



Easter Sunday

17 April 2021

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio--seeking to know and serve Christ in loving service to the campus, the community, and the world.

The Lessons

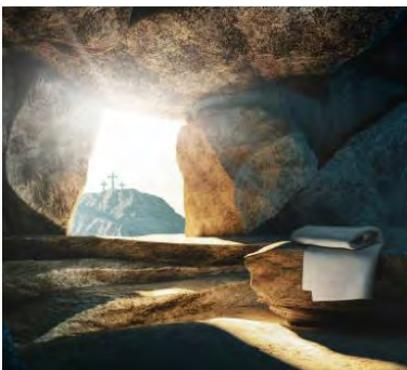
Lessons for Easter Sunday: Acts 10: 34-43; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 (SUNG), I Corinthians 15: 19-26; John 20: 1-18.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

The Collect

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Gospel



John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the

other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Sermon



So **R**eal it **M**akes us **G**asp

There is an Easter sermon I give to children - and adults enjoy just as much - that begins with a toy rabbit like this one. Once I show the toy, I ask the question: is this rabbit real? So, far, every time I've asked that question, I've gotten the same answer. No, every child and adult replied, the rabbit is not real. Then I challenge that answer by saying, Isn't it? I can see it. I can touch it and smell it. I can hold it and move it. I can weigh it. I can like it, or dislike it, even love it. Just because it isn't alive doesn't mean it isn't real.

Then, I switch gears a bit

and talk about Jesus. Jesus is real. He was born and lived like all of us do. People could see him, touch him, talk to him, listen to him, they could weigh him if they wanted to, laugh and cry with him, like him, dislike him, even love him. Not everybody loved him. Some hated him, some were afraid of him. He was killed. He died. And all of that that was real. But. Just when it looked like Jesus was gone, something happened.

At this point in the sermon, a parishioner who was out of sight brought out a live bunny rabbit. And there was an audible gasp from everyone. No one saw that twist coming.

Now, I'm sorry to disappoint you today. No one is going to bring out a live bunny. In other parishes I served there were parishioners who had pet rabbits that I visited often and had a good relationship with. The people and rabbit knew me, trusted me, and liked me so it was safe for the rabbit, the children, and me to bring the bunny to church on Easter for the sermon. Even without the live rabbit, the concept can still work. You just have to imagine a live rabbit.

After the audible gasp of surprise and delight was over, I talked about how both the toy and the living bunny are real rabbits. The living one is just somehow more than the toy.

When Jesus was raised from the dead, he was different from the way he had been before. He was still Jesus. He was still real. But he was somehow more, and this *more* made it hard to recognize him. It is difficult to understand because we are not familiar with the kind of life – resurrection life - that started when Jesus was raised from the dead. We can't buy it or make it or control it. But just because we are not familiar with it, doesn't mean it isn't real. Resurrection is real and it is what God does with those God loves, and God loves you.

We may not have a live rabbit with us today, and that is okay. Because it wasn't the rabbit that was the Easter part of the sermon. It was the gasp. The moment everyone was pleasantly jolted from one way of thinking to being open so seeing something more. That brief moment is probably pretty close to what happened to Mary Magdalen on the morning she went to the tomb and found it empty.

At first, she probably gasped too, but not from delight. We heard in the Gospel she was upset that the body of Jesus was not where it was supposed to be. She ran and got two friends, who were also followers of Jesus, and they ran to the tomb to check out her story. We heard they looked inside and found what she said was true. The body was gone. They believed her. However, they didn't seem to know what to do about it, so they left. Mary stayed. When angels appeared and asked her why she was crying she told them she didn't know where Jesus' dead body was.

It's important to notice that Mary and the disciples saw the empty tomb as a problem, not a miracle. They assumed the body of Jesus was gone because of some evil intention like grave robbing, which was a common crime. They didn't know anything different at the time. They certainly didn't know about resurrection life, so they couldn't imagine any other reason for the disappearance of Jesus' body.

Even when the Risen Jesus himself asked Mary why she was crying she didn't recognize him. This tells us something important about resurrection life. Often Mary's inability to recognize Jesus gets interpreted as grief or hysteria. But Mary was only interpreting the situation by what she knew, by what we all know all too well. Mary saw a problem that needed fixing, which she could do by controlling it. The problem was Jesus'

body had been taken away and it needed to be put back where it belonged. The only solution she could imagine was finding the body and putting it back or taking it somewhere else. When the Risen Christ asked her why she was crying, she saw someone who might help her with this problem by telling her where the body was. Because that is what she needed. Then she could take care of everything. She could clean up the mess. She could fix the problem. She could right a wrong. This is all pretty reasonable thinking.

Mary hadn't seen resurrection life yet so we can't blame her or patronize her for not recognizing the risen Jesus. But she was about to. She saw it the moment the Risen Jesus did something he had done before his resurrection: he called her by her name. Perhaps she gasped again. This time it may have been like those surprised and delighted gasps I heard when the live rabbit appeared. Biblical scholars suggest that was the moment Mary stopped seeing the empty tomb as a problem to be solved and manifestation of death and instead saw it as a testimony to the power of possibility of life. And so, she must have gasped and reached for Jesus.

Many scholars and commentators have posited what it could mean when the Risen Jesus told Mary she could not hold on to him. It is perhaps, his first post-resurrection teaching that he cannot be treated as he was before he died because his is now more alive. He cannot be contained. It's like the difference between a toy and a living animal. The preconceived expectations about him, what we thought we knew about Jesus, the teacher, healer, miracle worker, walker on water, cannot be used to hold back the new life he is bringing into the world through his resurrection. Because there is so much more than we can imagine. Maybe not "more" in the consumer sense of the word, but more in the sense of the power of possibility of life that can make us gasp in delight.

Jesus' resurrection is just the beginning. It can be difficult to understand or see it, especially because resurrection life is something we cannot control, only be part of, like Mary. Resurrection life doesn't belittle or negate life as we know it or make it any less real. Like the living rabbit does not negate the toy one. Resurrection doesn't dismiss the pain of loss, but somehow makes it more, because resurrection life is in the love that connects us to God and to each other. The love Jesus embodied when he was alive and lives in the resurrection. We need to remember resurrection life is not just life after death, it is new life in our world that can still show up at any time.

It might look like a person choosing to leave an abusive relationship whether it is with a family member, partner, or employer or employee, even if they aren't sure what life outside that relationship will be like. It might be the person who loves again after the loss or death of a parent, spouse, or child. It might be the person in recovery from a disease who lives life a little more without the weight of the disease holding them down. Resurrection life is anytime anyone breaks free from expectations or constraints that prevent them from living a life of love and peace that God intended when God created the world and everything and everyone. Resurrection life can help us see the difference between redemptive suffering and abuse. Resurrection life can help us see the life and possibility in every kind of change: in our bodies, relationships, society, and institutions. Resurrection life is anytime anyone can practice hope when things look dire. Because resurrection life isn't life without pain or suffering, it is redeemed life in this world with the Risen Christ who embodies the power and possibility of God's love that is real and so much more than we can imagine, which is why it can make us gasp with delight.

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022

The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, OH

Please include in your prayers

In our world, we pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, and for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; we pray for peace with justice throughout the Middle East. We pray for the victims of the coronavirus.. We pray for all people affected by natural and environmental disasters. We pray also for the people who are suffering from war, especially the people of Ukraine, and all asylum seekers, immigrants and refugees. We pray for Joe our President, Kamala our Vice-President, Mike, our Governor, the Supreme Court and the members of Congress.

In our diocese, In our diocese, we pray for our Provisional Bishop Wayne, the search process for a new bishop, and for Kenneth, Nedi, and Wendell our assisting bishops.

In our parish, we pray for Good Shepherd's continued growth, for our Rector Rev. Deborah Woolsey, for our Associate Priests, Rev. Leslie Flemming, and Rev. David McCoy, for our ministry to students, the university, and the community. We pray for our friends at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Merida, Mexico.

Those Whom our Prayers are Requested: Belle, Bill S., Bud and Carol, Chris L., Elena, Gloria R., Gordon, Jan S, Lacey, Laura, Miriam, Sharon, Bill, Annie and Kathleen, Tommy, Jeannet Barratt, Danny Cain, Douglas Campbell, Zelma Coleman, Lee Kembell-Cook, Glinnis Davies, Dick Dean and Phyllis Dean, Richard DeNune, Caryl Docherty, Chris Eaton, Ben Foster, Norm Fox, Jan Gault, Jim Greer Jennifer Hall, Debbie Hunsberger, Nancy and Bob Jackson, Peter Kachenko and family, Monya Monroe, Julie Nehls, Linda Nippert, Lauren O'Brien, Doug and Michelle Parsons, Jane Patton, Dale Paul, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Ann Shelly, Michael Vaughn, Consuelo Walker and family, Patti Williams, Zita Zolpys, and we pray for all who care for them. **

Anniversary: Therese and Keith Lackey (4/23)

Birthdays: Betty Hollow (4/17), Betsy Larson Wetmore (4/17), Jack Flemming (4/19), Bethany Miller Callison (4/20), Carlos Walker (4/22)

Thanksgiving: In Thanksgiving for the upcoming reception of Heather Irwin on April 24.

** Full names for this section are normally not published online but since there is not a printed Sunday Bulletin or in-house 10:30 service, for the time being we will publish full names unless requested otherwise. If you have a name to be added to the prayer list, Lynn Graham maintains this information. Lynn may be reached at **740-593-5098** or **grahammowery@aol.com**.

Christ Church Cathedral Cincinnati live streams via Vimeo its services Sundays at 10 a.m. These are saved and can be watched later without having to log in.

<https://vimeo.com/event/4306>

Washington D C -- there's much to explore at the the National Cathedral's online portal.

<https://cathedral.org/worship/>

Calendar

Coming Up:

Thursday, April 21, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting, ZOOM

Sunday, April 24, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Bishop's Visitation)

Wednesday, April 27, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting, Julie's

Sunday, May 1, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 8, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 15, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (discretionary Sunday)

Thursday, May 19, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting, ZOOM

Sunday, May 22, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 29, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

**CrossRoads Café now open Sundays after church service
and Monday - Friday 9:30 - 11:30 am.**

Notes & Announcements

!! THANK YOU !!

To everyone who served during the Holy Week services and helped make them beautiful.

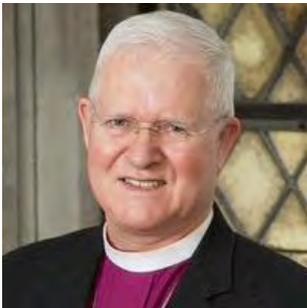
Thank you to those of you who made all the Holy Week services beautiful

by showing up and being present. Your presence is a gift.



[Presiding Bishop Curry's Easter message](#)

The message is very good and beyond that he talks about Ukrainian Easter Eggs, and seeing Desmond Tutu in Columbus, Ohio.



Bishop Smith Visit April 24

Bishop Smith is serving our diocese for two years while the Standing Committee works on the process for finding a new full time bishop. Bishop Smith primarily handles things like confirming and receiving people into the Episcopal Church, pastoral care for clergy, and helping the Standing Committee with their responsibilities.

After the service will have a reception of cookies and punch on the porch to celebrate the newest person received into the Episcopal Church and give everyone a chance to meet Bishop Smith.

Wondrous Things That God Has Done Bishop Smith's Easter Vigil sermon (from the DSO)

"You simply must allow scripture to wash over you," Bishop Smith said in his Easter Vigil sermon at Christ Church Cathedral. "You can't interpret all of it. Maybe, just maybe, it will interpret you, and help you make sense through the scriptures of the wondrous things that God has done and is still doing in our midst; for our lives, for our sake, and most of all for the life of the world. Alleluia! Christ is risen."



[Watch the sermon on Vimeo.](#)

Challenge for the Organ Fund

An anonymous donor has issued a challenge to the parish in the final push to raise funds

for the Organ Restoration. The donor will match up to a total of \$500 received by Sunday, May 15. You may mail your donation to the church office or drop it off Monday-Thursday, 10:30-2. You should indicate on the memo line that it is for the Organ Restoration Fund. If you choose to [DONATE ON-LINE](#) indicate for the organ fund in the "Add special instructions to the seller" section.

Thanks. The Organ Restoration Committee

[Supporting Humanitarian
Response to the Crisis in
Ukraine](#)

Episcopal Relief & Development
(Click above link for more.)



Standing Committee invites all to take bishop search survey The Standing Committee sent this letter to the people of the diocese ...

"... We had thought we would launch the survey in Eastertide, but at the diocesan clergy gathering last week, we heard clergy loud and clear when they said they would like to see us move quickly to gather data on the diocese. We are launching the survey just before Holy Week, and we are very mindful that lay leaders and clergy will be focused on the Paschal Mystery over the next few days. For that reason, we will leave the survey open until Tuesday, April 26.

[Here is the SURVEY LINK.](#)

Our hope is that rectors and priests-in-charge will share the survey link with their congregations. We want wide participation from our whole diocese. As you will see, the survey itself is quite brief. It should only take a few minutes. The survey will remain open until Tuesday, April 26...."

[Read the entire letter and find the link to the survey HERE.](#)

**Mother Deborah will give the prayer for the
Workers Memorial Day Remembrance,
Thursday April 28, 2022**

12 noon,
at the Workers Memorial Mural
11 N. Court St.

Please Join us. A box lunch will be provided.

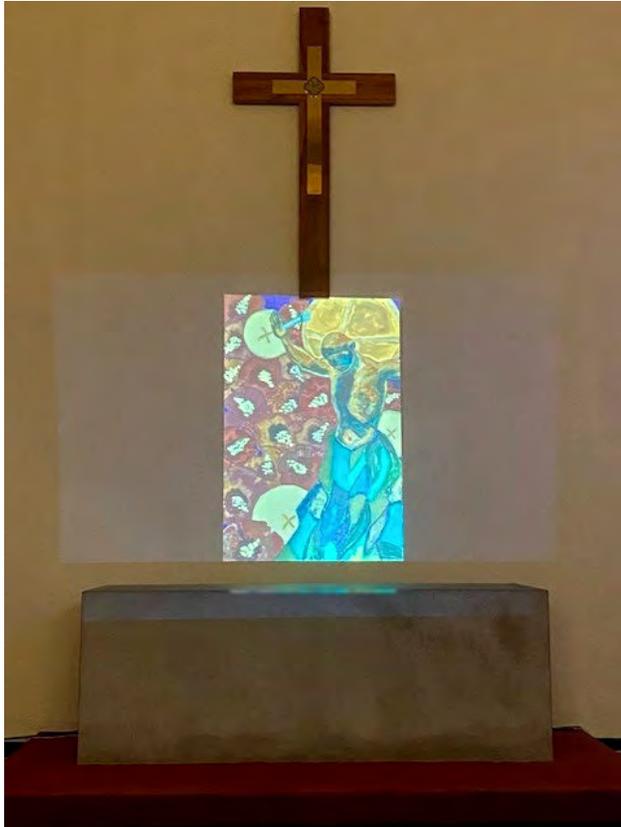


A note about the image we used in the header:

Our friend and iconographer Kelly Latimore and another friend the Rev. Karl Stevens have

generously provided some artwork images for our use during Holy Week and especially for Good Friday. The above one for today is titled "Resurrection". Here is [Kelly's website](#).

Below are two of the art images used in the Good Friday service. Images were projected onto the wall beneath the cross while someone read a Bible passage, said a prayer and then Marsha played music. Marsha and Mother Deborah put a lot of work into this Good Friday Stations of the Cross. The Rev. Karl Stevens and Kelly Latimore both helped generously by sharing images for stations of the cross art they found inspiring. This combination made for a truly moving service.



To the right is is an image (Holy Saturday) by Michael D. O'Brien.

Below is how the Covid Memorial appeared Friday Evening before the Service. It has it's own solar powered lights. Note the crab apple tree we planted this past fall has **flowered!**



Snapshots from the Great Vigil sent in
by David Burton

Soloist: Tyler Thess.

Eucharistic Ministers: Tyrone Carr
and Sharon Hüge.





Contacts, Information

Quick Links

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[Sermons](#)

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Pandemic Notes:

[Link to the DSO guidelines for returning to in-person worship](#)

As of August 5 the Diocese COVID Guidelines request all persons wear masks inside the church building regardless of vaccination status.

Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.,
Monday through Thursday.
Masks are required.

The **Church Building** is not open for public meetings and gatherings but during office/CrossRoads hours the **thrift shop** and **chapel** are available for individuals.
Masks are required.

CrossRoads Café is only open Sundays after the service until the news school year.

Contact Information

For pastoral needs, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895 (cell) or 740-593-6877 (church), or by e-mail at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com.

To find out more about Good Shepherd and other matters, please contact Alex Buckley, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5513 or by e-mail at macbuck@yahoo.com.

For maintenance matters, please leave a note at the office or contact Dana Carlson, Junior Warden, at 740-664-2022 or by e-mail at carlsondana@hotmail.com. **For emergencies**, please call The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895.

NON-emergency messages can be left on the church's answering machine (740-593-6877). The parish office administrator is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877) or barbara@chogs.org.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701
740-593-6877
chogs@chogs.org
www.chogs.org

[DONATE to Good Shepherd](#)

This takes you to the Parish Home page where you can donate on-line via PayPal, if you have a preference, please indicate on the the "Add special instructions to the seller" section the purpose of the donation -- e.g. organ fund, plate collection, etc.

Check out the Church's [YouTube Channel](#).

LIKE us on Facebook [Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 45701](#)

Office Hours:

10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Monday - Thursday

Masks are required.
