



Third Sunday of Easter

1 May 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.

The Lessons

Lessons for the Third Sunday of Easter: Acts of the Apostles: 9: 1-6; Psalm 30 (SUNG); Revelation to John: 5: 11-14; John 21: 1-19.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

The Collect

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Gospel



John 22:1-9

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was

Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

The Sermon

Seeing Resurrection Life

It is not easy to see life through the lens of Jesus' resurrection, even for those who believe. I wonder if that is because we expect resurrection to be big, flashy, loud, and extravagant. Like so many marketing campaigns that promise whatever is being sold will change our lives for the better.

Or because we might think resurrection means starting over, like a video game, or going back to the beginning of a novel. But resurrection isn't going backward to what was. Resurrection is the Risen Jesus simply, quietly, intentionally walking out of the tomb into the world. It is transformation in the middle of life already in progress.

One of the best illustrations I've ever seen of resurrection is in the TV series *Good Omens*, which is based on one of my favorite novels with the same title. It's written by two friends, award winning authors Neil Gaiman and the late Terry Pratchett. The story pokes fun at institutions and religion while being very theological. It's about an angel and demon who develop a friendship over thousands of years of being on earth together. The plot is how these two unlikely friends try to foil the great war between heaven and

hell, but the TV series has a subplot that highlights when they fail, that failure is not the end of the world because the world has already been saved. It is so subtle, it is easy to miss, like resurrection life.

When the series begins, the angel was nervous and anxious he messed up when the first man and woman ate the forbidden fruit and he sent them out of the Garden of Eden. He was afraid God was going to punish him. The demon, on the other hand, was confident to the point of arrogance in his role of tempting humanity. In a montage of different scenes, we see the angel and demon at different points in history. In one scene they watched Noah build the ark. The angel nervously observed from a distance while the demon criticized. The next scene showed the two at the foot of the cross as Jesus died. Both were sad, but again the demon was arrogant while the angel was nervously distant and apologetic.

Things changed between them, however, in the next scene which took place 8 years later, after Jesus' resurrection. The angel was no longer nervous nor anxious. He was playing a game and enjoying a drink at the ancient equivalent of a restaurant or coffee shop. The demon was there too, but he was no longer arrogant nor confident. He was sulking at a bar; sullen, grouchy, hunched over. For the first time in the montage, the angel initiated a conversation between them because he's the happy one. From then on, the angel was actively involved in making life better for people and enjoyed the world. The demon came to realize it didn't really matter if they tempted people for good or ill, so they come up with a partnership that gave the other a rest once and a while.

This is a very subtle change. But it is substantial. It is small but has a significant impact; like the mustard seed Jesus talked about in a parable. The change is what makes the two characters grow as friends and grow to love the world and the people in it. The whole "whose side you are on" thing no longer mattered. Because God has redeemed the world through Jesus' resurrection, both the angel and demon were liberated from fitting into preconceived roles of good or evil and were free to love the world, each other, and people the way God does. They could stop trying to interfere and simply rest in God's love.

That is what resurrection life looks like. It is a change, but because it is smaller and more subtle than we expect, it is difficult to recognize when we encounter it still very much active in the world. Which is probably why the disciples in today's Gospel didn't recognize Jesus, even though he had already appeared to them twice before. This detail is interpreted by scholars and commentators that the disciples were too sad, confused, or traumatized to recognize Jesus after his resurrection, even after seeing him before. Another interpretation is this story didn't happen and was added later to convince the Christian community that produced John's Gospel to accept the hierarchical leadership of Peter instead of that of the Beloved Disciple. It's impossible to say for certain which is correct.

But even if those things are true, that doesn't mean it isn't a story of resurrection revealing itself in the midst of life. As my mother says of the story *Good Omens*, the Holy Spirit can use anything, especially something we love, to show us God's saving love in the world. That is how the Holy Spirit often works: through what we love.

There is a lot of love in today's Gospel. For starters, the disciples. Going through extraordinary events together will form friendships. And friendship is a form of love. These friends decided to go fishing together. Often, this is interpreted as they didn't know what else to do, so they did something familiar. That could be true. But maybe there was something more. Maybe fishing was something they loved to do. It seems they still had

the equipment. When Jesus asked Peter if he loved him more than these, that question usually gets interpreted as Jesus asking Peter if he loved him more than the other disciples. But it could also be interpreted as Jesus asking Peter if he loved him more than he loved his boat, nets, and skills as a fisherman. Which could mean Peter loved fishing.

That the Risen Jesus appeared to the disciples doing something they love together is significant because they didn't recognize him when they first saw him. That pattern holds true every time the Risen Jesus shows up in the Gospels, no one recognizes him at first. Not Mary Magdalene, not the disciples in the upper room, not Thomas, not the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Maybe this isn't because the disciples were sad, maybe it is just because resurrection life is difficult to see. It wasn't until Jesus spoke or acted in the language of love – not that of passion, romance, power, control, violence, or money – but the love that makes a person feel seen and valued, that the Risen Jesus is recognized. When he called Mary by her name, when he broke bread, when he forgave his disciples and wished them peace and wholeness. In today's Gospel it was his knowing they hadn't caught any fish and suggested they cast nets on the other side of the boat and the fish filling the nets that opened the disciples' eyes and they recognized the Risen Jesus on the beach. He acted through something they loved: fishing together.

There is even more love in this story. My favorite is where Jesus had breakfast ready for the disciples when they got to the shore. It isn't mentioned, but I bet that breakfast of fish and bread cooked over an open fire on the beach was delicious. Because it tasted like love. It didn't have to be big, or expensive, or decadent, or served in an impressive restaurant to taste of love. All it takes is being prepared and served with that selfless beautiful love of the Risen Jesus. I hope you have had such meal.

That's a lot of love in today's Gospel. The love of each other, the love of fishing, the love of sharing a meal. And there is one more. The Risen Jesus had that strange conversation with Peter, asking him three times if Peter loved him. I'm sure you have heard the purpose of this conversation is Jesus forgiving Peter the three times he denied him. That's not a bad sermon that has its time and place. But maybe today the questions and answers about love can be something in addition to establishing Peter's forgiveness and leadership. Perhaps they can help us recognize resurrection life through what and who we love.

Resurrection life is not pragmatic. It reveals itself through love, not just the things of this world we love -- books, food, people, pets, cars, places, music, buildings, and such like. Resurrection is Jesus himself who embodied God's love in the world. Resurrection life isn't something that happens to the world, but in the world. It is part of the world. Which means it is relational. It isn't just receiving God's love. Resurrection is loving Jesus by loving God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

I hope you never forget God loves you more than you could ever imagine. Today's Gospel has the reminder this love is not one sided, it is an invitation to love God and participate in resurrection life here in this world, in this place and in this time. Resurrection life liberates us from having to conform to stereotypes or to always do something the way it has been done in the past. Resurrection life frees us to rest in God's love, which means we can change what we need to so that everyone, especially the vulnerable and often overlooked, has the opportunity to feel seen and valued and loved by God.

The world is big and full of so much to love. There is also a great deal of loneliness, suffering, exhaustion, and pain just as there is healing, joy, accomplishment, and success, as many OU graduates are celebrating this weekend. And in all of it there can be something that is not easy to see, but just because we might not see it at first, that doesn't mean it isn't there, waiting for us to look through the eyes of love. Even the disciples struggled to see it, but we can practice, like we practice other things, to look at life – all of life - through the love of Jesus for this small but important thing. And when we recognize resurrection life, we can invite others into it by helping them feel seen and valued and trust that no matter what, we can rest in God's lifegiving, redeeming love at work in the world.

The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the Third Sunday of Easter, May 1, 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: 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, 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: Lia and April Knox (5/6)

Birthdays: Amelia Dygas (5/1), Lois Wagner (5/5), Margaret Kennedy Dygas (5/5), Therese Lackey (5/6), Anne Braxton (5/7)

** 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.

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:

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

Wednesday, May 11, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting, Julie's

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

Wednesday, May 25, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting, Julie's

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

During May CrossRoads Café is open Sundays after the church service.

Notes & Announcements

THANK YOU!

To everyone who helped welcome Bishop Smith and celebrate Malin Heather Irwin's



Electrical Efficiency Project gets a Grant

Good news: the electric efficiency project grant proposal submitted by the CHOGS Green Team has been approved by the DSO creation care committee.

We will pay the contractor (\$4,650) and submit the bill to the diocese and should have a check from them in about a week. This week the contractor will be removing the ballasts, rewiring the light fixtures, and installing **LED** bulbs in the offices, the thrift store/classroom, the bathrooms, and the vertical lights in the choir stalls and also do some some exterior lighting upgrades.

UPDATING PRAYER LIST: The prayer list will be updated for Pentecost (June 5, 2022). If there are names that should remain on the prayer list, please let me know by May 30; otherwise, the name will be removed from the prayer list. If you have names that need to be added the prayer list, please let me know.

Lynn Graham, 593-5098 (grahammowery@aol.com).



Coffee Hour Returns

Starting this Sunday, light refreshments will be available with Deeper Roots Coffee from CrossRoads Café after the service.

Thank you Lois Wagner for organizing the return of coffee hour.

We hope folks will hang around a little bit after the service to chat.

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

Episcopal Relief & Development

(Click above link for more.)



**Though it was a bit dreary weather-wise today,
there was a fresh sent in the air.**



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](#)

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.

[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.

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

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

Office Hours:

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

Masks are required.
