



Friday Bulletin

Good Shepherd E-News

25 November 2022

The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio

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This Upcoming Sunday

First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

27 November 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship (Bulletin)

Service: Holy Eucharist Rite II-A

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Guest Organists: David Burton and
Lois Wagner

Lector: Michael Wootton

Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte: Sharon
Huge

Eucharistic Minister/Prayer Leader:
Gregory Proctor

Altar Guild: Sharon Huge

Coffee Hour Host: David Burton

LESSONS for the First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Old Testament – Isaiah 2: 1-5

Psalm: 122 (SAID)

New Testament – Romans 13: 11-14

Gospel – Matthew 24: 36-44

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

Advent is a Counter Cultural Opportunity

First things first: Whether you celebrated with us by attending the church service or joined us for dinner or visited family and friends or welcomed family and friends into your home, watched the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, watched football, or had a quiet meal, I hope you had a lovely Thanksgiving Day.

Once Thanksgiving is over (or even before it starts) there is an unavoidable societal push into Christmas. For some, this is a joy and brings so much light into their lives they crave an early Christmas, they need the hope and light of the season long before December 25. For them, that is okay.

For others, we hunger and thirst for something else, a season that looks ahead to celebrations by pointing us right back to where we are. We need a season that teaches us there is more to speaking truth than making brazen statements and then stepping back to smirk at how people react. We need a season that gives us permission to examine and touch those truths so that we can figure out how to live with them while we wait for better days. This is what the Season of Advent is for.

Advent reminds us Jesus wasn't born because the world is a perfect place free of conflict or injustice. Quite the opposite: Jesus was born because we needed him. Not to remake the world into our dream but to restore it and us into God's dream and purpose.

Advent is also a reminder that Christians are not people who wish to escape from the challenges and difficulties of the world. We are people who are willing to face realities, which requires attention and patience. This can be painful, so it also requires the help we find in God. God doesn't let us hide but does help us understand reality and how we can live as followers of Jesus in an unjust world.

Every year I look forward to Advent because it gives me permission to take a little additional time to focus on where I see God in the most difficult parts of life, which makes me feel closer to God. To help me with this focus, every year I purchase a new Advent devotional, with daily scripture readings, prayers and reflections, such as the Living Compass Advent devotional we are giving away at church. I also have my own Advent Wreath and every evening when Michael and I sit down to dinner we light the appropriate candle(s) for the day, say a prayer, and then I either read a reflection from my Advent devotional, a Bible verse for the day, and we talk about it. These

practices make the four weeks of Advent more than meaningful for me, they make the time blessed. And although I love Christmas, I am always a little sad when the Advent season ends. Because what makes Christmas so joyful for me, is the season of Advent.

I invite you to join me in finding a practice for the Season of Advent. Whether it is following a devotional, making, or purchasing your own Advent Wreath to light candles and pray, or another practice, I hope you find a way to counter the culture of counting down to Christmas by savoring the season before it, a time where you can find God present not only in a baby in a manger but in darkness surrounding it.

Advent Blessings,

Mother Deborah

Coming up on the Calendar

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)

** After a long pandemic-caused hiatus, our service of Advent lessons and carols returns. We will celebrate a modified form of the liturgy as part of the Liturgy of the Word, and Eucharist on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 10:30

Events Looking Forward

Dec. 24 (Saturday) Christmas Eve 7pm

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

Schedules

Coffee Hour Schedule

November 27 -- David Burton

Open Dates for Altar Flowers [To Altar Flowers Procedure](#)

December 4, 11, 18



CrossRoads Café is closed until we find staff. If you know of someone looking for a job, please have them send an email to chogs@chogs.org or revedebwoolsey@gmail.com.

We are still selling Deeper Roots Coffee Beans. \$15 for a 1 pound bag and \$12 for half pound. Please contact Michael Luelloff at michael.luelloff@hotmail.com if you want to purchase a bag.

Notes & Announcements

Happy New Church Year!

On Sunday, November 27 the Church Year begins anew. Just like there is a separate calendar for the academic year and the fiscal year, the Church has its own way of keeping time. Instead of semesters and quarters, the Church Year is divided into seasons, each of which is related to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The Church Year begins with Advent – a season of expectation where we are

reminded that we are waiting for Christ to come again and bring to fruition what began in his resurrection. Advent is followed by Christmas where we celebrate the Mystery of the Incarnation, of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us. Next is Epiphany, a season that focuses on the mission of the Church and is inspired by the visit of the Magi who followed the star that appeared at Jesus' birth. Lent is the next season; most of us are familiar with the season that begins on Ash Wednesday that focuses on penitence and forgiveness. Easter is not just a day in the Church, it takes a season to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Then we have the long season of a time we call "after Pentecost" during which we focus on the work and teachings of Jesus.

You can tell what season/time it is by the colors the Church wears. On Sunday, the Church will be dressed in purple, a color that can represent Christ's kingship and who we wait for. Some parishes use the color blue instead to represent expectation and waiting. The Advent Wreath will be out with its four candles: three purple (or blue) and one pink. Each Sunday in the season we will light the appropriate number of candles to help us mark the time as we wait. The prayers, readings and music will emphasize the waiting people did before Jesus was born to help us as we wait for Jesus to return. A new Church Year, like any new beginning, is a good opportunity to engage a little deeper in the life of the Church and see what the year will bring.

New Sunday and Daily Office Lectionaries

Sunday Lectionary is now in Year A

Daily Office is now in Year 1

If you are following along at home with Morning and Evening Prayer, starting Sunday, November 27 we are in Year 1. Starting the same day, Sunday Lectionary is in Year A in the Revised Common Lectionary.

New Room and Phone Number for Julie Nehls

Julie has moved to a new room at the Laurels where she can be around other residents who are there for similar reasons and can have easier access to social activities.

Her new room number is 505 and new phone number is 740-592-3360

The Laurels still requires visitors to wear masks and check in at visitor table at the front doors.

Thank you to the delegates and alternate delegates who attended Diocesan Convention last Saturday. We are grateful for your service and participation in the diocese.



Christmas Poinsettias

Once again, the Altar Guild will place large poinsettias only on the altar for the Christmas season. If you would like to contribute to that fund, checks can be made out to Good Shepherd with "Christmas poinsettias" on the memo line. If you wish to honor someone with either a memorial or a thanksgiving, please get those names to Barbara Martin (barbara@chogs.org) before December 20. Thanks from the Altar Guild.

Brief Summary of Bishop Smith's Pastoral Address to the Diocese

If you were not a delegate to Diocesan Convention, you can watch Bishop Smith's Pastoral Address to the Diocese by following the link in this email. His address is not short, but it is honest and he addresses several issues that are of concern.

- **Money.** Our diocese has a great deal of financial resources, however there are a lot of rumors and misinformation about the amount of money and how it is managed, spent, and who has access to it.
- **The Pandemic.** It isn't over, even though we want it to be. And that is okay. It is important to make sure there is someone in every parish who is monitoring the current Covid-19 transmission rates in your county. (Mother Deborah does it for us) Decisions on protocols are no longer made at the Diocesan level, they are made on a parish level as every county is different.
- **Decline.** In EVERY expression of Christianity is real in North America, and we feel it most painfully in our own context. This isn't a problem that can be fixed by a program. The decline has various reasons and may be God calling us to rediscover value in the small and resilient.
- **New Bishop Search.** Is at the appropriate place. Beware that a new

bishop won't fix old problems, the transition will be both good and awkward, as all transitions are. Bishop Smith will do his due diligence to help us with that transition.

- **Optimism.** Bishop Smith has gotten to know clergy in this diocese and although he sees fatigue and frustration, he sees even more resilience and perseverance, and this gives him hope.

There is – of course – a lot more to the Bishop's Address. [Follow this link for his entire address.](#)

Next Phase: Search Process for the New Bishop

Learn about the more exciting next phase in the search process for the next bishop of our diocese. The Bishop Nominating Committee produced a video to report on its work. Learn more and watch the video on the [bishop search website](#). Or watch the report [on You Tube](#).

For Bishop Transition News and Updates

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

Thanksgiving Day Meal.
Great company and delicious dishes to share.





Contacts & Information

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.

[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. Covid Memorial, plate collection, etc.

Check out the Church's [YouTube Channel](#).

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
Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons

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www.chogs.org

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the Good Shepherd
45701](#)

Office Hours:
**10:00 a.m.– 2:00
p.m., Monday
through Thursday.**

**The Diocese COVID
Guidelines request
all persons wear
masks inside the
church building
regardless of
vaccination status.**

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

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