



Fifth Sunday in Lent

3 April 2021

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 Fifth Sunday in Lent: Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3: 4b-14; John 12: 1-8.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

The Collect

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Gospel



John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common

purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Sermon

“We Don’t Talk About.....”

They are found in every family; company; school; church; every community has that one person who just doesn’t seem to fit. Because that person wants to talk about the thing no one else does.

I’m not talking about the person who isn’t on board with changes for a company, family, church, or institution. I’m talking about someone like Mirabel, the character in the animated movie *Encanto*, who feels like she doesn’t fit in with her extraordinary family. For those of you who have yet to watch *Encanto*, it’s a wonderful story that takes place in a fictional valley in Colombia about a family that lives in a magical house and almost every everyone has a miraculous, magical gift. One family member has power over the weather, one can heal a wound with magical food, another has superhuman strength, another can change their appearance, another can produce flowers from nothing, another can understand and talk to animals. Each member of the family received their gift when they reached a certain age, everyone except Mirabel. But being different didn’t stop Mirabel from loving her family. She loved them so much, she was not afraid to point out there was one family member no one talked about: her uncle Bruno, the one with the gift to see into the future. The more she insisted on finding out why he was no longer around and why no one wanted to talk about him, the more the magic of her family started to fade and crumble. Out of fear of losing their home and place in their community, the matriarch, Abuela, blamed Mirabel for the family’s fading powers. When the two characters finally confronted each other, the house literally fell apart around them.

Only then did Abuela tell Mirabel about the real cause for the tension in the family: the deep pain of grief that made her want to hold on tightly to her family’s magic. Once Mirabel learned the truth behind the tension everyone else had ignored, she could help Abuela and her family see that the real magic wasn’t the gifts of the individual family members, it was the love Abuela had for her family, love that even the loss of her husband and her home could not extinguish. It is that love that built the foundation of their magical home. And even though that home had been broken by fear, Mirabel reminded Abuela there is nothing love cannot heal.

This is why we need people like Mirabel in our families, churches, schools, workplaces. We need those people who are not afraid of the unspoken tensions that often reveal both truth and hope. That could be why the author of John’s Gospel included the incident we just heard involving Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus of Bethany. Her action of anointing Jesus’ feet with a ridiculously expensive ointment and drying them with her hair was her way of doing what Mirabel did for her family: naming the unspoken thing in the house.

To better appreciate what Mary did, we need to remember we are in John’s

Gospel today, and every Gospel has its differences. These differences are not bad; they don't mean none of this happened. Instead, the differences point to how those who followed Jesus interpreted their experiences with him. For example: a woman anointing Jesus with expensive perfume happens in all four Gospels. However, only in John's Gospel is this act done by someone Jesus knows; someone who has sat at his feet and listened to him, a friend whose family provided a place of rest for Jesus. Someone whose name we know.

This is not an unnamed woman interrupting a dinner party of prestigious people entertaining Jesus. This is a friend and family member who has been paying attention and can see what is ahead for Jesus. Maybe they all could, but no one wanted to talk about it.

The timing of Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet is important. It takes place after her brother Lazarus had gotten sick and she and Martha had sent word to Jesus to come heal their brother. If you remember, Jesus intentionally did not come in time and Lazarus died. His sisters mourned. They prepared his body for burial. They buried him in a tomb and a stone was rolled over the entrance. Several days later, Jesus finally showed up and the two sisters did not hesitate to tell Jesus what they thought of his timing. If only he had come sooner, their brother would still be alive. Jesus responded to their grief with gentleness and compassion. He didn't tell them to stop crying because he was there to save the day. Instead, he talked about resurrection, his resurrection, and he wept.

Then, he commanded the stone to be rolled away from the tomb, for Lazarus to come out and for the community to remove the clothing of death he was still dressed in. In John's Gospel, this miracle is one that not only points to what is about to happen to Jesus, it points to how Jesus' death is going to have a deeper impact on all life through his resurrection.

For his family and friends, Lazarus' restoration of life must have been a lot to process. It was a good and joyful thing, to be sure, but it also meant nothing would ever really be the same. They couldn't just go back to the way things were before by pretending Lazarus had never died and they had not grieved. His death and restoration changed all their lives. But what that change would look like in their daily life, they would just have to figure out for themselves one day at a time.

In addition, the news of Lazarus' miraculous restoration of life spread far and wide. It traveled all the way to the religious and political leaders of the time who were so afraid of this news they began to plan how they were going to end Jesus and his ministry for good.

In the meantime, Jesus and his disciples were at a dinner at the home of his friends who were learning how to live again with the gift of life restored in their midst. Lazarus was at the table just like before, but it must have been different somehow. Martha was serving just like before, but it must have been different somehow. Something joyful was in their midst, and something else loomed on the horizon. Mary, who had listened at Jesus' feet and fallen to his feet in her grief at the death of her brother, took initiative to call out that tension not with words but with action that once more brought her to Jesus' feet.

She took a container of expensive perfume made of nard, a substance scholars and historians tell us was used for anointing dead bodies at the time of burial, and might have been left over from Lazarus' burial, and poured it all over Jesus' feet. Nard is so potently fragrant, it overpowered the smell of food, people, and anything else in the

house; filling it instead with a fragrance that reminded everyone of the rituals of death. No one would have been able to ignore it, and everyone would be participating in Mary's unusual ritual whether they wanted to or not. Everyone would have to acknowledge what Mary was recognizing: that Jesus was not long for this world.

Of course, just like every family has that person who is not afraid to name the unspeakable thing in the room, every group has that one person who is going to fight, resist, or reject it. Often by simply pretending nothing has changed, which can cause conflict. In today's Gospel reading it was Judas who complained Mary was stinking up the place with selfish ignorance and refusal to help those in need. This is an often-used tactic to try and redirect away from whatever makes us uncomfortable. That the author of John's Gospel gave a lengthy explanation of why Judas reacted the way he did, scholars tell us, is evidence that Jesus' followers struggled to understand why Judas eventually betrayed Jesus.

Regardless of Judas' feelings about the situation, we heard Jesus understood what Mary was doing, and he seemed to have appreciated it. Perhaps, as some scholars suggest, it even inspired him.

Knowing that this would be her last visit with Jesus before everything changed, Mary chose to show Jesus what she believed, what she had learned, how she was different after all that had happened with her brother. Jesus was about to start his longest journey, the one that would lead him to death and beyond. He would suffer, and die, and somehow change death forever. So, she anointed his feet as she would those of a dead person because Jesus walked wherever he went. And she dried his feet with her hair as an act of love to show love is what is going to change death. Not her love for Jesus, but God's love that is Jesus. Because Jesus would change death and therefore life, she anointed him before he died.

Perhaps Mary's action touched Jesus so deeply, that when he gathered for the last time with his disciples, he followed her example by washing his disciples' feet and drying them with a towel and then giving a new commandment to love each other as Jesus loved them. Perhaps Mary inspired Jesus to teach about the love of God by embodying that love in washing each other's feet, much like Mirabel inspired her family to let the love that founded their family be embodied in shared work and support.

Mary's extraordinary insight and courage might inspire us today. When it feels like we are being forced to pretend nothing has changed, to push forward and make everything from school to church to workplaces to entertainment or restaurants like they were before an extraordinary event like the pandemic without acknowledging grief or change, it can cause tension and anxiety worse than the pandemic itself. Mary and Mirabel show us it is not only okay to acknowledge with tenderness, love, and compassion the tension and discomfort in the world, that is where we can find the healing and hope we all need, because that is also where we will find God.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 3, 2022
The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, OH

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, Doug and Michelle Parsons, Jane Patton, Dale Paul, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Ann Shelly, Michael Vaughn, Consuelo Walker and family, Benjamin Woolsey, Emily Woolsey, Zita Zolpys, and we pray for all who care for them.
**

Birthdays: Bob Spero (4/4), Kate Ortman Cottrill (4/5), Susan Karageorge (4/8), John Ortman (4/8), Joanne Worstall (4/8)

** 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>

Though the doors of the National Cathedral in Washington are, like ours, temporarily closed, there's much to explore at the the Cathedral's online portal.

<https://cathedral.org/worship/>

Calendar

Coming Up:

Wednesday, April 6, 12:15 p.m. - - Noontime organ recital during Lent

Sunday, April 10, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist, Palm Sunday

Wednesday, April 13, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting, Julie's

Wednesday, April 13, 12:15 p.m. - - Noontime organ recital during Lent

Thursday, April 14, 5:30 p.m. - - Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 15, 7:00 p.m. - - Good Friday

Saturday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. - - Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday, April 17, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist, Discretionary Sunday

Thursday, April 21, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting, ZOOM

Sunday, April 24, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 27, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting, Julie's

CrossRoads Café now open Sundays after church service
and Monday - Friday 9:30 - 11:30 am.

Notes & Announcements



Noontime organ recitals during Lent, 12:15 p.m.

Members of the Southeast Ohio chapter of the American Guild of Organists are presenting a series of Lenten Organ Recitals on **Wednesdays at 12:15** beginning March 16 and ending on April 13.

Remaining Dates:

Wednesday, April 6 Kathleen Jonas
Wednesday, April 13 Marsha Reilly

The programs are free, at the Church of Good Shepherd, and open to the public.

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

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



Next Sunday - April 10 - is Palm Sunday

Next Sunday we begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday. This service is intended to begin outside for the blessing of palm branches and then transition into the church building. We will start on the front porch and move into the building. Please dress for the weather.



Holy Week 2022

It has been two years since we have observed Holy Week in person. Holy Week is the week before Easter Sunday and features liturgies that remember Jesus' last days on earth and his resurrection. These liturgies can be traced back thousands of years, and contain elements of worship from the early church. These liturgies are different from Sunday morning services. They are complex. Because we have not observed Holy Week in person in two years, we have streamlined the Holy Week liturgies a bit to help us reacclimate ourselves to these unique and complex liturgies and observing them together.

Palm Sunday 10:30 am April 10

The focus will be on the blessing of the palms and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with a shorter reader of the Passion narrative followed by Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday 5:30 pm April 14

Will focus on Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples including the return of the chalice/wine for Holy Eucharist, giving us the opportunity to reflect on how the Sacrament is also an embodiment of the Love of God in Jesus who commanded we love each other as he loves us. Following Holy Communion, the altar will be stripped.

Good Friday 7:00 pm April 15

Our focus will be on the crucifixion itself with a special Stations of the Cross featuring art

by friends the Rev. Karl Stevens and iconographer Kelly Latimore. Music will move us between stations while we remain in our places.

Great Vigil of Easter 7:00 pm April 16

The most ancient liturgy of the Christian Church embodies the hope of our faith. This hope is our focus by lighting the Paschal candle, singing the Exultet, hearing the story of salvation in three readings, renewing our Baptismal Vows and sharing Holy Communion.

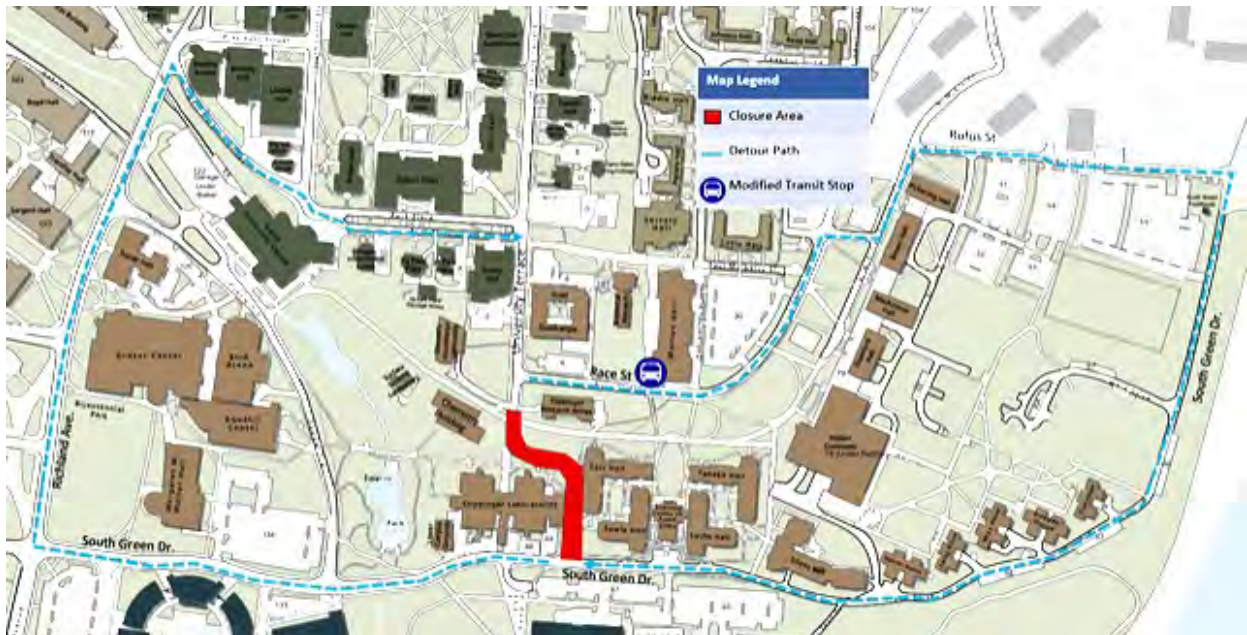
Please join us for one or more of these services before we come together to celebrate **Jesus' resurrection on April 17 at 10:30.am.**

Another phishing email is making the rounds. This one reads -
- "Can you quickly complete a task for me?
Give me your cell number to text you."

If you get a message that seems odd from Mother Deborah, or other clergy, do not respond to that email. If you are not sure whether or not the message is fake (check to see if email address is **EXACTLY CORRECT**), reply by using a **NEW** email using their address that is exactly correct.



Effective Monday, April 4, 2022, at 5AM the office of Design & Construction announces the closure of a portion of University Terrace between Race Street and South Green Drive for crane work in the area. This is scheduled to be a 5 day closure, with the roadway reopening by Friday, April 8th, 2022, at 6PM.



Voting registration for the Primary ends April 5.
The friendly greeter at Athens County Board
of Elections: Pumpkin!



**APRIL 2022
FAMILY
SUPPORT
GROUPS**

APRIL 7TH @ 6PM
APRIL 21ST @ 6PM
VIA ZOOM

INFO@NAMIATHENSOHIO
.ORG OR CALL/TEXT
740-249-9249 TO
OBTAIN LINK

**Mother Deborah will give the prayer for the
Workers Memorial Day Remembrance,
Thursday April 28, 2022
12 noon,
at the Workers Memorial Mural
11 N. Court St.**

Please Join us. A box lunch will be provided.



Sr. Faith Margaret and Julie Nehls.

Check out this "selfie"!

In light of the way everyone was bundled up at the Ukraine Prayer service I (Ted) mislabeled a photo of Sr. Faith Margaret as Anne Walker in Friday's Bulletin. Sr. Faith was in Athens to help celebrate Julie's birthday. While Faith Margaret was here they took this selfie!

(Swiped from Sr. Faith's Facebook Page.)

Contacts, Information

Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

[Contact us](#)

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.

[Campus Interest](#)

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

[Diocese S Ohio](#)

[\[E\]Connections](#)

[Episcopal
News Service](#)

[Episcopal Café](#)

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.

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
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740-593-6877
chogs@chogs.org
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[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.