



Day of Pentecost

5 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](#)

Joyous Pentecost !

Today the Church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. After the disciples were given the Holy Spirit in the upper room, they couldn't keep it to themselves and went out into the world telling about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the last time we read of the disciples being together in one place, after they received the Holy Spirit they went out and started small communities of Christians, yet remained connected to each other through the Holy Spirit.

We might be celebrating in different places today, but we are still bound together and to God through the Holy Spirit. Whether you were with us in person or celebrated the day in another way, we are glad we are together in the Holy Spirit.

** The above header image is modified from a sticker designed by **solge47** (Chaparral Tolima, Colombia).

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

The Collect

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Gospel



John 14:8-17 (25-27)

Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do

you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you."

["I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."]

The Sermon

Family of God

There is a lovely scene in the 2002 independent rom-com film *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* that finds the protagonist, a woman named Toula, sitting in her room wondering if her upcoming marriage is hurting her father. The background for those who have yet to see this wonderful film and for those of us for whom it's been a while, the movie is an uplifting story about one person's search for love and identity in a family that has so much love it can seem smothering and a strong tie to their Greek heritage. Toula's father in particular is proud to be from Greece and wants his children to share that pride. When his daughter fell in love and became engaged to a man whose heritage is not Greek, he was crestfallen. Toula was torn because she was in love with a wonderful person and at the same time did not want to hurt her father, who she also loves. That is why she asked her mother if her upcoming marriage was hurting her father.

Toula's mother's response is not only wise, but also the embodiment of love. "Your father is your father," she said and went on to describe what it was like growing up in a country where there were several wars, what life was like under a dictatorship and why she decided that was no way to live. Then she said to her daughter, "We came here for you, so you could live. I gave you a life so you could live it."

That is when Toula realized she wasn't hurting anyone by marrying the person she loves, she was living and sometimes living is messy because things don't always happen like we want or expect them to. Eventually, her father accepted Toula's husband, in his own way, of course. But still, the family grew and neither their love nor sense of identity as a family suffered from the growth; in fact the opposite was true as it was joyful.

It may not have the energetic presence of fire and wind, but this scene from a twenty-year-old movie points us to what this Sunday's celebration is about. Pentecost is the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Not all the Gospels record this event as dramatically as the author of the Acts of the Apostles in our first reading this morning. In John's Gospel Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on to his disciples when he appeared to them in the upper room on the day of his resurrection. It is a much calmer, gentler scene, like the one in the movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. But the details of how the Holy Spirit was given isn't as important as why it has been given and what we are supposed to do with it.

We heard in the reading from John's Gospel that the Holy Spirit is an embodiment of God present here on earth. The Holy Spirit influences and teaches us and is what binds those who receive it to each other and God. Not as minions who do God's labor, but as we read in the section of Romans this morning, as God's beloved children. This is the Spirit that drives and inspires us to embody the love of God on earth and makes us God's family. A family that – when we are at our best - has so much love it can make room for each other, like Toula's family, even if that can sometimes be a messy process.

That is the message from the Acts of the Apostles when the disciples moved from being inside in their safe space that was just for them into the streets where they talked about God at work in the world in the language of the people in those streets. That was them living out the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was so messy and startling some folks accused the disciples of being under the influence of another kind of spirit. I've always found that part funny. People out in public talking about God in a positive way in someone's native language was seen as so bizarre it was interpreted as a bunch of people being inebriated. In other words, the behavior and message were discounted as

nonsense because it was contrary to some commonly accepted notion. However, the assumption of an angry God punishing people who are different is often accepted without question. I've experienced dismissal and disbelief before, and it still makes me wonder about the foundation of such assumptions.

Because he wanted to go somewhere warm after our January 7 wedding, my husband and I honeymooned in the Dominican Republic in the lovely seaside city of Punta Cana. This city has several resorts, as tourism is one of their main sources of income. This means the people who live there are familiar with the ways of tourists and probably had reason to assume visitors from America were rude, demanding, and whatever else justifies calling American tourists 'ugly'. So, when I started conversations with the people who worked at the resort we stayed at in Spanish (their native language), asking them about their lives and families, they never believed me when I told them where I am from. "No, you aren't American," person after person said to me, "You are joking." Then they'd look me over and tell me I was from France or Brazil or a European country. I couldn't even get someone to guess I was from Canada. All because I spoke Spanish and showed an interest in who they were. After a while, I think a few believed me. My husband likes to joke (because he is rustier with Spanish) that once he spoke up, most folks were more likely to believe we are from America.

I was struck with how hard it was for so many kind and intelligent people to believe I am American. It made me wonder about my fellow American travelers and the impression they left behind that was so hard for me to challenge. Yet, the day we left, so many people on staff had genuine tears in their eyes, wished us safe travels and told us to come back as we always have a home with them. I don't believe that was something they said to everyone.

Perhaps the reason we are given the Holy Spirit is to share the love of God with a world that has known so much pain and suffering and anger and violence and rude behavior that it is hard for them to believe God can be anything other than a *more* angry, *more* violent, *more* punitive, and abusive power because that is *all* they know. This makes it difficult to tell about the good works of God that are just as real in the world. Things like the joy of forgiveness, healing, reconciliation, and life-giving things that happen every day that don't always get much attention. All the acts and systems of injustice, discrimination, and violence that fill up newspapers and newsfeeds make it difficult to persuade people there is another way of being, and that people and the church don't have to be like what is in the news. The church doesn't have to be like those corporations obsessed with big profits that only wants to consume resources and then move on. It isn't easy to convince people we want to show God's love instead of distressing over the church's loss of perceived social influence or prestige. If it was hard to convince people in Punta Cana to believe I am from America just because I speak Spanish and am kind, it can be even more difficult to convince people God really does love all people regardless of age, gender, experience, social and economic status, race, occupation, sexual orientation, even political affiliation, and wants us to care for each other by making the world more equitable, sustainable, and merciful for everyone, especially the vulnerable; that together we can help make the world more like heaven, God's Kingdom here on earth. One thing we can take away from our readings today is that the Holy Spirit is not confined to one location, no matter how sacred or beautiful the space, but goes with us wherever we go.

But just because something is difficult doesn't mean it is impossible. Perhaps that is why we have days like this in the church, to remind us of the importance of persevering in showing God's love through our ministries by adapting them to meet the reality of our neighborhood and the changes in our community -- which to me is like speaking the

native languages of passersby. One way we can do that now is to explore ways to engage on-line as well as in-person and make room for both in meetings, schools, families and here at church. And to live our lives as individuals wherever we happen to find ourselves, influenced by the Holy Spirit evidenced in how we treat each other.

It won't always be easy, and might be messy at times, but it can be good. We have been given the Holy Spirit so we can live that life, and as we do, as a church and individuals, we will experience the joy of making room for more people in the beloved family of God.

The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the Day of Pentecost, 5 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, Norm Fox, Jan Gault, Debbie Hunsberger, Peter Kachenko and family, Julie Nehls, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Michael Vaughn and we pray for all who care for them. **

Anniversary: Carl and Danielle Ortman (6/6), George and Susan Karageorge (6/6), Jack and Leslie Flemming (6/7)

The Altar Flowers: are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Pentecost.

** 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 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:

Wednesday, June 8, 12:00 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's

Wednesday, June 8, 12:00 noon - - Prayers on the Porch

Sunday, June 12, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, June 15, 12:00 noon - - Prayers on the Porch

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

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.

Supporting Humanitarian Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

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





The church dressed to celebrate Day of Pentecost

Red shirts and Pentecost cake



Anne Walker (coffee server)



Lynn Graham (cake server)



Michael Luellhoff (cake eater)



Mother Deborah's vestments

Contacts, Information

Quick Links

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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

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.

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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.