



## Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost

13 November 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](#)

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### Lessons

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Lessons for Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 28, Track 2)

Old Testament – Malachi 4: 1-2a

Psalm 98 (SUNG)

New Testament – 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

Gospel – Luke 21: 5-19

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

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### The Collect

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BLESSED LORD, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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### The Gospel

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## Luke 21:5-9



WHEN SOME WERE SPEAKING about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

### Gospel Engagement Question:

How good are you at trusting the Holy Spirit to positively influence what you say or write?

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## The Sermon

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### Gold Doesn't Always Glitter

*All that is gold does not glitter,  
Not all those who wander are lost;  
The old that is strong does not wither,*

*Deep roots are not reached by the frost.  
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,  
A light from the shadows shall spring;  
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,  
The crownless again shall be king.*

Perhaps you recognize the poem by J.R.R. Tolkien that played an essential role in the first book in *The Lord of the Rings Trilogy: The Fellowship of the Ring*. In the book, the poem was a bit of wisdom shared by Gandalf to Frodo who was tasked with finding one of the most important characters in the trilogy, Aragorn, the true king of the land. According to Gandalf, it was going to be difficult to find Aragorn, not only because he went by another name, but because he didn't look or act like a stereotypical king.

Those who have read Tolkien's novels probably know he was a deeply religious man, and his religious beliefs often appear in his writing. This poem is an example. On one level it works for the story he wrote. On another level, many scholars believe it also could be about Christ. Today, it could also be a lovely way to sum up the Gospel reading that begins with people admiring the glittering beauty of the temple in Jerusalem.

Those who are familiar with Biblical history already know the temple in today's Gospel is a reconstruction of the one originally destroyed by the Neo-Babylonian Empire long before the events in the Gospel. The reconstructed temple is sometimes called the Second Temple, and it was more than a source of pride for the Jewish people. It was a source of joy and represented their relationship and connection to God. This temple has another name. It is also referred to as Herod's Temple because all its glittering features like gates made of silver and gold that were being admired in today's Gospel were part of the temple thanks to King Herod I a.k.a. Herod the Great who was King of Judea under Roman occupation. Even though he wasn't Jewish by birth, Herod had been raised Jewish, but he was completely loyal to the Roman Empire who made him king of the Jews in Judea.

This little bit of condensed history might explain why Jesus responded the way he did when people started commenting on the impressive beauty of the temple. Instead of joining them in admiring the temple's grandeur, Jesus shared his wisdom that not all that is gold glitters; in other words, there is more to things and people than appearance, which can be distracting and easily misdirect us.

Instead of quoting a lovely poem, however, Jesus shares wisdom by predicting the impressive temple will meet the same fate as its predecessor. It, too, will be reduced to rubble. Again, the historians among us already know Jesus wasn't being dramatic or pessimistic. He

was right. That temple was destroyed in the year 70 CE by the very empire that helped build it. The Roman Empire destroyed the temple in response to an on-going Jewish revolt.

Biblical scholars remind us Luke's Gospel was probably written when this historical event had already happened. Which could mean the author of Luke's Gospel is pointing out salvation will not come from the Roman Empire, or any empire or government. Despite what they promised, despite the time and resources they invested in the temple, the Roman Empire was willing to use its power to harm those who are not loyal to them. This also means the rebuilding of the temple could be interpreted as a political attempt to gain loyalty from the Jewish people instead of a sign of respect for their culture and religion.

Today's Gospel has Jesus reminding his listeners then and those of us listening today that in a world where there is much we cannot control, where the permanence of grand buildings is an illusion, and warns us there are people who will take advantage of the fear and confusion we might feel in times of crisis, sadness, or decline by promising to save us, if we let them do whatever they want. Jesus warns us to be wary of the people who offer false hope, easy answers, and proclaim to know how events will end when those events are still unfolding. None of us know how any day or week or month or year will end. None of us know how our lives will turn out, or the lives of a community or institution.

In times of uncertainty or change, can be comforting when someone steps into that unknowing and proclaims to have it all figured out. That is why we often hire consultants. Today's Gospel warns us such comfort is empty and we need to be careful that whenever we receive advice or consultation that we do not let that advice distract us from our mission as followers of Jesus. In today's Gospel Jesus did not talk about the end of the temple as a calamity that justified selfish or harmful behavior. Jesus was not playing up drama to get power. Such behavior, he warned, is how we recognize someone who is a false prophet, someone who is not associated with him.

Instead, Jesus talks about enduring difficult times trusting that God is somehow at work, even if we can't recognize it. Events will unfold as they will, and despite our best-efforts things won't always go the way we envision, or plan, no matter what the highest paid consultants say. In his life, death, and resurrection Jesus showed us how even tragic events were opportunities for transformation of injustice into God's kingdom of love here on earth.

While it can be tempting to be anxiously pessimistic when things don't work out the way we want and throw up our hands or give up,

today's Gospel reminds us there is another way, the Way of Love, the Way of Christ. This is the way of persevering in prayer, persevering in listening to the wisdom of Jesus through reading scriptures and other resources, persevering in caring for each other, persevering in the work of forgiveness, persevering in the work of being present to our neighborhood that shows God's love is at work even in the tough parts of life.

The Way of Love reminds us before we trust the person who offers us the easy solution to an on-going, complicated, difficult, or sad situation, we stop and consider the very place we might find God waiting for us is in the middle of that complicated, difficult situation. And in that encounter with God, we might experience a Kingdom of God transformation Jesus started with his death and resurrection.

The truth is there are, there always have been, and there will be things that are hard, unfair, unjust, challenging, difficult, and just wrong. However, today's Gospel reminds us those things are not evidence of God's absence. Quite the opposite. They just might be invitations to take a closer look, to be patient and persevere, because doing so could bring us closer to God at work transforming pain into love in the world where –

*All that is gold does not glitter,  
Not all those who wander are lost;  
The old that is strong does not wither,  
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.  
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,  
A light from the shadows shall spring;  
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,  
The crownless again shall be king.*

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A sermon by The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 28, 13 November 2022, at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio.

### **Sermon Engagement Question:**

Waiting is a practice of perseverance. How hard is it for you to wait?

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**Please include in your prayers**

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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 for the people who are suffering from war, especially the people of Ukraine, and we pray for 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, 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., Jean R., Miriam, Scott, Sharon, T.C., Baby William James, Dana Carlson, Zelma Coleman, Lee Kembell-Cook, Richard DeNune, Roy DePue, Lindsey and Regina Golden, Debbie Hunsberger, Bob and Nancy Jackson, Peter Kachenko and family, Jeff Maiden, Julie Nehls, Betty Oltorf, Donald Oney, Sandy Oney, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Virginia Richards, Flo and Jack Roach, Michael Vaughn, Mary-Anna Welch, Emily Woolsey and we pray for all who care for them. \*\*

BIRTHDAY: Ingrid Buckley (11/14), David Burton (11/16), Tiffany Sherman (11/17)

\*\* Full names are normally not published online. However for the Sunday 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](mailto:grahammowery@aol.com).

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## At-Home Worship

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a.m. These are saved and can be watched anytime later.

<https://cincinnati.cathedral.com/ccc/join-online/>

Washington D C -- there's much to explore at the the National Cathedral's online portal. <https://cathedral.org/worship/>

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## Coming up on the Calendar

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**Thursday, November 17, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting**

**Saturday, November 19, 1:00 p.m. - - Jan Gault Memorial Service**

**Sunday, November 20, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, November 20, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist  
(Discretionary Sunday)**

**Thursday, November 24 10:30 a.m. - - Thanksgiving Day service**

**Thursday, November 24 1:30 p.m. - - Thanksgiving Meal for  
parishioners**

**Sunday, November 27, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

**Wednesday, November 30, 7:00 p.m. - - Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, December 4, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, December 4, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

**Sunday, December 11, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, December 11, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

**Thursday, November 15, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting**

**Sunday, December 18, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, December 18, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Discretionary  
Sunday)**

**-- Events Looking Forward --**

**Nov. 19 (Saturday) Diocese of Southern Ohio Convention Hybrid zoom  
and in person in Cincinnati**

Nov. 24 (Thursday) Thanksgiving Day service 10:30 am

Nov. 24 (Thursday) Thanksgiving Meal for parishioners 1:30 pm

Dec. 24 (Saturday) Christmas Eve 7pm

Dec. 25 (Sunday) Christmas Day 10:30 am

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## Notes & Announcements (additional items in the Friday Bulletin)

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### Appreciation Sunday

Today's coffee hour was held in appreciation for Mother Deborah and Michael's ministry here at Good Shepherd. The parish surprised them with a special cake. Mother Deborah remarked, "You are all getting very good. Usually I can tell when something is up, but this time you genuinely surprised me. And I am truly touched. Thank you."

Michael is a person of action rather than words and showed this by thoroughly enjoying his piece of cake, after reminding Mother Deborah to keep the icing roses intact when cutting the cake.

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### 'Tis the Season...For Ordering Coffee for Christmas!

A perfect gift for the coffee lover on your list, purchasing coffee from Church of the Good Shepherd's CrossRoads Café helps small, independent coffee farmers and their communities. We proudly partner with Deeper Roots Coffee out of Cincinnati who in turn partner with coffee growers around the world who practice environmentally sustainable farming practices and

who employ local people. When you give Deeper Roots Coffee from CrossRoads Café, you aren't just giving a gift, you are making a positive difference in the lives of others.



This year we have special prices for Christmas: \$12 a pound and \$8 a half pound. Check out the order form link church website, or pick one up in the church office.

[Order Form pdf for printing.](#) [Order Form Word for download.](#)

Orders are due Sunday, December 11, pick up Sunday, December 18.

Thank you for your support. And a special Thank You to Michael Luelloff for volunteering to help with the Christmas Coffee ministry this year.

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## Thanksgiving Day at Church of the Good Shepherd

*Thou that has given so much to me,  
Give one thing more – a grateful heart;  
Not thankful when it pleaseth me,  
As if thy blessings had spare days,  
But such a heart, whose pulse may be  
Thy praise.*

George Herbert

Please join us in expressing gratitude to God for our blessings on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2022. We have a full day of events; you are welcome to attend one or both.

### **Worship Service 10:30 am**

*Please join us for a lovely, quiet service of gratitude. Includes Holy Eucharist.*

### **Parish Thanksgiving Dinner 1:30 pm**

*In gratitude for this parish, Mother Deborah and Michael invite anyone who does not have family or friends coming for dinner or are not visiting family or friends this year to join them for a Thanksgiving celebration meal. They will provide the turkey and drinks. They ask anyone coming to please bring a side or desert to share.*

Those who plan to attend the dinner, please email either Mother Deborah [revdebwoolsey@gmail.com](mailto:revdebwoolsey@gmail.com) or Michael [michael.luelloff@hotmail.com](mailto:michael.luelloff@hotmail.com) with your names and what dish you are bringing. Or you can sign up in person by writing your name and what you are bringing on the signup sheets at church.

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## **Calling any and all singers !!!!!**

Extra singers are needed for December services - especially Dec. 19 and Christmas Eve (service at 7:00) Rehearsals are Sunday morning at 9:15. There will be an extra rehearsal between Dec. 19 and Dec. 24.

Contact Marsha Reilly at  
[mareilly1@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mareilly1@columbus.rr.com) or  
[mareilly57@gmail.com](mailto:mareilly57@gmail.com) or 740-818-6475.

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### **Diocesan Convention Saturday Nov. 19**

This year's Diocesan Convention will be hybrid, both in person in Cincinnati and online. Please pray for our delegates and alternates and clergy who will be attending: Mother Deborah, Dana Carlson, Jack Flemming, Allyn Reilly, and Anne Walker (alternate for Alex Buckley). And please pray for all the people in the Diocese working to put the convention together and who will be running convention. This is part of how the work of the whole Church is done, and whether or not you participate, you are still represented and are part of this work.

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### **For Bishop Transition News and Updates**

**[-- Follow this link --](#)**

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### **Diocese of Southern Ohio 80th General Convention**

**Saturday, November 19.** Delegates and clergy may attend in person or via zoom. For more see the [DSO E-Connections newsletter](#). Keep up with the latest [Convention information HERE](#).

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**If you want to help the folks who have been negatively impacted by**

climate disaster and war anywhere in the world please consider contributing to [Episcopal Relief and Development \(ERD\)](#) which is the official ministry of the Episcopal Church.

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Here is a nice view of the church from Park Place (photo by Mother Deborah). Below that are the portraits of three small occupants living amongst the stones in the front yard.





## Contacts, Information

### Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

[Staff](#)

### Pandemic Notes:

[Link to the DSO guidelines for in-person worship](#)

In light of local conditions we request all persons wear masks inside the church building **regardless** of vaccination

[Campus Interest](#)

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

[Diocese Southern Ohio](#)

[Bishop Transition](#)

[\[E\]Connections](#)

[Episcopal News Service](#)

[Episcopal Journal & Café](#)

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  
hours the thrift shop and chapel  
are available for individuals.  
Masks are required.

CrossRoads Café is temporarily  
closed.

## 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

## [DONATE to Good Shepherd](#)

The above takes you to the  
Parish page where you  
can find instructions  
or 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.](#)

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)

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

**Office Hours:**  
Masks are required.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday  
740-593-6877  
[chogs@chogs.org](mailto:chogs@chogs.org)

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Blessings !

Church of the Good Shepherd | 64 University Terrace, Athens, OH 45701

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