



## First Sunday after Pentecost

(Trinity Sunday)

12 June 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 Day of Pentecost: Acts of the Apostles: 2:1-21; Psalm 104: 25-35, 37; (SUNG); Romans 8: 14-17; John 14: 8-17, 25-27

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

### The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### The Gospel

#### John 16:12-15

**J**esus said to the disciples, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When



the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

## The Sermon

### Healing of Transcendence

British stand-up comedian turned actor and activist Eddie Izzard got quite a few laughs in the middle of his 1999 comedy show *Dressed to Kill* with an imaginary conversation between God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It started with God complaining that the way most white Christians sing is less than joyful and Jesus complaining after his ascension his followers broke into many denominations. When God asked Jesus what the Holy Spirit had to say about all that, Jesus replied, "He's useless these days running around with a sheet over his head saying, 'Holy Ghost, I'm the Holy Ghost.' Then God told the Holy Spirit to knock it off by saying, "This isn't an episode of Scooby Doo." And the Holy Spirit said, "I'd have succeeded if it weren't for those God and Jesus fellas."

Like I said, it got laughs, even I laughed at its playful exploration of the Holy Trinity, the church's doctrinal belief that God is Three Persons One God. You've probably heard a lot of preachers confess from the pulpit they don't like to preach today because this belief is said to be impossible to understand as it is a holy mystery, therefore impossible to explain, therefore any attempt to do so is heresy, a church word for false teaching. So, many preachers feel they have been set up for failure and just ignore the Trinity and preach on something else. Others try hard to help us get some understanding of the Three in One Mystery. But there are always problems with such attempts that often result in criticisms from professional theologians and scholars. Preachers don't always get it perfect, still we want to try and make the invitation for all people to get closer to God and each other, even on Trinity Sunday. Instead of making today about math problems that can't be solved or academic debates that cannot be won, maybe we could see Trinity Sunday as an invitation to engage our holy imagination and play or dance with Love that is God.

Perhaps one of the reasons it is difficult to understand God as Trinity is that we make it hard by overlaying this doctrine with other beliefs, such as a structure of power and hierarchy like there was in Eddie Izzard's playful sketch where God was definitely the boss, the one with the most authority and power and Jesus was his second in command, leaving the Holy Spirit nothing left but boredom and lost ambitions. That's why it got laughs because people can relate to that power dynamic. It's similar to Norse or Greek mythologies where Oden or Zeus reign over the lesser gods who struggle for attention. Or many human families where there is a patriarch or matriarch who favors one family member over others. Institutions or businesses have similar structures where the boss reigns over the workers who struggle to succeed by gaining attention and there

is always the person who thinks they would have made it if it hadn't been for someone more influential, gifted, or just luckier than they were. This is a structure we find everywhere, and it is a structure that supports divisions.

This can make the Holy Trinity difficult for us because it *isnot* like Eddie Izzard's sketch. The Holy Trinity is not against itself, because God is not divided. God, as we read in the Gospels, is love. Not the love created by hierarchies that favors those who favor the powerful. God is not the love of greed. God is love that creates all life, God is love embodied in Jesus who gathered into himself our brokenness and divisions so that we can experience the love of healing forgiveness and reconciliation, and God is love embodied in the Holy Spirit that is with us in good times and bad, guiding us and calling us deeper into the loving mystery that is God.

Christian mystics of the past described Holy Trinity as Love always in motion, like a dance, a relationship that does not need to struggle against itself because it supports itself.

This is also tough for most people to relate to. We are used to relationships that are based on the push and pull of power; where it's important to know who is in charge and who isn't. That God could be different is difficult to imagine. But what if, even if just for one Sunday a year, we try. What if, for one day we try and let God be God. What if we try and imagine God as a relationship that is love that looks like support that carries each other?

It doesn't have to be impossible. It does require letting go of what we think God is and surrendering to what God is. It can happen and it does happen in our world in our time to people like you and me. It happens to me every now and again. Especially whenever I trust that I am part of something larger than the structures and hierarchies that make our society and institutions function. And when it happens, it brings new life.

One lovely time it happened was when I was my first year in seminary, which we call the Junior year. That year got off to a rough start for me as I discovered a portion of my fellow seminarians who did not believe women should be ordained priests in the church. They said some pretty awful and hurtful things. Yet, they were still part of the community. No one kicked them out and they did not receive much in the way of punishment. Justice, you could say, did not prevail. And I still had to serve them in my role as chapel scholar, one of only six seminarians who oversaw the seminary's worship space. One day during the Evensong service we had at the end of every weekday, I stood in the very back so I could keep an eye on the service and discretely slip out if anyone needed anything. I looked at the community in their seats in the chapel: my fellow seminarians, the professors, and the dean, and gently, yet firmly, I was overwhelmed – in the best sense of the word - with a sense of love for the whole community. Yes, some individuals were angry, some were against me even being there, others were going to be good friends, some already cared about me, and all of it was swept up in something I can't describe well in words, emotions, numbers, or data, but it was real. It was love that did not originate in me or from me, this love was simply present and drew me and everyone in the chapel into it, so that we all were part of it. And in that moment, whether I wanted to or not, I found I truly did love everyone in that community. After that experience it didn't seem to matter as much what individuals did or didn't believe about me personally, we were still part of a community. Because it was small, we still had to help carry each other. And just by doing our part, I grew to understand those who thought differently than me, and they came to see me as a person, not a theological concept, and we recognized God's call in each other. In the end that is what really mattered, because God is larger and more real than our prejudices. We all grew less divided because being right didn't matter as much anymore, and we grew a little closer

to each other and closer to God. Because for one brief moment, we had joined in the dance, the movement, the flow, the love that is God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

An experience of Trinity – what some call transcendence - can happen in places other than seminary. Many believe that is what can happen when we share the sacrament of Holy Communion. Others find transcendence when listening to music or reading from a sacred text or poetry or story, or looking at a piece of art. Others say transcendence happens when they are outside under a tree or walking on a path through the woods or sitting by a lake or river. Others say transcendence happens whenever we let ourselves be touched by the beauty of God and in that moment realize what matters most is love that is God that joins us together.

I read recently that more Americans feel discouraged and distressed about the future because there is so much suffering and injustice now. It can be difficult to imagine anything different from what we are experiencing right now, and this can lead to nostalgic longing for the past, or worse to despair. But as Paul so beautifully articulated in his letter to the Christians in Rome, whatever we are feeling now is not all there is. Realizing things change can be what gives us hope, not because of our own cleverness or skills or intelligence or experience, but because – like what I experienced in the chapel in seminary – God’s love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. This love is powerful enough to bring arrogant seminarians together and make them respect and love each other, and this love, when accepted, when lived, can do just as much wonderful, healing, reconciling good in all our lives, and can make the world better for all people.

Perhaps we need the reminder – even if we only get that reminder one day a year - transcendence is possible and happens in our time. Perhaps if we had the reminder more often, it wouldn’t be so difficult to imagine.

The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the First Sunday after Pentecost, 12 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 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:** Bud and Carol, Chris L., Gloria R., Miriam, Sharon, T.C., Dana Carlson, Zelma Coleman, Lee Kembell-Cook, Richard DeNune, Roy DePue, Norm Fox, 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, Michael Vaughn and we pray for all who care for them. \*\*

**Birthdays:** Curtis Sherman (6/12), Martha Hansgen (6/16)

**For the deceased:** Robert Haney

**The Altar Flowers:** are being given by the Ortman and Spero families in loving memory of Eva Virginia and L.C. Baker, Bette and Carl Clifford and Gerald and Helen Stauffer by the Ortman and Spero families.

\*\* 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](mailto:grahammowery@aol.com).

## At-Home Worship

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, June 16, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting, ZOOM**

**Sunday, June 19, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

**Wednesday, June 22, 12:00 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's**

**Wednesday, June 22, 12:00 noon - - Prayers on the Porch**

**Sunday, June 26, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

**Wednesday, June 29, 12:00 noon - - Prayers on the Porch**

**Sunday, July 3, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

---

**CrossRoads Café is open Mon-Fr 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and Sundays after church.**

## **Notes & Announcements**



### **Leftovers from the landscaping project:**

The gravel on the concrete pad is available to anyone who will haul it away. We need to have it gone by early July.

Please contact Dana Carlson at 740 590 8800 if you want some of it.

---

## **Mother Deborah Office Hours**

A reminder Mother Deborah is holding in person office hours **Wednesday mornings in June on the front porch. Stop by and join her for a cup of delicious Deeper Roots coffee before the Prayers at Noon.**

Mother Deborah is also available by phone, text, email, and appointments.

---

## **Prayers on the Porch Wednesdays in June at Noon**

You are invited to join Mother Deborah every **Wednesday in the month of June on the porch of the church for a midday prayer service. Each week will have a different focus depending on current events.**

**We hope you can join us.**



## CrossRoads June Hours

Join us weekday mornings

9:30 am - 12 noon.

Featuring Deeper Roots Coffee, iced coffee, tea, iced tea and espresso drinks.

The header photo today is a print of an icon painting by Andrei Rublev on a wooden block that Katharin and I purchased during an Alaskan trip a good many years ago.

"Andrei Rublev was a Muscovite icon painter born in the 1360s, and died between 1427 and 1430 in Moscow. He is considered to be one of the greatest medieval Russian painters of Orthodox Christian icons and frescos." Wikipedia



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

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



## Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Campus Interest](#)

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

[Diocese S Ohio](#)

[\[E\]Connections](#)

[Episcopal  
News Service](#)

[Episcopal Café](#)

## 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 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 new 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:carlsondana@hotmail.com). **For emergencies**, please call The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895.

## [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

**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](mailto:barbara@chogs.org).

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd  
64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701  
740-593-6877  
[chogs@chogs.org](mailto:chogs@chogs.org)  
[www.chogs.org](http://www.chogs.org)

[Episcopal Church of  
the Good Shepherd  
45701](#)

## **Office Hours:**

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

Masks are required.

---