helmet of the new man. We have to let the Holy Ghost into us and cleanse us of our old sinful selves. For without the Holy Ghost's influence, we cannot truly be able to willingly follow Him and act for Him on our own intuition. For our natural intuition is corrupted, by the disease of sin eating away at our very souls. Only the great doctor, God himself, can cure us of this otherwise incurable disease.

Nothing else in this world can satisfy us like God and the Word of God can. He is the answer to the missing hole in so many people's hearts and lives. No art or work of mammon can come even close to the pure satisfaction following God provides us. This is the only possible way we can truly be satisfied, everything else is a shadow of true happiness and satisfaction. God is the only way in which we can truly be happy, for everything else is worthless to our well being, except for the joy of following Him.

If we follow our own heart and guidance, we will seek the things of this world. As explained before, the things of this world cannot compare in satisfaction value to God and the Word of God. If we set our hearts on acquiring things of this world, we will be seeking material superiority. Which will lead to things like stealing, coveting, all negative attributes that go against God's laws. These are all things that if you look at the Ten Commandments, violate them.

Look back on history and see how much evil action can be laid to not only coveting but some of these other evil desires by not only persons, but nations. We can look at the examples of the early wars in Europe, and of late, of the wars started by Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan for examples.

These examples show we are not truly capable of satisfying ourselves, but that only Jesus and the Holy Spirit can fill the hole. This is why we truly need the Holy Ghost acting in our hearts and cleansing us of these impure thoughts. We desperately need the influence that the Trinity provides in our life. Our life will be so much more rewarding and happier, if we have them involved in our lives, versus those who do not have them in their life.

As we are nearing the beginning of Advent, let us think ahead to the joy of Christmas, the birth of Christ, His entry into this world, the joy of Epiphany, His revealing to the world. Then look ahead at the horror, pain and sadness of Good Friday. This lets us know the joy of eternal life that He gave for us, came at a very heavy price. Jesus gave His Own Life so we might have eternal happiness and not only that but he had to go down into hell and do battle with the devil. It has been said there is no free lunch. That is true, it is better said that everything has a price. There are some things are worth paying for, some are not. Not one thing is worth coveting or stealing in the Ten Commandments sense. Be sure and pay for everything, do not steal or partake in acquisition of stolen goods.

The inordinate desire for more money can lead to theft; the desire for more prestige, to evil ambition; the desire for more power, to tyranny; the desire for a person's body, to fornication and adultery. This inordinate desire for more money is a gateway drug of sorts, leading us into more sins. Paul identifies covetousness as idolatry because it puts things in the place of God. When we put things over God's Will, we no longer worship Him, but avoid Him.

When people serve idols, they place things above God. When you covet, you are willing to set aside God for things. In the end, that never works. And, near the end it gets pretty unpleasant. We find idols easier to deal with than God. You can make an idol; God made you. If you don't like the idol's rules, you change the rules. We can't change God's rules so we seek to change Him to an idol so we can change the rules. God stands fast and is unchanging, unlike the World which is constantly changing things to suit its sinful desires. There are some pretty big differences there.

We shall never be satisfied with the riches and the cares of this world. If we let the Holy Ghost into our hearts, we will find happiness and satisfaction in His Word. It will be more satisfying than the riches of this world could ever be.

He asks of us nothing special, but to do our very best and not just say it. It is something that I am striving to work on more and more every day. We must keep learning and following His Word. It is a hard concept for many of us to follow, including myself, but we must all strive more and more every day to do our very best. If we study Scriptures diligently and work hard to follow them to the best of our abilities, then we will, with the Holy Spirit's help, be charted on an excellent course.

Interestingly, He tells the disciples to "*Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.*" It seems He is talking about the sheep that He tends to, He wishes to "*gather up the fragments that remain*", meaning the people apart from His flock, that "*nothing be lost*", meaning that their souls may not be lost for eternity. Think about that and take what it is offered before it is no longer on the menu! And be thankful for All His Blessings in our lives, for our friends and our family that He has placed in our lives.

We are blessed and should be grateful we are in a spiritually rich group (The Anglican Orthodox Church) and in communion with some very good men and women across the Earth in the AOC Worldwide Church, who hold true to the principles of Scripture. God has blessed us all by bringing us together. I am thankful for each and every person in the AOC Church and my family and friends. At Thanksgiving, we should be thankful most of all for God sending His Son to die for us, that we might have eternal life and happiness instead of the eternal misery that comes from the separation from God.

Actions speak louder than words, but when we actually **use** that inspiration of the Holy Ghost and couple well thought out words with actions, we can do many marvelous things in the lives of people around us, through His Spirit and Word and we will help to fill people's spiritual hunger, through acting through His Word, in thought, word and deed.

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

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

It is by our actions we are known.

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



*Roy Morales-Kuhn, Bishop and Pastor - St. Paul's 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.

**Sunday next before Advent**

26 November 2017, Anno Domini

Psalm 39 • Jeremiah 4:23-31 • Matthew 25:31-46

**The Sunday next before Advent**

*The Collect.*

**S**TIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



The designation of this Sunday as 'next before Advent' says quite a bit, a foreshadowing of things to come and of things to ponder. As we combine the three passages of scripture for today, we see a fairly ominous cloud, some depicting total destruction, some a wiping away of the present, some a look to the promise of renewal. Good three point sermon material.

In spite of all the dire warnings surrounding this shift in politics, we really should not fear or tremble. God is on his throne, he sees all that is transpiring, he knows the past and has created the future. We, who are in his hands should not fear. The writer of today's psalm asks for guidance, especially concerning the future. And yet through out the psalm, he acknowledges that God is in control. *"You have made my days a mere handbreadth, the span of my years is as nothing before you..."* He knows God has complete control of his life. And in spite of the obvious difference between the Creator and the created, the psalmist still writes; *"My hope is in you. Save me from all my transgressions; do not make me the scorn of fools."*

The final passage of this Psalm is written in a future tense and in a sense of anticipation.

<sup>12</sup> Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.

<sup>13</sup> O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.

The psalmist is looking down through the millennium towards a time that this condition will be no more, he won't be an alien, his people will be accepted, he will be in the hope of salvation.

As we see the selections of scripture focusing on the anticipation of the first coming, the Advent of Christ as a child, the Immanuel, God amongst us, we can rejoice and be sure. Our salvation was provided and secured those many centuries ago, when God reached down and sent his Only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer.

As we compare two sides of the same coin, the Old Testament reading and the New, we see a study in the contrast that makes up the whole when it comes to our spiritual journey. Repentance is a given, if you are to be right with God. You must repent and TURN from your ways and come back to God. He will return you to the right path.

As we study the passage from Jeremiah we find really wonderful warning. 'Turn, O backsliding children...' Then the prophet continues with what happens when we do turn back from our backsliding. Good pastors will come and feed the flock with knowledge

and understanding, the people will increase and multiply, all nations shall be gathered to Jerusalem, not the physical city, the spiritual city. How do we know that? *"...neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil hearts.."* That statement alone indicates that the coming of the promised Kingdom has happened. Verse 16 indicates a final aspect of the foreshadowed ark of the covenant has been revealed. This revelation of course being in the coming of the Savior, both his first coming {Advent} and his anticipated second coming {Advent}. We celebrate both the first and second Advent in this coming season, two Sundays each set aside to reflect on such. .

14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

16 And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the Lord, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the Lord: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more.

17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.

18 In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.

Now we look at the passage from Saint Matthew. Here is the encapsulation of the whole Advent from start to finish. Why is this included in the Sunday before Advent? I think that we are looking at a tease that is to pique our interest in the coming time of contemplation and reflection that should mark the Advent season.

Here we read of the Savior, the Messiah, the King of kings as he reveals what has been in place since before time. Look at Verse 34 *'...then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'* Talk about foreshadowing. Here the kingdom, promised before man, *"..from the foundation of the world.."* is given to those who did what they were supposed to do as believers. All the acts of kindness, the compassion that was shown to those who were in prison, hungry, thirsty, sick, without clothing. *'...when you did this to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me..'*

Now we also see what happens to those who do not show compassion on those in need, *...then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

That is some pretty powerful medicine. I think that Jesus is also referring to those who need to live their lives in a Gospel manner. If you think of the needs that are physical in nature, that is all well and good, but the import of this passage is the eternal. If we are looking at the eternal, then it would also seem to indicate the spiritual nature of need. As believers we should also make sure those we meet and live among be clothed, fed, nurtured, cared for and guided spiritually as well. The temporal shall soon pass away, it is the spiritual that truly matters. So as followers of Christ Jesus, we need to make sure those who are without spiritual guidance at least get warned of this need. May the Lord richly bless us this coming week.

Let us pray:

**M**OST gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew; We yield Thee unfeigned thanks and praise for the return of seed-time and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of the fruits thereof, and for all the other blessings of Thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And we beseech Thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies; such as may appear in our lives by an humble, holy, and obedient walking before Thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all glory and honor, world without end. *Amen.*

**O**LORD God, to whom belongeth the earth and the fulness thereof; Give us grace to honor Thee with our substance, and with the first-fruits of all our increase; that we may be blessed in the use of Thy gifts, and sanctified to Thy service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**A**Lmighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; We commend to Thy continual care the families of Thy people, and the homes in which they dwell. Put far from them, we pray Thee, the desire of vain glory, the pride of life, and every root of bitterness. Endue them with faith, temperance, patience, and godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who have been united in holy wedlock; turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; and so kindle charity among us all, that we may be evermore kindly affectioned with brotherly love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



### *Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sermon*

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



**Sola Scriptura**  
Sunday Next before Advent  
November 26, 2017

October 31<sup>st</sup> was the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses. He was not the first to attempt to reform the Roman Catholic Church. Others had tried before him, and many of them were executed for their work. But Martin Luther's work did cause many other people to question the practice of indulgences, and examine the whole issue of how people can be reconciled to God. Because of his Theses, many began to believe the Roman Church was wrong in its teachings, not only about indulgences and the forgiveness of sins, but about several other issues as well. They began a movement to reform the Church by correcting these errors, but the entrenched leadership of the Roman Catholics resisted their efforts, and even began a concerted effort to cleanse itself of the Reformers through torture and execution. Luther was able to escape execution because a significant number of Germans accepted his views, too many to persecute. In addition, many in the German upper class saw that Luther's reforms would decrease the Pope's power and give them more power over the affairs, and money, of Germany. Therefore,

they decided to support and protect Luther. So, not everyone had the purest of motives in the Reformation. But among the clergy, and especially among the people, the issue of the forgiveness of sins was of primary importance, because it determines both *how* and *if* you go to Heaven.

The Reformers' views were eventually expressed in the Five Solas of the Reformation: *Sola Scriptura*, *Sola Gratia*, *Sola Fide*, *Solus Christus*, and *Soli Deo Gloria*. Or Scripture alone, Grace alone, Faith alone, Christ alone, and Glory to God alone.

Glory to God alone means God forgives sin. The Pope can't forgive sins. He can't get people out of Purgatory. He can't change the way God deals with people, or the way God forgives sin. Neither can we do these things for ourselves. God alone saves, and the glory of our salvation goes to God alone. Christ alone means sins are only forgiven on the basis of Christ's redeeming work on the cross. His work is sufficient, and we cannot add to, or take away from it. Grace alone means God forgives us on the basis of His grace, not on the basis of any worthiness in us, and nothing we do can "merit the merit of Christ," as Dr. Francis Shaeffler used to say. Faith alone means we receive forgiveness by trusting in Christ's work alone.

All of this brings us to the final *Sola*, which is really the first, because I started at the end. This *Sola* is based on the important question of authority. Is there an authority that can give us the truth about these issues? If there is, what is it, and where can I find it? The Roman Church said, the Pope is the authority. He, combined with church tradition, meaning the traditional understanding of the faith, is the authority, and the Pope is the one who says what the Bible and the Church tradition means. All people must submit to him or they will go to hell. The Reformers noted that the church tradition of their time did not match the original church tradition, therefore it did not teach or practice what the early Church taught and practiced. They also noticed that Popes often disagreed on matters of doctrine and practice, and some of the Popes were almost Biblically illiterate and also were less than saintly men, therefore, they could hardly be considered authorities on what Christians believe and how Christians live.

Looking back through the creeds and documents of the early Church, which we in the Anglican Orthodox Church still consider valid standards of the faith, the Reformers found clear statements about its doctrine and practice, and about the authority from which it derived its beliefs. Let me share some of their important points. First, Christ is the Word who is God and became flesh. He spoke as the Father directed Him. Thus, His teaching is God's Word, and God's Word is authoritative above all other words. Second, Christ taught God's Word to the Apostles, who, under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, taught it to the Church and recorded it in the Bible. Third, the early Church received the words and letters of the Apostles as the Word of God given to the Church, through the Apostles, from God. Fourth, the Bible itself claims to have been written by the Old Testament Prophets and New Testament Apostles, who wrote at the command of God under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Fifth, the early Church always appealed to the Bible as its authority in all matters of faith and practice. Therefore, the Reformers concluded, the Bible was the Church's authority from the beginning, and remains the Church's authority until the day when all the redeemed are gathered in the New Heaven and Earth, and will hear the Word of God from His own lips.

So, how can we know that Scripture alone, Grace alone, Faith alone Christ alone, and God alone are true? These things are taught in the Bible. How can we know anything about God, about Heaven and how to get there, about forgiveness, about the Church, and about the Christian life? Do not look for visions or dreams. Do not trust feelings. Do not look

to religious experiences.. The things of God are taught in the Bible, and the Bible alone is our authority.

*Sola Scriptura* contradicts everything people want to believe. People want to be their own authorities. They want to decide for themselves what is true and false and good and bad and right and wrong. That was the real sin of Adam and Eve, which is why they ate the forbidden fruit. It continues to be the heart of sin to this very day. It is also the cause of the discord, social atrophy, and hate that characterises human history, including our own era. When there is no authority, we *must* decide all matters for ourselves, and your truth, and your right, and your good won't necessarily be someone else's truth or right or good, therefore we must tolerate everyone's opinion as equally true, which of course means all are false.

Dorothy Sayers, writing during World War Two, observed at that time in England, "not one person in a hundred has the faintest notion of what the Church [meaning, the Bible] teaches about God or man or society or the person of Jesus Christ." This means, in a country that called itself "Christian," perhaps one percent of the people could be considered "intelligent, well instructed Christians." The rest, she wrote, were "frank and open heathen, whose notions of Christianity are a dreadful jumble of rags and tags of Bible anecdotes and clotted mythological nonsense." Or they were "ignorant Christians who combine a mild, gentle-Jesus sentimentality with vaguely humanistic ethics." Or they were "more-or-less instructed churchgoers, who know all the arguments about divorce and auricular confession and communion in two kinds, but are about as well equipped to do battle on fundamentals against a Marxian atheist or a Wellsian agnostic as a boy with a peashooter against a fan-fire of machine guns."

Then she makes this telling statement. "Theologically, this country is in a state of utter chaos, established in the name of religious toleration, and rapidly degenerating into the flight from reason and the death of hope."

I wonder what Dr. Sayers would say if she could see the state of chaos that enshrouds Western culture today, where, in the deification of total moral and cultural relativism, and, in the name of tolerance and justice, people riot and fight and hate and harm others who do not share their particular views of total relativism. Surely she would say, "the flight from reason and the death of hope, are almost compete."

Let me conclude with a few words about a modern heresy, that has practically taken over "Bible believing" churches and Christians today. Its name sounds very much like *Sola Scriptura* but it is a little different. It has been called, "Solo Scriptura." It is the belief that we do not need the Church, do not need to know how the Bible has been understood down through the ages, do not need to know Church history, do not need to know the cultural and historical settings in which the books of the Bible were written and to which they spoke, do not need to know about the heretics and their teachings, and do not need to be taught what the Bible says and means. All we need is the Bible and the Holy Spirit, and we will be guided into all truth, and know all things. We can go solo with the Bible. You can hear this heresy expressed in Bible study groups around the world, when someone asks the question, "What does this verse mean to you?" In all kindness, let me say, it doesn't matter what a verse means to you. It only matters what it means to God.

Because of this heresy, people today are reducing Christianity to religious feelings and experiences. They are reducing worship to a means of achieving these feelings and experiences, and Christianity has become another form of mysticism, or another form of what people used to call a drug trip. People are turning to "centered prayer" eastern meditation, private visions, and dreams as ways to determine who God is and what He

wants from them. When they turn to the Bible, they are concerned about “what it says to ME.”

The Bible says no Scripture is of a private interpretation. In other words, it does not say whatever you want it to say. Nor does it say one thing to you, and something else to another person. The Bible has one meaning for all people in all times and in all places. It will have almost countless applications, but only one meaning. And the Church has been united in its understanding of the meaning and message of the Bible from the start. Councils have declared it. Creeds have expressed it. Faithful people have died to preserve it and pass it on whole and entire to us. We, also must preserve it and pass it on to future generations as whole and entire as we received it.

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### *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, espouse the truth and live the truth. This is really a good piece and I commend it to your careful reading.



### **Sunday next before Advent**

The apostle Paul was a very busy fellow. He had been assigned to preach the gospel to the gentiles and to set in order the particulars of godly worship within the fledgling Christian Church. In his first epistle to the Corinthians (11:17-29), he discussed a major deficiency in that church regarding the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. He noted with disapproval the existence of divisions or schisms which had caused much concern among the members of that church. That said, it should be understood that the body of Christ ought to have unity of purpose, mind and spirit and that cannot happen if its members are not in agreement regarding what is and what is not acceptable conduct for worship. Quarreling does not engender godly love and those who are filled with the excesses of this world will poison the atmosphere of any church through their insidious advancement of heretical notions. You cannot achieve unity in the Spirit through division and that is why the apostles counseled the faithful to be of one mind (Romans 12:16; 15:6; I Corinthians 1:10; II Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27; I St. Peter 3:8).

Paul was well aware of the benefits of Christian unity. He had labored to strengthen the body of Christ and to that end, his epistles contain the very mechanics of faith and practice. From his epistles, we learn that churches are supposed to be conduits for the good news of Jesus Christ to the world via a doctrinally sound episcopate as well as a biblically informed laity. God's expectation has been from the beginning that every true Christian body would be populated by regenerated souls who have been born again of the Holy Ghost. Such churches are also places where the pure word of God is preached, taught and lived; where God's ordinances are properly observed; and where worship is conducted in reverence and good order.

But such is not the case for many Christians. They are in dire need of a refresher course regarding the content and meaning of St. Paul's epistles principally because their denominations have—in varying degrees—deviated from the truths of Scripture. To go against the word of God is sin and God is deadly serious about sin. And on that account, what the LORD views as sin ought to be avoided at all costs. Sadly, much of modern Christendom possesses a noticeably different understanding of what is or is not sin. And because they possess such, these errant churches are in danger of having their candles removed by the Master to their eternal sorrow (Revelation 2:5).

The Bible tells us from inception, Satan has labored to inculcate all manner of false doctrine, heresy and schism within the Christian Church to divide and perplex its members. For in so doing he has overthrown the faith of many in his attempts to quench the fire of the Holy Ghost on the earth. Consider the epitaph of Christopher Wren which reads, "If you seek his monument, look around." It is a fitting tribute to a man who did much to beautify the city of London. In an inverse fashion, Lucifer has a large and growing number of monuments to his efforts. They are not marvels of construction but of destruction. Satan has ruined a host of churches, doing his best work from within rather than from without. Nowhere is this more apparent than with his supposed teaching concerning the sacraments.

In our world today, a fair number of Christians are not familiar with the word sacrament largely because of changes in denominational linguistics since the Protestant Reformation. For all intents and purposes, a sacrament is best defined as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. We Anglican Orthodox Christians recognize two: baptism and the Lord's Supper because they were blessed by our Lord's participation in them, and they are to be observed per his commands to us—the former in the Great Commission, and the latter at his celebration of the Last Supper prior to his arrest and crucifixion. We have been called to participate in these sacraments as they are signs and evidences of our new natures, and because those who participate in them are affirming their commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ openly both to God and man.

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

What Bishop Ryle has written about the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is based not on a pronouncement of some earthly body or council, but upon the very words of God. We

cannot escape the fact that in our eating of the bread and drinking of the cup we are memorializing our Lord's death and sacrifice— remembering his passion and giving thanks for his free gift of grace to us. But there is more. When we hear the words of the Invocation (page 81 of the BCP), that we “be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him,” we have a clearer understanding of this sacrament: that we are joined with him via the Holy Ghost who resides within every born-again believer. And so, in our partaking of the communion elements, we are affirming the very presence of our Saviour within us. Holy Communion then is more than just a memorial feast, it is a spiritual linking of ourselves to Jesus Christ.

Paul warned the Corinthian church not to take lightly their participation in the sacrament when he wrote, *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord* (I Corinthians 11:26- 27).

Still, many Christians will partake of the Holy Communion and never give a moment's thought to their true spiritual standing with the Lord. They will not make any serious attempt at self-examination prior to partaking of the communion elements; and upon their leaving the church, they will return to those lifestyles and activities with which they had been engaged prior to entering the church. To put it another way, they will show up at church, say the prayers in the bulletin, or in the prayer book, or on the screen, hear the word spoken, partake of the communion and walk away unchanged. Hell contains a host of those who knew about Jesus Christ, but never knew him as their Saviour; who attended a church body, but never became part of his body; who did some good works in the name of our Lord, but never accepted the atoning work he did for them; who heard the word of God, but never took his word to heart; who sought to placate God with their bodily attendance at weekly worship, but never sought to please God by being obedient to his word and commandment; and who lived lives attuned to the spirit of this world, rather than having lived as a people born again of his most holy Spirit. My how the devil smiles when such persons attend church. He knows their end, but sadly, they are seem blissfully unaware of what awaits them beyond the precincts of this life.

Many will seek to justify themselves in the coming day of Judgment saying: “Did we not participate in the Lord's supper? Were we not baptized in the church? Did we not do this or that good deed in thy name?” The true believer in Jesus Christ knows that partaking of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is not something that is trivial or merely for show. It is not something “to-do” on Sunday and then forget about until the next time. It is not a work that saves, but a work that reveals that one is saved.

Consider again the words of the apostle on this subject: *Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. To partake of this sacrament in an unworthy manner will bring God's judgment as witnessed by the apostle's admonition: But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged* (I Corinthians 11:28-31).

Clearly, God will judge us if we will judge not ourselves, and the consequences of such judgment might be dire. Nothing brings an errant soul quicker to God than illness and the thought of impending death. God desires his own to come to him and be made whole via confession. If anyone is outside of his hedge of protection, the devil will come and work his will upon them. All too often, it is only when a wayward Christian is beset with



troubles that he or she will likely come to God. The apostle's admonition was meant to encourage Christians to do those things which are pleasing to God rather than the opposite. I was told in my youth that "a word to the wise is sufficient" and such was the intention of the apostle for each member of the body of Christ.

To recap, the sacrament of the Lord's supper is not to be taken without self-judgment, followed by confession of what we have found amiss in our lives as per the commandments and ordinances for holy living which have been set forth within the pages of Scripture. We ought to make peace with God and be at peace with fellow Christians. We are expected to forgive those who have trespassed against us as well as recognize our sins and trespasses against our gracious and loving God. Then and only then can we truly partake of the communion elements in a manner which is acceptable to God. And after our partaking of the elements, we ought to willingly lift our voices to God in praise and thanksgiving for his sacrificial act on our behalf. Only then will we be ready to receive God's peace and blessing which every born-again believer is in need of in their daily life and work. God's peace and blessing will come if we believe on Jesus Christ as his only begotten Son, and live in obedience to his word written. Therefore, come and receive the elements of the Supper of the Lord; but remember to give God due consideration in this very sacred time and avoid the satanic insincerity of mind and heart that might make your partaking of this sacrament a detriment to you.

Let us pray,

**F**ATHER, we pray for forgiveness of our sins and trespasses; and we humbly ask you to forgive those who have trespassed against us; that we might be true to thy word in all aspects of our life and worship; for these things we ask in the name of him who was, and is, and ever shall be our Lord and Saviour, even thy Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

*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 your 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 our happy duty 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!*

### **Immediate Prayer Please**

*Jieun* has been through a very difficult time at the hands of people who have hurt her and are out to hurt her further as well as discredit her, she is being kept against her will at the present time. Pray that God will heal her wounds, keep her calm and safe and find a way to release her back to her family, please pray for strength calm and peace for all.

*Chief Mike Wysocki* finally had heart valve surgery June 2017. He was back in the hospital with a bleeding ulcer, but made it home. Please give thanks for that and pray for the medical team treating Mike that they might pay attention, do their very best and be open to God's guidance. Pray a complete recovery and peace of mind and trust in God for Mike, his lovely wife Wendy and his family.

*Jim* was in the hospital 18 July 2017, for four days due to fluid around the lungs from Congestive Heart Failure. Please pray the medical team treating Jim might pay attention, do their very best and be open to God's guidance. He is feeling better but this past year has been hard on him physically with four surgeries, starting with back surgery in June 2016, an eye operation in December and then two operations involving his pacemaker in March 2017 and again in May 2017. All these have weakened him but he is getting stronger and now is back in PT to help rebuild his strength. Thanks be to God. Jim and his family thank you for the prayers and request them to continue as the doctors are still working on medication balance to help his heart not to go back into Congestive Heart Failure. Pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Jim and his family.

*Ron Cole Klages* is a patriotic former Marine who has debilitating blood clots pursuant to cancerous growths on his liver and unknown other places. His doctors will inform of clinical findings on Monday for further treatment. Please pray for the medical team treating Ron that they might pay attention, do their very best and be open to God's guidance.

*Jill* was on life support; her family members traveled a great distance to see her and returned home safely. *Jill's* condition improved to critical, but needs your prayers to continue her recovery.

*Kurt Thomas* is now home after undergoing open heart surgery in Richmond, Virginia as the result of a life threatening bacterial blood infection which settled in his heart and other places. The infection resulted in a hole in his heart. Kurt. They successfully replaced about half his heart with donor parts. Kurt had a permanent pacemaker installed on 26 March 2017 and he returned to work the first of June! But, now he is having problems with fluid retention. It is a God given miracle Kurt made it through all this. Please join Kurt and Mary, his family and friends in giving thanks. There is still a long and rocky road ahead; please pray for spiritual and physical strength for Kurt, his wife Mary and their family. Please pray for the medical team treating Kurt that they might pay attention, do their very best and be open to God's guidance. Pray also for Kurt to accept what he cannot do at present and concentrate on what he can do. This is a very foreign situation for this Christian warrior. He needs God's help to adapt and prosper.

*Cindy*, Bishop Jerry's cousin, may need to undergo brain surgery if medication is not effective. Please pray the Lord will extend a hand of mercy and healing to *Cindy*.

*Samson Hendrik* has prostate cancer and his kidneys are not working. Pray our Lord Jesus Christ will be close to him and his family of friends during this illness.

### **Travel**

*Hap, Dru, Jack, Tricia, Hope, Tuck, TW* and many more are on travel this week to Kansas City for the annual meeting of the Organization of Flying Adjusters. Please pray for safe travel and God's will to be done at the meeting.

*Landon and Jason* are in the British Virgin Islands for work. Pray they will have safe and productive time there. Pray also for air conditioning so they can sleep

### **Birthdays**

*Shamu* celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday 3 September 2017,

### **Departed**

*Jared Otieno* returned home on 16 November 2017. Please pray for the Olweny family as they adjust to the loss of their beloved brother.

*Duwaine Townsen* passed away the morning of 1 November 2017, please give thanks for his time here on earth and for comfort and strength for his family who remain behind.

*Sheree Wilder* passed away on 31 October 2017, of an aortic aneurism at age 30. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for her husband of seven months, Anthony, as well as for her family, in particular her mother Barbara and sister Chelsea.

*Colonel Gil Garcia* passed away the morning of 23 October 2017, at the Long Beach VA Medical Center after a long and amazing time here on earth. A strong Christian, husband, father, grandfather, patriot and fighter pilot, he will be missed by all who knew him. Please pray for strength and comfort for his family and friends who of necessity remain behind, in particular his lovely wife Mary.

### **Move**

*The Thomas Family* are now in Virginia on what was to be a headquarters tour. Pray for peace of mind for Kurt and for Mary and the kids.

### *In need of a miracle or understanding of God's Plan*

*Doug Lambert* is in the hospital with sepsis of unknown origin. For five weeks they have not been able to find the source of the problem. He is very weak and concerned that no one can find the reason for the infection. He asks that you pray for the medical team treating him to do their best, to be open to God's guidance and for him to keep his trust in the Lord and not worry.

*Neal* has heart problems and is very weak, he also has COPD, kidney problems, his potassium is too high, he came back from the point of death. He is now home and permanently on oxygen. He is doing well, for that he and his family are grateful and ask your thanksgiving prayers. More importantly, please pray Neal will accept salvation through our Lord and Savior.

*Paul* is in hospice and ready to meet His Lord. Please pray for Paul as he prepares to go home to be with his family who have gone before him. Pray for the faith of his family to build and the transition to be good.

*Dot* is an elderly woman with liver cancer. Please pray for Dot 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.

*Mrs. Tiffany (90)* has chosen to refuse extraordinary care as it will not gain much earthly time. The Tiffanys have been together for a long, long, long time. Pray for Mrs. Tiffany and her husband as together they begin this Journey to be with their Lord.

*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.

*Ron* had a Heart Attack, at the hospital he found out he also has Kidney Cancer. He is a man of faith and is in need of prayer for his health and that the Lord will provide strength for his family.

*Kathy Cox Merritt* has been receiving Chemo and 12 November 2016, had bowel resection surgery and was given a very bad prognosis. Kathy just retired as an RN in Orthopedics at a local hospital; sometimes a little medical knowledge can be dangerous to the patient but she remains positive. Please pray for Kathy's healing and peace and comfort for her and her family, both spiritually and physical

*Krysti* is off life support and able to talk, please give thanks for the good news. She is still unable to feel her legs. When that comes back she will go to a rehabilitation facility. Krysti has used drugs, has high blood pressure, is diabetic and has organ failure. Her families are with her and will appreciate your prayers.

*Pat* has metastatic osteosarcoma; there is little that can be done. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that Pat's remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Pat and family put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their sadness, fear, worry and terror.

*Amy* has been diagnosed with metastatic melanoma and has cancer all over her body, and in one of her kidneys which are no longer functioning. Amy and her family have asked for prayer to stop the growth and to aid the family financially with the

medical bills. At present she has to have surgery every two months to place stents. Pray Jesus will be close to all.

*Gemma Dillinger* has been treating for breast cancer for over a year now, after surgeries, radiation and chemotherapy, she is reaching the limit of her tolerance with no end in sight. Please pray for her to gain strength and ground on the cancer. Help her to continue with her faith in our Lord, she is not afraid to go home, but wants to make sure it is time. Pray she will be encouraged to not give up until it is her time to go and that her time here on earth with her family will be good.

*Janet* has had a blood borne cancer for several years. Her faith in the Lord is great and she is ready to be with Him. Pray she will be encouraged to not give up until it is her time to go.

*Holly* has had Colon Cancer, Breast Cancer and now it is in her spine. Please pray for guidance for the medical personnel treating Holly, for a miraculous remission; that Holly's remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Holly and her family put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their sadness, fear, worry and terror. Pray for strength and courage for Holly.

*Tim* was on a kidney transplant list and started dialysis and was taken off the transplant list for a heart problem that required stents, while putting in stents a leaking valve was found. A port was put in and something happened and it has to be redone. In several days he will have a valve replaced, after heart surgery and recover he will go back on the transplant list. Please remember him in prayer in the days and weeks ahead. Pray he will put his worry on God's shoulders so he might be at peace and rest. Pray for those treating him that they might pay attention and do their best.

*Marilyn* has been diagnosed with non-operable pancreatic cancer. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that Marilyn's remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Marilyn and her family put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their sadness, fear, worry and terror.

*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.

*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 some time. 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.

### ***Homebound or Infirm***

*Sarah* had to move to an Assisted Living Home and has found the adjustment very difficult. Please pray she will come to terms with the situation and that her Lord Jesus will be close to her. She recently lost 30 pounds and her eyesight is deteriorating. Pray her appetite will improve and her eyesight will return to normal. Most of all, please pray our Lord Jesus Christ will be close to her at this difficult time.

*Larry H* has general weakness as the result of extreme fatigue. Larry is now up and about, walking without assistance. The depression is still a part of his life. Due to several chronic illnesses, he will never be able to live on his own. On the other hand, he has been transferred to a facility near his former home so he will be nearer his friends. Larry has difficulty with the lack of what he considers fairness in the Word. Please pray for help for Larry to put his trust in the Lord, relax and build strength and give Pastor Roy guidance on helping him.

*Laurel Bessessen* (95) has begun to lose her mental abilities to recall people, places and things around her. Her family is no longer able to care for her at home and she is in a skilled care facility. She is the last of that family's generation. Please pray for the mental degradation to stop or for her to leave for home. Pray for her family

who do their best to care for her, visiting every day; for her children Cookie, John and Bill, as well as the other members of the family.

*Judith Clingwall* is afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). She is currently in Laurel Place, an extended care facility in Surrey, British Columbia. Please pray for 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.

*John* has Alzheimer's pray he will call on God to help him as he deals with this.

*Steve*, brother in law of Paul Martin, appears to have early onset dementia. Steve had teenage children and is very concerned for them. Please pray for the disease to stall or abate and for peace of mind for Steve and his family.

*James* is on oxygen all the time, this is bothersome to him and terrifying as well. Please pray for James to put his worry, his bother and his terror on the Lord. Pray for strength and guidance for James and his family. They suggest this verse, I am thine, save me, for I have sought thy precepts.

*Joan* has had serious medical problems that have kept her confined. 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.

### **Surgery**

*Maria Carla* is going to the hospital for corrective surgery. Pray our Lord Jesus Christ will be close to her as she has this operation. Pray for her father who will be taking her a long distance for the operation.

*Marcia* has had a biopsy of a mass in her breast which indicated a tumor that must be removed. Pray the surgical team will be open to guidance, pay close attention and do their very best. Pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Marcia and her family.

*Edware* is having his fourth back surgery (in the last four years) Please pray for the medical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that Edware and his family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

*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.

*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*

*Dru Arnold* has a ruptured tendon in her left ankle. She asks that she be guided to the right treatment and the medical team treating her will be open to God's guidance, pay attention and do their very best.

*April and her husband* ask you prayers for the Lord to guide them and lead them both to the correct medical care; and that the family may receive comfort in the process.

*Michael Moriarty* has been diagnosed with upper duodenal cancer which is the upper section of the small intestine. It is fairly rare and they have not decided how to treat him. Pray with Michael, his family and friends that the medical insurance people will fulfill their obligations and the physicians treating him will be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for continued trust in the Lord for Michael, his family and friends in this worrisome time.

*Chloe Mayo*, granddaughter of Justice Roy and Kayla Moore, good friends of Bishop Jerry, suffered a serious kidney attack possibly resulting from strep. Pray her family and friends the physicians treating her will be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for continued trust in the Lord for Chloe, her family and friends in this worrisome time.

*Josh* has two little children and just discovered he has a rare form of Cancer. Please keep him and his family in your prayers in the days ahead.

*Ross* an elderly gentleman has been diagnosed with Leukemia. Ross has had good health until now, your prayers at this time will be appreciated by his family and friends.

*Carman* was just diagnosed with breast cancer. Pray for her family as they continue to help her get the proper care. Pray with Carman, her family and friends that the physicians treating her will be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for continued trust in the Lord for Carman, her family and friends in this worrisome time.

*Kathie Lynn Holter* sister of Rev Phil Ternahan, was just diagnosed with Stage Four lung cancer (never smoked) which spread to the brain. She was operated on 26 June 2016. Please pray with Kathie, her family and friends that the physicians treating her will be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for continued trust in the Lord for Kathie, her family and friends in this worrisome time.

*Tina* just found out she has cancer on her left kidney. Please pray for guidance for the people treating her and for trust in our Lord for Tina and her family.

*Martha* is now home after testing and she does not have cancer, but she does have bad kidneys and is adjusting and getting ideas to work with that. Please pray for guidance for the people treating her and for trust in our Lord for her.

*Spencer* has been diagnosed with Autism. Please pray for guidance for the people treating him and for trust in our Lord for him and his mother Lorna.

*Jane* has Multiple Myeloma and is set for back surgery on Monday 9 May 2016. Please pray with Jane, her family and friends the physicians treating her will be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for continued trust in the Lord for Jane, her family and friends in this worrisome time.



*Michael* has cancer of the blood and is starting chemotherapy. Please pray for the physicians treating him to be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for trust in the Lord for Michael.

*Clay* has a large gallstone; he is in poor health and not currently a surgical candidate. Please pray for the physicians treating him to be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for trust in the Lord for Clay.

*Jim Sevier* has been in the hospital for heart related troubles. Please pray with Jim and his family the physicians treating him will be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for trust in the Lord for Jim and his family in this worrisome time.

*Claude* has been falling and he does not know why. Pray doctors will discover what the problem is and he can continue without any more difficulties.

*Gretchen* has been diagnosed with severe osteoporosis and is now being treated with exercise, nutrition and vitamins. Please pray with Gretchen and her family the physicians treating her will be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for trust in the Lord for Gretchen and her family in this worrisome time.

*Pete* has not been well and is back in the hospital with another stroke. Please pray for the physicians treating him to be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for trust in the Lord for Pete and his family in this worrisome time.

*Kamil* has heart problems and they are trying to stabilize his medication, now he been admitted to the hospital because of breathing problems. Please pray for the physicians treating him to be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for trust in the Lord for Kamil and his family in this worrisome time.

*Mary Lee* has bleeding into her stomach and they cannot find the sources. Mary Lee is in CCU and her husband *Maurice* is not eating until she returns home for is so upset. Please pray for the physicians treating her to be guided in their assessment and treatment plan, for a full and speedy recovery to good health and for trust in the Lord for her, Maurice, as well as the rest of the family in this worrisome time.

*Glenn Porter, MAJ USMC Retired*, has Interstitial Pulmonary Fibrosis, which causes him to be unable to get enough oxygen into his system without supplemental oxygen all the time. The only real treatment is a lung transplant, without a transplant he has between two to five years here on earth. Please pray for him to continue in his faith and for a set of lungs to become available.

*Pat* has an aneurism of the brain, pray she will make the right decision on how to treat this problem and it will be healed.

*Dan* is very sick with cancer and is starting an experimental treatment. This treatment will take Dan away from their family business and put even more stress on him and his family. Please pray for Dan's wife who is meeting with Steve who plans to keep the family business going while Dan is ill. Pray for Steve as he has many new responsibilities.

*Timothy* has brain cancer. He had surgery and is waiting for the pathology report to find out what kind of chemo he will need. Please pray for continued guidance for the medical team treating Timothy and patience and trust in God for Timothy and his family. Pray also for a full recovery for Timothy.

*Helen* was admitted from her doctor's office 15 July 2015, as the result of a blood test, to the University of Pennsylvania Hospital with an extremely high white blood count. She and her husband are very active in the ministry of their church and are asking for believers to pray for them and their family, as they are facing very serious problems in the days to come. Please pray for guidance for the medical team and patience and trust in God for Helen and her family. Pray also for a full recovery for her.

*Elma* has been suffering with headaches for a long time. Doctors have not been able to discover the reason for them. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Elma and her family; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people caring for her that they might find the best treatment method to banish the headaches completely.

*Barbara Apple* is bedridden after a fall which left her with two paralyzed limbs. She continues to experience pain in the effected limbs and will be totally bed bound for the remainder of her life. Your continuing prayers for her are appreciated and are great comfort to her. 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 miraculous full and rapid recovery. Also, please continue to pray for her husband Bob who is her sole caregiver that he will be comforted and strengthened in his time of need.

*Deborah* has had a stroke, she is doing much better and out of the hospital. She has a problem with anemia and is taking supplements for that. Pray our Lord will be close to her and her family. Pray for strength, courage and understanding for Deborah and her family; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people caring for her that they might find the best treatment method to allow her to heal completely.

*Rev. Steve Boardman* has been diagnosed with stage 3 cancer. Pray that Jesus will be close and comfort his family and members of his congregation.

*Hang So Ryu* has cancer. Please 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 him and his family, as well as physical strength.

*Olivia*, age 7, has been diagnosed with Stage 3 Lymphoma. The prognosis is good at this time, please 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 Olivia and her family, as well as physical strength.

*Paul* has been hospitalized recently several times 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.

*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.

*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.

*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* is having surgery on 30 September 2016 to repair a hole in his aorta bleeding into the abdomen which caused stroke like symptoms.

*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.

*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.

*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**

*Vladia* had a right knee replacement which went well, but since the operation she is experiencing very painful side effects from medicine, very low hemoglobin and also back problems. She has been transferred back to the hospital to help correct these problems. Please pray the doctors will seek God's Wisdom and come up with a plan to help her get back on her feet and have some normalcy in her life.

*Jim Thornell (Jet)* recovered from the five stomach ulcers, then was found to have bowel cancer, that was removed and he was doing pretty well all things considered. Now they have had to add a feeding port and he can no longer eat by mouth. He remains on the same chemotherapy schedule as his wife Mary at the City of Hope; he is still dealing with blocked coronary arteries and taking care of Mary. Please pray for remission of the cancer, for tolerance of the chemotherapy and give thanks for the strength, guidance and peace of mind our Lord gives Jet and his wife Mary, as well as daughter Janice and son Jimmy, through these difficult times.

*Madisun Hanks* (14) has Tourette's Syndrome and suffers from horrible migraine headaches. There are various very high risk treatments which provide some relief. None of them are close and none are easy. Madisun is truly one of the most inspiring young ladies we have ever come across, her attitude and actions are almost unbelievable. No one should have to go through what she does, but she makes it through and performs incredibly when others just get by. Please pray for Madisun, her mom Hilda who guides her through all this and those treating her.

*Linda* has a melanoma just forming and she needs to have it removed. She has had severe medical problems the last 15 years and needs help coping. Pray for all of her family at this time as new problems have come to light.

*Chris Hill* (close friend of Jon Weston) suffered a brain aneurysm and needs your prayers. He came out of a coma he had been in since the week before Christmas 2016. He is now in a stepdown facility. Every day is a new day to him; his memory seems

to have been damaged to a point where it is not recovering so far. Pray for the doctors, nurses and technicians treating him to pay attention, to be open to God's guidance and do their very best. Pray for trust in our Lord and peace of mind for Chris and his family.

*Rev Bill* had a stroke. Pray he will stay comfortable and Jesus will be close by, please pray for a full and rapid recovery.

*Dennis* will begin chemotherapy for an active cancer spot on his spine on 17 September 2015. Please pray for a good result and tolerance of the treatment for him.

*Vickie* has been bothered with Migraines and all that go with the headaches. Please pray for relief from the pain for Vickie.

*Jon* has Stage 4 mantle cell lymphoma. There is good news in that he is in remission; however the chemotherapy is producing neuropathy in his legs so it is a challenge for him to get around. Please pray that he will be as comfortable as possible; he has been a Marathoner runner so this is especially difficult.

*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 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.

*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.

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

*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.

*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 choose 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.

*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.

*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.

*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, she is doing much better and she and her family thank you for your prayers. Her pain level is high and some medications have bad side effects. Please continue her in Prayer in the weeks ahead as she heals.

*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.

*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.

*Kay Denton* (Mrs. Kay) was able to get a hip replacement in spite of her heart and kidney problems and is recovering remarkably! Please give thanks for this great event and result! 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.

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

*Kym* (43) has various hip problems which seems to be related to osteoarthritis. And, her mother *Ruth* is in the early stages of dementia. Pray for guidance for those treating both of them, as well as patience and trust in the Lord for both of them.

*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.

*James* for the Lord's healing of health issues and give a remedy for many personal challenges at the moment.

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

*Chief Mike Wysocki* had heart valve surgery in June 2017. Pray a complete recovery and peace of mind and trust in God for Mike, his lovely wife Wendy and his family.

*John Young* had three way heart bypass surgery on Thursday, 23 March 2017, in Alabama, which was apparently successful, then had a stroke in October while undergoing testing for his FAA medical. He has lost his right side peripheral vision. Please for a recovery of John's vision.

*Bill* had surgery November 2016 for a kidney tumor; he is one kidney short, but recovering very well for the present. It appears the cancer has spread to another spot. Please pray for Bill as he undergoes chemotherapy and perhaps other treatment. Pray Bill and his family will stay strong in their faith and draw the strength they need from our Lord.

*Anita* had surgery on 4 November 2016 to remove what they thought were five tumors in her right lung, but turned out to be eight. They removed all eight. In addition, her lung was folded from her previous coil embolization. They removed the coils, unfolding her lower right lobe and oversewed the area. In reality she may come away with increased lung capacity. Anita, her husband Michael and family express for the power of your continued prayers and expressions of love. Please join them in giving thanks for God's Grace and pray for her continued healing.

*Bob Reisor* had surgery on 19 September 2016 for a kidney tumor; he is one kidney short, but recovering very well for the present. The cancer has spread to his lung and another spot. Five years ago there was no treatment, but now it appears there is an oral medication that has shown great effectiveness on this particular cancer. As of 12 January 2017, the main spot shrank from 3.3 cm (1 1/3 inch) to 2.2 cm (7/8 inch) and the spots on his lungs have receded even more. And as of 22 June 2017, they have shrunk further. Please give thanks to the Lord for such wonderful progress. Please pray for Bob as he undergoes chemotherapy and perhaps other treatment. Pray he and his family will be drawn closer to our Lord.

*Shamu* had surgery on 12 May 2017, her seventeenth, to reconstruct the damage done her by Walter Reed Medical Center. She now has a bacterial infection which is laying her low. Please pray for strength; physical, mental and spiritual for her. Pray for guidance for the new medical team treating her and for her to know how to proceed with regard to the damage done her by Walter Reed Medical Center. Pray also for her to continue her trust in our Lord as she goes through this difficult time.

*Atina* has skin cancer, which is now in remission. Please give thanks for the remission, pray for continued remission of the cancer; pray also for continued faith for Atina and her family.

*Clay* has melanoma which is now in remission. Please give thanks for the remission, pray for continued remission of the cancer; pray also for continued faith for Clay and his family.

*Cindy* (81) had an operation to remove a cancerous growth in her stomach which was successful. She is now home, but in a bit of pain. Please give thanks for the good result, pray for full and complete healing and remission of the cancer, as well as cessation of the pain; pray also for continued faith for Cindy and her husband Les (91).

*Linda* had successful dental surgery on 15 December 2015, she is also on a course of chemotherapy and this type of surgery was not recommended for people while they are taking chemotherapy. But, it was an emergency and had to be done. Please give thanks all went well and pray for continued healing and for peace of mind and trust in God for Linda and her family.

*Ruby* broke her hip on 10 December 2015, surgery was successful. Please give thanks for the successful surgery and pray for her full and rapid recovery.

*Terry* was undergoing radiation treatment for cancer, which he had to stop to amputate his leg below the knee due to diabetes. The surgery was successful, he has been fitted with a prosthetic leg and foot. He is in good spirits and positive about the remainder of his treatment. Please join Terry and his family in giving thanks for the successful surgery and continue to pray for his return to radiation treatment and then to chemotherapy, ask God to give Terry, his wife and seven year old son trust in him for peace of mind and heart, as well.

*Janet Jessup* had a stroke and heart problems were causing huge issues for her. They seem to have gotten her stabilized and she is home. Please pray for those treating her to find the appropriate treatment and for trust in God and peace of mind for Janet and her family, in particular her husband of 45 years, Rev Roger Jessup, retired minister of Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Orthodox Church.

*Sam* had surgery on his entire large intestine that had become infected. At the time of the operation he was just hours away from a complete organ shutdown. He had had turmoil in his life over the years. Sam is now in the ICU and his Minister visited him and explained to him God had given him another chance for him to make things right with his Lord. Pray for his good health and his spiritual life with Jesus.

*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.

*Jenniffer* 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 in particular, the reconstructive surgery seems to have gravely affected her back muscles and nerves, resulting in both very limited mobility and extreme pain, the drugs are making her terribly sick; please pray those will be overcome. Pray for help for Jenniffer 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.

*Mary Thornell* has been battling colon cancer for three years now, she is currently treating at the City of Hope. Things seem to be going well, the numbers seem headed in the right direction. Please pray for guidance for those treating her, as well as strength, guidance and peace of mind for Mary and her husband Jim, as well as daughter Janice and son Jimmy, as she undergoes treatment.

*Elma* is suffering from cancer. She was taken home from the hospital on the advice of her Doctor. We were asked to pray Elma's remaining time here on earth might be good and 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.

### ***Business***

*James* and *Sarah* who have recently moved to a new area and have new positions in employment. They are finding much stress in the new surroundings and will appreciate your prayers as they adjust.

### ***Financial Guidance and Employment***

*Kona* is applying for a job in the hospital. Pray our Lord will find the right position for her and she will glorify Him in the work.

*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 aspects of her potential work.

### ***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.

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

*Roger* is the caretaker for his ailing father who has been in the hospital for a week and his wife who had been declining emotionally, cognitively and in bodily health. He asks you pray for strength and peace for him and help for those he cares for.

*Charlie McCormack* asks your prayer the Holy Ghost might fill his heart with light and drive the darkness far away.

### **Guidance**

*Zachary* is having huge problems growing up. He has let the wrong people guide his life and thinks he is the smartest person in the world. He cannot or will not see the destructive power of drugs and lies in his life. Pray his parents Lee and Shamu will come to see what course of action that they can take to help Zachary and safeguard his brother and sister. Please pray for God's guidance for all of them and in particular for Zachary to open his heart to God and his parents help.

*Judy* seemingly does not want to allow the Holy Ghost into her heart so she might come to know our Lord and Savior, despite the efforts of her family. Please pray for her to open her heart and for her family to be at peace with their efforts.

*Barbara* has been recovering from cancer for the last three years. Pray for her husband Bill who has come down with a mental illness that may have been caused by much stress the last few years. Barbara and Bill will appreciate your prayers.

*Larry* is very weak and has periods of confusion and depression. Larry has been in the hospital and recently moved to a rehab. Please keep him in prayer as he begins to gain strength in the days ahead.

*Thomas* recently learned as the result of a parole violation he will not be allowed to return to society for the remainder of his life. He is despairing and fearful of his inability to cope with this new news and God's plan for his life. Please pray he will be able to work with God to live with the choices he has made and go forward.

*Cam* has gotten into some of the issues being with the wrong crowds, too much dinking and making the wrong decisions. Pray he will ask God to send the Holy Ghost in to straighten things out and he will listen when He speaks to him.

*Paul* recently had his large toe amputated due to diabetes and is having a difficult recovery filled with fear about dying. He recently accepted Jesus as his savior and his family Rosie and Brenda are very grateful. Pray for strength for both Rosie and Brenda who are staying by his side through it all encouraging him on.

*Steve* is addicted to alcohol, pain pills and gambling. Pray for wisdom, courage and strength to stick with treatment and follow God's plan for his life.

*Eli* has some mental issues and has lost his way. He has yet to come to grips with the demons chasing him. Pray he will return to the Lord and his family. Pray they will ask God to send the Holy Ghost in to straighten things out and they will listen when He speaks to them. The family has been open to the Prince of Darkness and needs help.

*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 she will be able to let God carry her worry and sorrow so she can do the things she must do.

*Elizabeth* needs your prayers for her general well being. Pray she might see the Light of the Lord and let Him guide her life.

*Gunner* need your prayers for his general well being. Pray he might see the Light of the Lord and let Him guide his life.

*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.

*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.

*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.

*Sam* and her *two children* 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.

*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.

*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.

*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.

### **School Challenges**

Destiny, Blake and Janet

### **Anglican Orthodox Church**

#### **Madagascar**

Please pray for the people in Madagascar, in particular for the members of the Anglican Orthodox Church there, who are being subjected to terrible flooding and unceasing rain.

### *Indonesia*

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

### *Pakistan*

*General and Ongoing* - The forces of evil are strong in Pakistan. The force of God stronger. Pray for our Christian family there.

*Ernest Jacob*  
Presiding Bishop Pakistan

### *Congo*

Jimmy is a missionary in the Congo. There has been violent unrest in this country and also a water shortage. Please pray people will find water to drink and Jimmy will be a means of helping others to find the Lord.

### *Serbia*

Bishop Igor Djurcic asks us to pray for peace between Serbia and the country of Kosovo which broke away from them in 2008. Kosovo is a muslim country and seems to be willing to provoke conflict; Serbia is a primarily Christian country which seems to be ready to return the conflict. Pray Serbia will look for the long term best interests of its people.

### *Philippines*

Please pray a *Minister* will be found who would like to serve in Tabuk, in the Philippine Islands. The Anglican Orthodox Church has an established Church there and in the surrounding areas and need a Shepherd to lead the flock.

### *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, had to retire as he was so pressed by the duties of a primary care giver, in addition to all the worries of this world. Pray for trust in God for each member of the parish and for them to find economic relief.

### *Armed Forces & Contractors*

Dustin (USAF - Stateside), Kristyna and Luis Aviles (Army - Fort Lewis, Washington), Airman Donny Patton (USAF - Hulbert Field, Florida), Jordan Brown (USMC – Recruiter - Iowa City, Iowa), Trevor Jennings (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator – McGuire AFB, NJ), Trevor Di Marco (USN - Whidbey Island, EF-18 Pilot), Kurt Thomas (USN – Virginia), Ethan (US Army Airborne – Southwest Asia)

### *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.

### *Education*

*Aaron* is in need of God's guidance to see what he needs to do to fulfill his potential and live his life in a manner which will bring true happiness to him.

*Thomas Dabney* is attending Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, to finish his Bachelor's Degree. Please pray for Thomas to focus on education and do his very best at school.

Jim and Mary Lou's grandson *Pearce*, who is entering college this 22 August 2107.

A good, happy and productive year for our Jim and Mary Lou's grandson *Colin* who is entering his Junior Year in High School.

Jim and Mary Lou's granddaughter *Lucy*, who will be entering second grade for gifted children. Pray it will be the challenge she needs and she will also mature socially.

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

3 December 2017 – First Sunday in Advent – 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**

10 December 2017 – Second Sunday in Advent – 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**

17 December 2017 – Third Sunday in Advent – 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**

24 December 2017 – Christmas Eve and Fourth Sunday in Advent – 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**

25 December 2017 – Christmas Day – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**