



Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

3 July 2022

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.

Today's printed [Order of Worship](#)

The Lessons

Lessons for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 9-Tract 1):

Old Testament – 2 Kings 5: 1-14;

Psalm 30 (SAID);

New Testament - Galatians 6: 1-16;

Gospel - 10: 1-11, 16-20.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

The Collect

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Gospel



The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

The Sermon

Sent Out to Live a Prayer

Sometimes it can be beneficial to remember the meaning of the prayers we say every Sunday, whether we are together in person or online. Take for example the prayer after receiving Holy Communion, called the Post-Communion Prayer. *The Book of Common Prayer* gives us two choices, one on page 365 and the other on page 366. Here at Church of the Good Shepherd we had been using the one on page 366 since Easter and have recently switched to the prayer on page 365. Both are a kind of prayer called a sending prayer. You can look at them right now, if you want.

The first part of each prayer acknowledges God and our gratitude to God for receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion; for being nourished in body and spirit with the food of everlasting life, for receiving a taste of our salvation and God's Kingdom here on earth, a Kingdom we are members of. The second part

of both prayers begins with the words “send us out”. Those words not only mean the worship service is almost over, but they also indicate one of main purposes for worshipping together.

We gather together either in person or on-line to worship God, to listen to the Scriptures and process them through hymns, music, and a sermon, to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion, and then to do what followers of Jesus did in our Gospel reading today: to go out into the world. In our Gospel Jesus sent not only the twelve disciples, he also sent seventy disciples with a very specific purpose: to go where he was going to go and prepare people to receive Jesus by telling them and showing them who Jesus is. They weren't to go from door to door selling Jesus, but to stay in one place and do what Jesus did: share meals, teach, heal and to announce in their actions that God's Kingdom has come near to the people and places they visited.

Likewise, the words of the sending prayer in our *Book of Common Prayer* sends us out with an intentional purpose: to love and serve others in witness of Christ, with a spirit of peace and gladness.

Perhaps another way of thinking about what the Post Communion prayer is commissioning us to do is, like Jesus commissioned his 70 followers, is to bring a little bit of the Kingdom of God we have tasted into the world with us. That means wherever we go, whether it's home, a trip to the grocery store, the post office, restaurants, work, a meeting – both in person meetings and video conference meetings- phone calls, emails, letters or notes, every conversation we have, with the reminder that because we received Holy Communion we are bringing not just ourselves, but a bit of Christ with us to the people we encounter in every place we go.

That means we bring something sacred with us into the world.

This manifestation of the sacred isn't necessarily acts of charity, but in actions that work for creating opportunities for all people, forgiving those who hurt us and working to dismantle systems that perpetuate harm over. It is working to create places where we are judged not by our race or gender or economic status or level of education or physical ability but for our personhood. It is lifting each other up, making room for each other, working for true equality for all people, because that is what God's Kingdom is like.

We can forget that institutions, whether they are the church or universities, or governments don't represent God's Kingdom in and of themselves. That doesn't mean they are bad, and we should walk away, it just means they are human and susceptible to the lie that there aren't enough resources to go around, and to survive they have to grab all they can and take advantage of people to get what they think they deserve. The lie that power and money will save us is a hard one to resist. However, these institutions are also the social structures we have to operate in, whether or not we like them or whether or not they serve us all equally, we have to find a way to live in them where we participate in the sacred practice of respecting the dignity of every

person.

This is what Paul was talking about in his letter to the Galatians that is one of our readings for today when he wrote we need to care for each other by bearing each other's burdens and to persist even in the face of injustice. Because the truth is the world could be a more equal place if we lived into embodying the sacrament we receive.

I have recently heard people say they don't feel like celebrating Independence Day this year. And that is okay. Sometimes we don't feel like celebrating. Others are looking forward to a celebration and that is okay too. We are all in different places emotionally, spiritually, even politically. I suspect the seventy people Jesus sent out into the world were just as diverse as those of us he sends out into the world today. Like the Gospel reading for today reminds us, sometimes we will find success and positive experiences in the world and sometimes we will experience the pain and suffering. Sometimes things will work out, sometimes they won't. What is important, like Paul reminds his readers, is to not give up embodying the Love of God in Christ wherever we go, in what we say, and do.

Regardless of what we feel like, we can remember we can bring into the world of disappointments, delights, worries, and beauty is the love of God in Christ. Perhaps by remembering we carry the sacred with us we'll get better at recognizing the sacred is also out in the world waiting to encounter us, and such sacred meetings can bring about healing, renewal, and new life that is the Kingdom of God.

When we leave the church today after receiving Holy Communion, I hope wherever you go, however you are feeling, you remember you carry within you the nourishment of God's Kingdom and have been commissioned to share God's Kingdom like a living prayer in the world.

The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, 19 June 2022

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 for the people who are suffering from war, especially the people of Ukraine, we pray for the community of Uvalde, Texas, and we pray for 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: Bud and Carol, Chris L., Gloria R., Miriam, Sharon, T.C., Dana Carlson, Zelma Coleman, Lee Kembell-Cook, Richard DeNune, Roy DePue, Nona Forbes, Jan Gault, Lindsey and Regina Golden, Debbie Hunsberger, Bob and Nancy Jackson, Peter Kachenko and family, Julie Nehls, Donald and Junie Oney, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Marsha Reilly, Virginia Richards, Michael Vaughn, Emily Woolsey and we pray for all who care for them. **

Birthdays: Megan Reilly Shannon (7/4), Louise Fish (7/5), Ann Shelly (7/5)

** Full names are normally not published online but since the prayer list is not printed for the in-house 10:30 service, 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.

At-Home Worship

Christ Church Cathedral Cincinnati live streams its services Sundays at 10 a.m. These are saved and can be watched later.

<https://cincinnati-cathedral.com/ccd/join-online/>

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

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

Calendar

Coming Up:

July 4, Office Closed

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

Wednesday, July 13, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's

Sunday, July 17, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

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

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

This Summer CrossRoads Café is open only after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service.

Notes & Announcements

Church Office Closed Monday July 4

In observance of Independence Day, the church office is closed on Monday, July 4. We hope you have a safe holiday.

General Convention July 8-11

Please pray for the deputies for General Convention who will be meeting in Baltimore to vote on the latest changes to the Episcopal Church. Every three years delegates from every diocese in the Episcopal Church meets to propose changes and vote on the changes for how we function as a community that follows Jesus. To be able to meet in person during the pandemic, there have been a lot of adaptations including wearing masks traveling to GC, testing for Covid-19, wearing masks at all in person events/meetings, eating in small groups or in private, and providing places for those who test positive for Covid19 to quarantine. Please pray for General Convention as they try to conduct business in a way that minimizes the risk of those who attend. You can learn more about what happens at General Convention through the [Episcopal News Service](#).

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

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



The Story Behind the Covid-19 Memorial at Episcopal

Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio

In the Beginning.... In February of 2021 the number of deaths from the Covid-19 virus were rising rapidly across the country. In most places houses of worship were not meeting in person. As the solemn day of Ash Wednesday approached, the priest at Church of the Good Shepherd wanted to do something to mark the liturgical, theological, and personal importance of the day because we were not permitted to observe our usual distribution of Ashes to Go in front of the church and the traditional service in the evening.

Ash Wednesday is a day when we followers of Jesus acknowledge our mortality by confessing our sins and turning or returning to God. In the midst of a pandemic, the priest wondered if perhaps we needed a physical sign of our confession and repentance that highlighted our failure to care for each other. This is how the idea of erecting a structure to commemorate the (at the time) hundreds of thousands of Americans who were dying of the Covid-19 virus began.

Interpreting the Symbolism.... Art can be a powerful form of communication and prayer. The symbolism for the memorial was carefully thought out, starting with broken pieces of stained glass to represent the families, institutions, and communities that were broken by the loss of lives. Each piece of stained glass is separate to represent the isolation we all went through during the early days of the pandemic, and how those who died from the Covid-19 virus did so alone, without family or friends. The golden archways represent the overarching love and presence of God, which although is not always perceived during a crisis, is nonetheless over us all and connecting us all. If you stand close enough to look into the mirror at the base of each archway you will see your reflection with the broken pieces of glass around you, representing how all of us were part of the pandemic in some way. The solar powered light over each archway is symbolic of the eternal light and the crystal hanging below the light refracts the light spreading it beyond the memorial to symbolize how the loss of lives reaches into the world.

Each archway represents 100,000 Americans who died from the Covid-19 pandemic. In the four weeks that we gave ourselves to make the memorial and install it on Ash Wednesday, the death toll rose so quickly we had to purchase more materials and make additional archways. This was a time when supplies were low. We were given generous donations of homemade stained glass but other materials like glue that would work to adhere glass to plastic were difficult to get. We did the best we could but found the glass we put on the sides of an archway had



fallen off after the adhesive dried or when left outside. We were constantly making and remaking the archways in time to get them out for Ash Wednesday. Even after they were first installed, the pieces of glass fell off and we had to find other adhesives that could handle the cold, rain, snow, and sun.

Growth and Changes.... We had 3 archways when we first installed the Covid-19 Memorial on Ash Wednesday, 2021, as there were a little over 300,000 Americans who died from the virus. At the time this number of deaths seemed too large to comprehend. By summertime the total had grown to over 500,000 and we added two more archways to our memorial. It was now too large to keep the Covid-19 Memorial in its original location next to the sidewalk in front of the church building. We moved it in front of our columbarium. The Columbarium is a concrete structure where we intern the remains of individuals who have been cremated and wish for their ashes to be kept on our property. While this location made sense for a memorial, it was not easily seen or accessed from the sidewalk.





By November 2, 2021, 200,000 more Americans had died from Covid-19, and as we added two more archways to the memorial, we realized it was now too large to be kept in front of the columbarium. We also realized that we needed to take measures to make the memorial longer lasting, as the pandemic was not easing up. We refurbished the original archways to make them stronger in order to withstand the weather. We converted an unused flower bed on the front yard of the church into a larger space that would allow for us to expand the Covid-19 Memorial and was more visible and accessible from the sidewalk.

We planted a tree in the middle of the memorial to symbolize the life that goes on nourished and surrounded by the love and memories of those who died. We also added windchimes and invited people to write the names of individuals they knew who died from Covid-19. The windchimes were added because Church of the

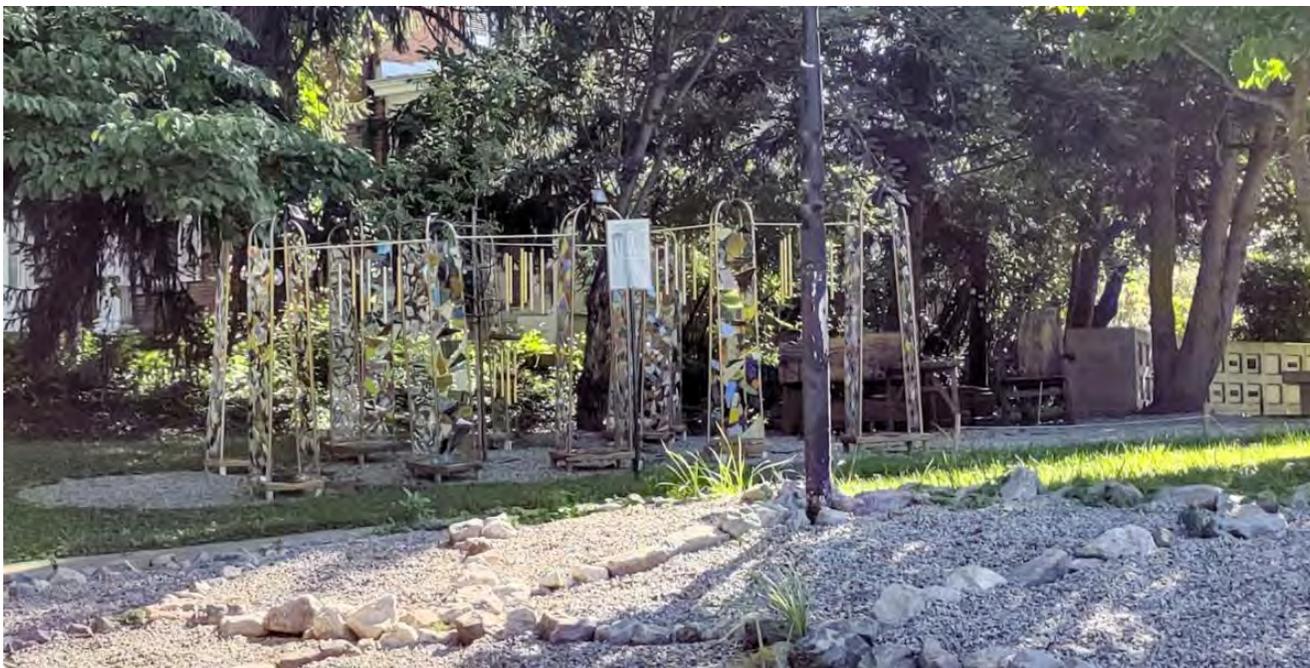


Good Shepherd does not have a bell. It is a tradition of the church that when someone dies, the church bell is tolled the number of years the person lived. Without a church bell, the windchimes provide the sound of a tolling bell and the memory that resonates in our hearts and minds and community.

A Service of Blessing.... November 2 is a special day for the Church Year when we remember all those who died; we call that day All Souls' Day. On November 4, 2021, we had a worship service for All Souls making a special inclusion of everyone who had died from Covid-19 and we blessed the memorial, making it a more sacred fixture in the church yard.

After this installation, we noticed more people from the community stopping by to take a picture of the memorial, write a name on a wind chime, and spend some time in prayer. We realized there was no other memorial in our area commemorating those who died from the Covid-19 virus and having a place where anyone could come and pray, and rest was a need we are able to meet for our community.

By July 2022, the total number of Americans who had died from Covid-19 had grown to over 1 million and over 6 million people worldwide. In what has become a sad tradition, we added 3 more archways to the memorial. Despite our previous efforts to make it large enough to expand, the memorial was too large to fit the circle of archways around the tree. Once again, we expanded the space; this time by adding gravel to the ground and making a gravel patio where people can sit on wooden bench and chairs.



As the virus has mutated, created variants, and taken more lives, our memorial has had to change and adapt, just like all of us as we try to navigate our lives as best we can during the pandemic. Committing to

create a memorial to those who died from Covid-19 has taught us about the value of making room for loss and grief in our church yard and in our lives.

Sometimes parts of the memorial break from tipping over in severe weather or when debris like tree branches fall on them. Some of the mirrors and crystals and sides of the archways are chipped, cracked, or are missing large chunks. We have not fixed them because as the memorial ages it does so in ways that represent how we feel. We have felt emotionally tossed around, cracked, and broken. Yet we continue as best we can to persevere in caring for each other and in living our faith. We are all a little “worse for wear” but we are still hanging in there together.

In Summary.... What began as a visual confession of our failure to care for each other during the pandemic has transformed into the creation of a sacred space for grief, rest, and spiritual healing. There is beauty in the sadness of loss that does not diminish the loss; it reminds us grief is part of the experience of love, and nothing, not even death, we are assured through the scriptures, can separate us from the Love of God. The Covid-19 Memorial reminds us there is no “return to normal” for the millions of people who are living with the loss of a friend, family member, or colleague. Which means this memorial can also be a reminder that no matter where we are in any phase of the pandemic, we can strive to be kind to each other as we do not know the amount of grief or sorrow others carry.

Welcome.... Everyone is welcome to visit our Covid-19 Memorial in person at 64 University Terrace, Athens, Ohio and spend a little time remembering, praying, and resting. We do not charge admission.

Thank You.... This memorial would not exist if not for the generosity of parishioners and friends of Church of the Good Shepherd and the work of local artist Michael Luelloff. We are grateful for any and all forms of support and donations to keep up the care of the Covid-19 Memorial whether it is adding new archways or strengthening the existing archways or making other adaptations and expansions as needed. In addition to being a place to grieve the loss of the millions of people who died from Covid-19, this memorial is also a testimony of our care for our community.

Invitation to Contribute.... If you would like to be part of our Covid-19 Memorial by donating you can give on our website by clicking the donate button on the homepage of chogs.org or you can send a check to Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 64 University Terrace, Athens, OH 45701 and write “Covid Memorial” in the memo line. We are grateful to include you in remembering loved ones, friends, and family who died from the Covid-19 virus, and we pray for them and for all of us who remember them.

A bit of sad news for we older alumni -- take a last look, for we have heard that Scott Quad will soon be history. (PS; there is still some gravel on the pad, if you need some, its free for taking!!) Ted Foster



Contacts, Information

Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Campus Interest](#)

[E-News Guidelines](#)
and [Back Issues](#)

Pandemic Notes:

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

In light of local conditions we 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

Diocese S Ohio

[E]Connections

**Episcopal
News Service**

Episcopal Café

public meetings and gatherings but during office/CrossRoads hours the **thrift shop** and **chapel** are available for individuals. Masks are required.

CrossRoads Café -- Join us Sunday after the 10:30 service.

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
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[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.