



Friday Bulletin

22 July 2022

The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio

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This Upcoming Sunday

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

24 July 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship (Bulletin)

Service: Holy Eucharist Rite II-C

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Musician: Marsha Reilly

Lector: Michael Wootton

**Eucharistic Minister/
Acolyte:** Tyrone Carr

**Eucharistic Minister/
Prayer Leader:** Allyn Reilly

Altar Guild: Sharon Huge

Altar Flowers: Julie Nehls

Coffee Hour Host: Lois Wagner

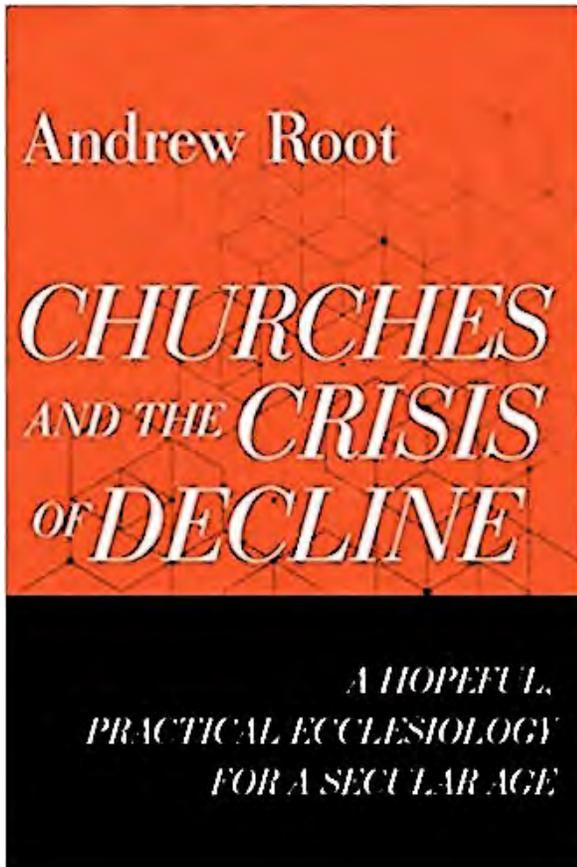
LESSONS for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12-Tract 1):
Old Testament – Hosea 1: 2-10;
Psalm 85 (SAID);
New Testament - Colossians 2: 6-19 ;
Gospel - Luke 11: 1-13

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

Reading with the Rector:

Churches and the Crisis of Decline, A Hopeful, Practical Ecclesiology for a Secular Age

by Andrew Root, Baker Academic, 2022



The top review on the back of this book reads: “If you are worried about the fate of your church (and who isn’t these days?) this a book you must read.” While this book helps understand the issues of decline, it does not give a recipe for monetary or numerical growth that review might inadvertently suggest, and many might crave. This book won’t fix budgets or attendance or membership. It will not bring back the glory days. It *does*, however, give a historical view of what is happening with the church and the secular world and proposes a theology of being church in the world. This way of being church is not new, it is however, radically different from the business models that prioritize having resources over embodying the love of God in Christ in our community.

This academic tome is not a fast and easy read, as many reviewers warned before I purchased the book. But it is interesting. Dr. Root is the Carrie Olson Baalson Associate Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. In this book he walks us through the early years of the theologian Karl Barth’s career as a pastor and how his time spent in parishes formed his theology and eventual career as an academic. The relevance of this intellectual exercise is Dr. Root’s way of exploring the crisis churches of all denominations are experiencing, as they decline not only in membership and resources but in prominence and recognition in society.

To illustrate this decline, Dr. Root creates a fictional storyline of a parish struggling in a community that has changed around it. Like many churches, this one was struggling with its direction, mission, and loss of energy. Parishioners were starting to fight with each other when a young man walked in whose recently deceased grandmother told him to use his grief of her death to find God. This turned into an invitation for the parish to stop fighting and start waiting with the young man for God. In the end they all learned they could not find God, but God found them and through their waiting became energized for

ministry and being present to each other and the community. They did not grow numerically but they did grow spiritually.

The fictional account of the parish is minimal to the book's more academic content of the life history of Karl Barth and the people who influenced him, the theology those influencers cultivated and taught, and how he applied this theology to his pastoral leadership of parishes. I hadn't read much of Barth since my own seminary days and am grateful for the education I received at Nashotah House as it helped me comprehend the more complicated and nuanced conclusions Dr. Root draws from Barth's life and work.

This is book does not give a single solution to the problem of the crisis of decline. There are no simple step programs to follow in its 287 pages. What the book does do is slowly, gently, deliberately lay out the reality of the world we live in, the reasons for the secularization of the world, and how Dr. Root believes we can learn from Karl Barth that the church attempting to beat the world at its own game is a fruitless and faithless endeavor. Dr. Root points out the direction many denominations and parishes received in the 1980's and 90's to develop mission statements and visions and try to conform to a business model of operation is the primary reason for the church's decline.

Dr. Root does not offer a solution for the decline, nor does he spend much time chastising the church for falling into temptation to operate like a business. Instead, through the life and pastoral development of Karl Barth and the fictional parish, he presents a theological model of parish life that embraces Jesus Christ as both fully human and fully divine that focuses on loving the world the church inhabits instead of attempting to have or consume it. This involves waiting for God and being in the world as people of prayer and care for others, which Dr. Root maintains is the purpose of the church.

This is a thought-provoking book that offers insight that helps recognize and understand some of the challenging behaviors and mindsets in the world. While it won't solve any problems, it offers the gift of perspective as an antidote to anxiety. If we have the courage to face the crisis, we will, in fact, find God is already with us in the crisis. This one is not for the faint of heart. But I still recommend it.

Many Blessings,

Mother Deborah

Coming up on the Calendar

Sunday, July 24, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, July 27, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's

Sunday, July 31, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, August 3, 11:00 a.m. - - Dave Black's committal.

Sunday, August 7, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 14, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, August 18, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting

Sunday, August 21, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 28, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

This Summer CrossRoads Café is open Sundays after church.

Notes & Announcements

Dave Black Service

Dave Black's committal and cremains to be interred in the columbarium.

This brief service will be August 3 (Wednesday) at 11:00 a.m.



Unpacking the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church

From the Diocese:

Bishop Smith and members of the Southern Ohio General Convention deputation invite you to join in a Zoom call on Wednesday, July 27 to learn more about the actions of the 80th General Convention.

Two calls will be held to accommodate busy schedules. The first call will be held at 1 p.m. and the second will be held at 6:30 p.m. Use the links below to register for either conversation.

July 27 at 1:00 p.m. [Register here.](#)

July 27 at 6:30 p.m. [Register here.](#)

General Convention - - An Opportunity to Learn About the Diversity and Governance of the Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal Church is not one building in one place, we are a denomination that includes people of all walks of life, including all political parties, all over the world. We are much more diverse than any parish in one location can reflect.

Unlike the Roman Catholic Church, we do not have one person who has the power to make all the rules in the Episcopal Church. We don't really have "rules", we have what we call canons and a constitution that are intended to guide us as body that make a great deal of allowances depending on the context of each diocese.

The canons and constitution, as well as overseeing what goes into the Book of Common Prayer, are determined by the bishops of the Episcopal Church and designated clergy and laypeople in every diocese. They are separated into two separate "houses": the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies.

The **House of Bishops** is comprised of all the bishops in the Episcopal Church. This house is presided over by the Presiding Bishop, who facilitates all their meetings.

The **House of Deputies** is comprised of individual clergy and laypersons who are elected by their dioceses to participate in General Convention. This house is presided over by someone elected by the deputies, facilitates all meetings of this house and works with the Presiding Bishop in planning and implementing General Conventions.

General Convention is the gathering of both Houses to debate proposed resolutions, vote on those resolutions, worship together, and reflect on the work both houses need to do before the next General Convention, which is held every three years.

Resolutions (legislation) must be passed by both houses, starting with the House of Deputies. Sometimes a resolution will not make it to the House of Bishops because it was defeated by the House of Deputies.

The way this system exists can appear complex or complicated. Its purpose is to give people with different views the opportunity to express their opinions and

is a practice of inclusivity as the Episcopal Church has members who are liberal, conservative, and many who are middle of the road, meaning they might vote one way on one resolution and another way on a different resolution. The Episcopal Church is known as the via media, the middle way, recognizing the truth is often found somewhere between two extremes.

You can learn more about the work of this year's General Convention by visiting the Episcopal News Service online at

www.episcopalnewsservice.org

or visit the [General Convention Website](#).



Episcopal Bishops release “Mind of the House” statement on Climate Change.

[More Here \(Anglican Ink\)](#)

Expressing the Mind of the House on
Climate and Our Vocation in Christ

Diocese of Southern Ohio Convention Changes

Diocesan Convention - when delegates from every parish in the diocese and clergy in the diocese gather to conduct the necessary business of the diocese - has been changed to **Saturday, November 19**. Delegates and clergy may attend in person or via zoom. These changes are due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

For more see the [DSO E-Connections](#) newsletter.

Supporting Humanitarian Response to the Crisis in Ukraine



Bean Things? Not quite sure but guess this is a vine like catalpa tree of some sort. It sported loads of cascading flowers in the Spring and now has these huge dangling fuzzy bean pods. Looks poisonous to me, almost afraid to walk by! (Ted Foster)





Contacts & Information

Contact Information

**DONATE to Good
Shepherd**

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
Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons

64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701
740-593-6877
chogs@chogs.org
www.chogs.org

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. Covid Memorial, 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 a.m.– 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

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