



Sixth Sunday of Easter

22 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 Sixth Sunday of Easter: Acts of the Apostles: 16: 9-15; Psalm 67 (SUNG); Revelation to John: 21: 10, 22-22.5; John 14: 23-29.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

The Collect

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Gospel

John 14:23-29

Jesus said to Judas (not Iscariot), "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"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. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

The Sermon



BELIEVE

Despite having wealth and privilege, the world had not been kind to Rebecca Welton. As a child, she witnessed her father's frequent infidelity to her mother, which made her angry and sad and she grew to resent her father. Later in life, she divorced her husband of 12 years because she discovered he had been having quite a few extra marital

affairs. All this pain hurt Rebecca deeply, so much so that she devised and enacted a plan of revenge to hurt her ex-husband by hurting the only thing she believed he truly loved: his European soccer team, which she acquired in the divorce.

As the new owner of the team, Rebecca fired the head coach and replaced him with a man named Ted Lasso, an American from Kansas who was head coach of a college American football team. Rebecca didn't choose Ted because of his winning record or philosophy. She chose him because of a video clip she saw of him dancing with his team after they won a championship game and thought he looked like an idiot. Someone so inept he would lead her ex-husband's beloved soccer team to lose so terribly it would break his heart and he would feel the pain she was feeling. Ted moved from Kansas to England, and Rebecca seemed blissfully unaware that her plan was going to hurt Ted, the other coaches, employees, and soccer players. All she cared about was hurting the man who had hurt her, to give to him as he and the world had given to her.

Fans of the Apple TV television series *Ted Lasso* recognize the plot of this popular and award-winning show. For those who have yet to watch it, or have judged it as fluff entertainment, this series is much deeper than it looks. The main character finds himself in a situation where he has been set up to fail, and despite being sabotaged every step away, he still manages to live into his belief that love, kindness, care for each other, support and true teamwork are not just what happens on a sports field; they are the way to live even in the face of the worst the world can throw at you. Despite the odds, despite being constantly underestimated, Ted still manages to change his part of the world for

the better by loving and believing.

Ted lives his belief in a myriad of ways. One is greeting Rebecca every morning with a small pink box of freshly baked homemade cookies, called biscuits now that he is in England. He calls this morning ritual “Biscuits with the Boss”. At first Rebecca rejects the cookies, and Ted’s attempts to get to know her better. He accepted her refusal by persevering, bringing her biscuits every morning. Eventually Rebecca starts observing the way Ted treats people and manages his players. He isn’t focused on wins, losses, or ties. Instead, he is dedicated to helping his players become the best versions of themselves on and off the field, or pitch as it is called in European soccer. His belief is that people who care for each other will work together better, and this will lead to true success.

As the series progresses, we see how Ted’s belief starts to change everyone around him, including Rebecca who was inspired to show kindness to a young woman by offering her a job, which leads to an empowering, beautiful friendship between the two women. Rebecca even shows Ted compassion in an episode that reveals he is also struggling with loss due to his own divorce. No one is perfect in the world of *Ted Lasso*, but there is something stronger than the many fears, insecurities, and hurts all the characters in the series have that makes it loved and reflects what Jesus was talking about in today’s Gospel. Because this is a series that is about healing and growth, not soccer.

I won’t spoil the show too much by telling you Rebecca changes so much she eventually repents by confessing her plan to Ted. After listening to her confess how she’s suffered after realizing she was hurting good people because of her desire for revenge, Ted simply, without any drama, tells Rebecca he forgives her. Divorce is hard, he says, no matter what side you are on. Then he says something that sums up his belief and what Jesus was talking about in today’s Gospel: “I believe if you care about someone and you have a little love in your heart, you can get through anything together.”

This happens to be what I believe, too. Not because a TV character said it. But because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus I believe a little love can change the world for the better through healing, compassion, kindness, and forgiveness. “I do not give as the world gives,” Jesus said in today’s Gospel. The world may have so much that is beautiful and good; trees and flowers, birds and butterflies, oceans, lakes, rivers and streams, delicious fruits and vegetables, chocolate, pets, baseball, books, people we love, TV series and movies. But the world also has so much inequality, divisions and suffering that leads people to lash out and hurt others sometimes this can spoil what is good. One example, social media algorithms are designed to be negative because that is what gets more attention than positive images or messages and this is harming the mental and emotional wellbeing of people all around the world contributing to an increase of hatred, racism, misogyny, paranoia, fear, and violence.

When Jesus responded to the question of how his followers will know him when they are in the world by saying he does not give as the world gives, this is what he meant. Jesus was not diminishing the good things of the world. He was acknowledging the disparities, the evil, the harm, the ways people just don’t care that are pervasive in the world. These harmful disparities and evil are so common, so accepted, too often they are called “normal”.

Which is why you might hear people like me say we have no desire to “return to normal”, as we believe the pandemic has revealed how those disparities and lack of care for each other, especially the vulnerable among us, harms all of us. We were and still are hopeful

there would be more changes to our world that would make room for us all and we would create something better than what passed for normal before the pandemic. Because this is the kind of change Jesus was talking about in the Gospel.

The portion of John's Gospel we heard today is part of Jesus' long goodbye speech to his disciples after the Last Supper and before his arrest, trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. In John's Gospel, this speech is both Jesus' attempt to prepare his disciples for what is about to happen and a message to those who follow Jesus after his resurrection. How even when we can't see Jesus, he is still with us, through our belief in him and how we live that belief by caring for each other. This is what it means to keep his word. Doing so will not only help us recognize Jesus, our choices and actions can reveal a love the world does not understand, a love the world fears, yet despite all odds is a love with that can and does bring healing, hope, and new life as an antidote to the pain, violence, and inequality the world mistakes for normal.

We also have this portion of John's Gospel this morning in anticipation of the feast of Jesus' ascension into heaven which the church celebrates on Thursday. This feast day is not so much about the mystery of how Jesus was lifted into heaven as it is about how the church is not intended to be a group of sad people looking back with admiration for Jesus. As his followers we have more than the memory of the historical Jesus. We have the risen Christ who appears to us in the very world he came to redeem, the world we all live in. It isn't always easy to recognize Jesus, which is why we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us recognize Jesus even in secular things like TV series and inspires us to live the love of God in the world. We don't have to give as the world gives. We don't have to be cynical and mean, even when we are hurt or feel like we are right and everyone else is wrong. We can choose another way. The way of the love of Christ.

A way that for *Ted Lasso* looked like homemade biscuits in a pink box, kindness, and forgiveness. For those of us who don't live in a TV show, we can make the choice to love in the face of all that is harmful, even though it is not an easy choice. It is not easy to be different in a world that values conformity. It is not easy to be kind in the world when cynicism is popular. It is not easy to be generous in the world where greed is considered to be good. It is not easy to make sacrifices and care for each other in a world where getting what we want is believed to be more important than another's wellbeing. It is not easy to forgive when we have been hurt or when we have failed to live into our own expectations or those of others in the world that values punishment, manipulation, and revenge. It is not easy to give the love of Christ to a world that does not appear to want it nor appreciates it.



But just because it isn't easy doesn't mean it isn't the choice Jesus and the Holy Spirit wants us to make. Because I believe, like Ted Lasso, a little love can change the world and make it more like heaven here on earth. As Jesus also says in today's Gospel, **"I have told you all this so when it does occur, you may BELIEVE."**

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, T.C., Tommy, Jeannet Barratt, Douglas Campbell, Zelma Coleman, Lee Kembell-Cook, Glinnis Davies, 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. **

Anniversary: John and Christy Ortman (5/25)

Birthdays: Bonnie Savage (5/24)

** 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>

Calendar

Coming Up:

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

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

Notes & Announcements



CrossRoads Café June Hours

Starting Tuesday May 31, CrossRoads will be open weekdays in June 9:00 am - 11:30 pm on the front porch of the church. Stop by for coffee, espresso drinks, iced coffee, iced tea. We are giving away ice water. Stay a bit and relax with us. CrossRoads will be closed Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day.

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).

Office Hours

Administrative Office will close at Noon on Thursday, May 26 and also will be closed on Memorial day (May 30). It will be open May 31 - June 1. Will be closed on Thursday, June 2 and resume regular hours Monday, June 6.



An Update from the Standing Committee

Listening Sessions Scheduled in May and June:

(From Connections May 11, 2022) "You may recall that about a month ago, we asked members of the Diocese to take a brief survey to help us understand our collective readiness to proceed with the search for our next bishop. We were pleased with the response to the survey, and the survey data paint a clear picture."

[See detailed results of the survey here.](#)

The Standing Committee will hold listening sessions near the end of this month to discuss the results of the survey and hear related hopes and concerns from members of the diocese.

[For more information and to Register follow this link.](#)



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.)

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.

As you can see, Owen Buckley and one of his friends have been quite busy!!





Donations Requested to Update Covid Memorial

As we surpassed 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!

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

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



David Black Burial Postponed

The internment of David Black's cremains in the columbarium has been postponed due to illness in the family. We will let you know when a new date is chosen. Until then we pray the family members get better soon.

Stop by and Smell the Flowers! The rhododendrons are looking spectacular. Stop by when you can and see and smell them for yourself. Thanks to Mike Wootton for tending to them. As this photo from Mother Deborah clearly shows the bright beautiful Sunday morning today brought out the colorful best of everything.



Contacts, Information

Quick Links

Pandemic Notes:

[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](#)

[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.

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

[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:

64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701
740-593-6877
chogs@chogs.org
www.chogs.org

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

Masks are required.
