



## Fifth Sunday of Easter

15 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.

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

### The Lessons

**Lessons** for the Fifth Sunday of Easter: Acts of the Apostles: 11: 1-18; Psalm 148 (SAID); Revelation to John: 21: 1-6; John 13: 31-35.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

### The Collect

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son 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 13:31-35

**A**t the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you,

'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

## The Sermon

### All Things New

How do you feel about all things new? When it comes to most things, my husband is excited by what is new. He looks forward to new movies, new TV series, getting new clothes, new cars, new tools. However, you should hear him complain whenever I buy a new book. My father, on the other hand has very little interest in most new forms of entertainment, preferring the comfort of familiar stories, movies, and reruns of old favorite TV shows. He refuses to wear new clothes unless my mom physically removes his old ones. He even kept his old work truck after it became undrivable.

Sometimes new can be intimidating. It took my mother a while to get used to a Kindle, but after she got over the fear of breaking it, she enjoys its many applications like easier access to her email and taking and sharing pictures. She even proudly upgraded her Kindle on her own.

Sometimes new can be scary and exciting at the same time as when you start school, move to a new place, start a new job, retire, get married, have children. New can also be threatening because it is a change, something is going to be different which means we will need to acknowledge the change, and perhaps make changes to our lives.

All three of our readings this morning reveal how God feels about new, because they are about God making all things new. This newness is not for its own sake nor that of novelty or getting attention. The newness in our readings today is about the redeeming work of resurrection life God is up to in the world, work that brings God closer to us and us closer to God and each other.

In our reading from Acts of the Apostles we heard about the criticism Peter received because he welcomed a new group of people into the early church. These new members were not met with open arms, because there was an early view that only people who were of the Jewish faith, like Jesus and the disciples, could be members of the church. But Peter said that tradition needed to change because God called him to go to Gentiles, a word for anyone outside the Jewish faith. Through prayer and experience Peter changed his heart and his mind and welcomed these new members. I love the part where he realized this was God's will and said, "Who was I that I could hinder God?" In other words, Peter was not going to get in the way of God's will that all people regardless of race, religion, or gender are welcome to follow Jesus and be part of the church. Peter's change helped change the hearts and minds of other church members to be more inclusive than they were before. This can be a good reminder for us modern followers of Jesus when we reflect on how we respond to changes we make in order to welcome and include people who want to be part of a church community.

In the reading from the Revelation to John we see more of God's vision and how

God longs to make “all things new.” This newness is expressed in the vibrant language of love, where God dwells with people, and God comforts us by gently wiping tears from our faces. Living so intimately with God means changes in our lives as we would want to end wars, economic injustice, discrimination, violence, oppression and all the ways we harm each other for the sake of greed and power. Such a vision brings to mind the part of the Creation story where people were walking with God in the cool of the evening in the Garden of Eden, reminding us humanity was created to be in companionship with God and each other.

This might be a surprising revelation for those who imagine this book of the Bible is about punishment and destruction. Perhaps such changes will feel like the end of the world to some, especially if they resist or fight the kingdom of God because it can make them feel threatened, or like they are losing something. Newness and change can be disruptive. But harm is not God’s intention. Creating heaven on earth by healing what is broken is God’s intention.

This brings us to today’s Gospel, which we often hear on Maundy Thursday, during Holy Week because it takes place just before Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion. At the Last Supper, after Judas had left to betray Jesus and set all those painful events into motion, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment.

The commandment to love is as old as the Bible itself. We find the commandment to love God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbors as ourselves in the Old Testament. Jesus made the commandment new by changing it to loving people as he loved them. That is not easy to understand. Often, we interpret it to mean copying Jesus. But some of what Jesus did we simply cannot do. For example, we cannot resuscitate our friends after they die. I wonder if Jesus’ new command is deeper than trying to replicate his life. I wonder if it is simply receiving the love of God, and letting that love change us and influence our behaviors and our choices, like how we spend our money, how we treat people, especially those we disagree with, to forgive instead of hold on to grudges or take revenge, to confess when we have been selfish and repent, to change, and let God and make us new every day so that we can share this love with all we meet.

I want to say a quick word about the old, because I have people in my life I love very much who care deeply about what is old. When they hear or read about God making all things new, they see a profound disrespect for anything and anyone who is old; the things, traditions, and people they care about. I don’t believe when God proclaims to make all things new that means what was old is going to be thrown away and forgotten. I believe it means what was old is going to be transformed, redeemed, renewed, and therefore is included with the new. This is the essence of resurrection life, which we celebrate throughout the Easter Season and every Sunday. When Jesus emerged from the tomb, he was still Jesus, he had not been thrown away, but he was changed, he was different. He was made new.

Jesus giving a new commandment does not mean the old one is meaningless, it just means it has new life breathed into it, transforming it, illuminating it. Through his life, death, and resurrection Jesus transformed the commandment to love God and our neighbors into something that looked less like a bunch of rules to a daily practice that looks more like Christ himself. God transforming the world into a new heaven and earth does not mean the beauty or the things we love that are here now will be wiped out; they will be transformed, renewed so that they can’t be destroyed by carelessness or disease or illness.

To be sure, not everything that is new is the newness that God is creating. The stuff that continues to discriminate, causes harm to people, animals or the planet, the changes that puts money before the wellbeing of people, or makes it harder for anyone to receive care are not the stuff of the Kingdom of God. That means we have to practice discernment, like Peter did in the first reading today, and listen for God and learn to recognize the signs of resurrection life at work in the world.

Change can make us feel many things, but change can also be a way we can look for and grow closer to each other and to God who is still at work making all things – including all of us - new.

The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 15, 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, Douglas Campbell, Zelma Coleman, Lee Kembell-Cook, Glinnis Davies, Dick Dean and Phyllis Dean, Richard DeNune, Caryl Docherty, Norm Fox, Jan Gault, Jennifer Hall, Debbie Hunsberger, Nancy and Bob Jackson, Peter Kachenko and family, Julie Nehls, Linda Nippert, Lauren O'Brien, Dale Paul, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Ann Shelly, Michael Vaughn, Sandi White, Patti Williams, Zita Zolpys, and we pray for all who care for them. \*\*

\*\* 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**.

## Prayer against Gun Violence

Dear God,  
We pray for the end of  
killing.... Make those  
who die, and those  
who kill real for us,  
that we might join one  
another in that long  
mourners' bench  
called history.... Make  
us incapable of  
"getting used to it."  
Make us burn with the  
passion of your peace;  
fire our imaginations  
with your love....May  
we learn to fear you  
more than we fear one  
another, and so  
fearing, become for  
the world your trust.

Stanley Hauerwas  
"Disrupting Time"

Because of the recent mass shooting shooting in Buffalo NY we closed the service this morning with this prayer.

## 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, 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

**Thursday, May 26 -- Office closed in afternoon**

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

**Monday, May 30, Memorial Day, Office closed**

**Thursday, June 2, Office closed**

**Sunday, June 5, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Notes & Announcements**

### **THANK YOU**

**To everyone who contributed to the Rector's Discretionary Fund today. I am grateful for your generosity, as you empower me to help with what needs I can.**

**Many Blessings, Mother Deborah**

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

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### **FREE Lilies to Good Homes**

The Easter Lilies are ready for new homes. If you or someone you know would like one or two for your garden or yard, stop by



the church and take them. They are in Hobson Room. They should grow and bloom year after year, making them a nice connection to the parish. (The ones illustrated are transplants from previous Good Shepherd services.)

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## Front Yard Landscape Project

The rock garden at CHOGS is coming along nicely. The final piece is to put crushed stone between the rock borders and around the juniper plantings. So far, this project has been paid for by a donation from the Pat Grean legacy and by a couple of anonymous donors. We need another \$500 in donations to finish. Please consider helping us get this project finished up. Contact Dana (740-590-8800) or Barb at the church office (740-593-6877).

A big THANK YOU to those who have helped on this project: Ted, Gregory, David, Michael W, Sharon, Michael L, Alex, Geoff, and Owen.



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## Donations Requested to Update Covid Memorial

As we approach 1 million Americans who have died from Covid-19, we need to update our memorial by adding additional archways. Each archway represents 100,000 people who have died. We need to add three archways to the existing memorial.

We are one of the few places to offer public space to acknowledge loss and grief from the pandemic, which is one of the important steps to healing. A donation to update the memorial will help us continue to be a place of healing and shows our neighbors we value them and any loss they may be grieving.

We estimate the cost to update the memorial will be at least \$300-\$500. Any amount you can share will be received with gratitude.

Thank you!

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

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



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## Memory Book ?

You may have noticed the locked little display case in the narthex which contains the Church of the Good Shepherd's "Memory Book." Beyond memories, this book contains some truly outstanding calligraphy. For insurance inventory and archival reasons high quality images of the book's pages have been taken. To make this fine book more accessible a pdf file based on these images has been made as well. You can view the Memory Book [HERE \(44 pages\)](#). A printed notebook copy will be available in Hobson.



It has been quite a few years since any pages have been added to the Memory Book and, sadly, adding additional pages by the same methods and style of calligraphy may no longer be practical. Is there interest in starting a new book that is easily accessible to the parish that describes who has given what in memory of whom?

Ted Foster

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**Stop by and Smell the Flowers!** The rhododendrons are looking spectacular this week. Stop by when you can and see and smell them for yourself. Thanks to Mike Wootton for tending to them.





## Contacts, Information

### 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](#)

### 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.

## 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.

**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)

### [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.