



Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost (All Saints Sunday)

6 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](#)

Lessons

Lessons for the All Saints

Old Testament – Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149 (SUNG)

New Testament – Ephesians 1: 11-23

Gospel – Luke 6: 20-31

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

The Collect

O GOD, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Gospel



Luke 20:27-38

SOME SADDUCEES, THOSE WHO SAY THERE IS NO RESURRECTION, came to Jesus and asked him a question, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive."

Gospel Engagement Question:

Jesus' Sermon on the Plain in Luke's Gospel features blessings and woes. Which of them speak to you right now?

The Sermon

Gifts of All Saints

These days it is popular to criticize the Church, especially its history. And yet, despite its faults and failings, the Church still has some wonderful gifts to give us, if we are willing and open to receiving them. Today, when I talk about "The Church", unless I specify, I do not mean this parish of Church of the Good Shepherd, nor do I mean the denomination to which we belong, The Episcopal Church. I mean the whole church, all

denominations, and expressions of Christianity as it has evolved over its over 2000 years of existence. Including the Early Church, the group of people who gathered in the days after Jesus' resurrection and ascension and committed themselves to following the Way of Love, the Way of Christ even before there was a formal institutional structure to support them.

One of the many gifts of the Church is the reminder that we who are gathered in person or online today are not the first people to worship God as Jesus told us to. We are part of an over 2000-year-old tradition of people of all colors, races, abilities, genders, ages, levels of education, socio-economic backgrounds, and sexualities. Today that gift is expressed by the Church calendar setting aside the liturgical season to celebrate All Saints.

All Saints Day was not a celebration of the Early Church. It didn't show up on the Church Calendar until sometime in the ninth Century when Pope Gregory the Fourth learned about it from Christians in Ireland. Once it was accepted, All Saints became an important part of the Church Calendar. In the Episcopal Church and several other denominations, it is just as important as Christmas and Easter. Like those days, All Saints is a celebration that not only reminds us of our beliefs, it connects us to those beliefs.

Another gift of All Saints Day is it reminds us the Church is not a building, it is the people who keep showing up, however they can, for God and for each other. You might have noticed in the part of Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus we heard this morning he used the word saints to refer to the members of the church, the people he was writing to. Before the word "Christian" - a word that means *little Christ* - had been coined, the word Paul used to refer to all followers of Jesus was saints. It is a word that means holy one. It didn't mean only the best, most pious, rule-following people, the word saints meant everyone.

Language evolves over the years. Today the word saint is associated with an extraordinarily pious or exceptionally good person, a sort of celebrity rock star of the Church who never makes mistakes or falters. But holy doesn't mean better than others, it just means set apart for God. Over the past 2000 years, the Church has lifted up certain saints for their struggles, sacrifices, and contributions. As someone said, they are people just like you and me but whose lives have been edited and it can be easy to forget they did not have perfect lives free of mistakes, struggles, conflict, disappointments, setbacks, or problems.

Father James Martin, a Jesuit priest who has some popularity in modern culture reminds us many of the saints we think of as inspirational figures had difficult lives. In the thirteenth century, for example, St. Thomas Aquinas' family threw him in jail to prevent him from joining a

Dominican order because they were opposed to him joining that order. Beloved St. Francis of Assisi spent a great deal of his life battling chronic eye infections. In addition to his personal health issues, members of the order he started criticized him for making their rule of life too strict and impossible to follow. St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, was thrown into prison by the Inquisition because they were suspicious of how he prayed.

We sometimes don't realize those famous saints were not trying to be remembered for all time, nor were they striving for success that looked like getting a lot of people into church services and a lot of money into church budgets. Saints were focused on being faithful, not popular, so much so many saints we think of as exemplary tended to be hard on themselves for not doing enough, like Dorothy Day confessed in her personal journals.

A gift of All Saints Day is the reminder saints are not flawless. They are faithful. They keep showing up, even when they make a mistake, forget something, or when they don't like the priest, music, bishop, budget, a sermon, or a change. Sometimes saints are the people trying to get the institution to consider changes and the institution they love rejects them. Still, despite the rejection, they kept being faithful. Not because they are better than anyone else, but because they love God and their neighbors and keep hanging in there with them. Other saints aren't mentioned in books, or are remembered only by loved ones, and are just as important because they kept showing up however they could, and were faithful no matter struggles.

This is the heart of the message of Luke's Gospel today where we get to hear a bit of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. It's slightly different from Matthew's Gospel's Sermon on the Mountain. In Luke, Jesus does not deliver his sermon from a place above the people listening. Jesus was on the same level as the people. If you paid close attention to the Gospel today, perhaps you noticed a bit of the author's theme of reversal the world will experience when God's Kingdom is fully realized here on earth and how we can begin living that reversal right now. By doing impossible sounding things like loving our enemies instead of seeking vengeance. By giving instead of hoarding. By praying for those who hate us. All behaviors that counter the accepted selfishness of a society that says this is all there is, so you better get yours and hold on before someone takes it away from you, with the life-giving, merciful love of God.

This doesn't mean letting people harm you or take advantage of you. You can embody the love of God with healthy boundaries. Such boundaries are one way to show respect, and respect is a form of love.

Of course, living counter culturally is never easy, and can feel isolating. That is why the gifts of All Saints Day are so important: they remind us we aren't alone in this life and never have been. When we

were baptized, we were given the Holy Spirit, to empower and comfort us to live lives that are counter cultural and beautiful. Not easy. Probably not popular. Often messy. But still beautiful.

The Holy Spirit connects us to God through Jesus and to each other and to the saints who have gone before us, those we sometimes refer to in liturgy as all the company of heaven, or a great cloud of witnesses. This means a life of following Jesus is not a burden, it is a responsibility to God and to those who came before us and those who will come after us. This doesn't mean we can't ever change or adapt to changes. We have the examples of the saints before us to remind us, the Church continues from generation to generation because it does change, and it will again. Our responsibility to God and all the saints before and after us is to be faithful, just like them.

As part of our liturgy today we will read aloud the names of those who died this year. If you pay attention during the rest of the church year you might recognize there are other times these saints will be called into our midst; like when we give flowers for Christmas or Easter in memory of someone who has died. Or when someone gives a gift to the parish of something that will be used in liturgy or in our music programs, or in our ministries like the Covid Memorial. These gifts remind us, love remains and keeps us connected long after someone has died. It is another way we keep showing up for each other and for God.

These gifts can be a comfort anytime we find ourselves grieving the loss of someone we love. Or for other losses like when someone moves away or moves to a different department at work or moves to a different class at school, when a child or grandchild starts college or gets married. Even good change can have a shadow of sadness to it, which makes learning how to remember as a healthy part of grieving such a valuable gift, another one the Church gives us on All Saints Day.

Perhaps one of the reasons it is so popular to criticize the church's past is because it highlights how the church is not a building of immovable stone or cement, or a strict set of rules, but is a bunch of people who sometimes fail, make mistakes, who judge situations through the experiences they have and a perspective that is sometimes too small. Those imperfections do not mean the Church is irrevocably bad. They are part of how we remember being faithful means admitting when we were wrong, confessing our sin, doing the hard, counter cultural work of changing to try and help heal the divide harm caused, and striving to live better. An example of how the Church does this as an institution is the Episcopal Church is participating in the process to help return the remains of Indigenous children who died at schools the Church participated in that separated the children from their families and their culture to try and make them part of the Church. But what the Indigenous people have shown the Church is they can embrace both their culture and faith. This realization can inspire those of us who aren't Indigenous to

deepen our spirituality and helps us all grow closer to God and to each other. It is going to be some long, slow work that will be painful at times, but it will be good work, and another gift of Church that helps us continue to be faithful by learning and growing.

A little closer to this parish, this year on All Saints Day some of us are still grieving the loss of the saints who have died or who have moved away. Undoubtedly some of us still feel sad, and that is okay. Perhaps the suitable gifts for us today are the reminders we aren't the first ones to live through times of loss, and we won't be the last, and the sadness we feel is part of the love of God connecting us to those saints. Remembering them and their faithfulness can help us find the inspiration to keep being faithful: to love each other and God, to be kind, to forgive, to love even our enemies, to pray, even for those we don't like, to be open to receive the love of God and let that love carry us, especially when we feel tired. And to celebrate, as best we can, that connection to the Church through all its saints, because we are in their company, and that makes us all saints too.

A sermon by The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 27 (All Saints Sunday), 6 November 2022, at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio.

Sermon Engagement Question:

Think of one or more of the saints - someone who was faithful - who have meant something to you. Then think of the saints to come, those who aren't part of the church yet. Say a prayer for them all.

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 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, Emily Woolsey and we pray for all who care for them. **

BIRTHDAY: Thomas Walker (11/12)

ALTAR FLOWERS: The altar flowers are given by the Arthur Savage family to the glory of God and in profound gratitude for the Smiths and Savages and all the family who went before us and await our coming.

** 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.

TODAY WE REMEMBER THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED:

Bruce Abel
Matthew Abel
Michael Abel
Paulene Abel
Richard Bald
Louis Burton
Mollie DePue



Jane Ergood
John Flemming
Margaret Flemming
Nona Forbes
Jan Gault
Robert Haney
Margarita Herrera
Jeff Jeffers
Bill Kaldis
Andy Morgan
Junie Oney
Flor Ortega
John Roache
David S.
Jim Sands
Steve Steward
Jody Smith
Sister Mary Elizabeth, CHS
June Wieman

At-Home Worship

Christ Church Cathedral Cincinnati live streams its services Sundays at 10 a.m. These are saved and can be watched anytime later.

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

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

Coming up on the Calendar

Sunday, November 13, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, November 13, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

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

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

-- 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

Notes & Announcements (additional items in the Friday Bulletin)

Pastoral Announcement about Julie Nehls

Long-time parishioner Julie Nehls is at the Laurels here in Athens and is eager to receive visitors, phone calls, notes, cards, flowers, and all manner of well wishes. She is in Room 104.

The phone number you can reach her at is: 740-592-3088.

Address:

Julie Nehls

The Laurels – Room 104

10 Columbus Circle

Athens, OH 45701

In person visitors are asked by the Laurels to wear a face mask and sign in at the table in the lobby

Below, taken from Facebook, is a 'digital collage' of the many modern-day saints icons that Kelly Latimore has written. Beginning with the early Good Earth Farm days, Kelly and Evie have had a very much alive and loving relationship with the parish. Two icons, the Good Shepherd icon and the Christ the King icon were commissioned by Good Shepherd and enhance our worship space. If you wish to explore Kelly's icons further follow this link:

[Kelly Latimore Icons.](#)



Kelly Latimore Icons

2d · 🌐



Happy All Saints Day!

"We are not called to be heroes. We are c... See more



1.1K

37 comments 685 shares



Home



Friends



Watch



Marketplace



Notifications



Menu

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.

For Bishop Transition News and Updates

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

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](#).

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.

Mother Deborah took this view of the Covid Memorial before the leaf blowers came by.



Today all four of the choral scholars sang with the choir. I asked Michael to take their photograph but forgot to ask him for their names. Friday we will include some photos of the organ celebration concert this afternoon and by then I imagine Marsha will see this photo and provide names. Ted Foster



Contacts, Information

Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

[Sermons](#)

Pandemic Notes:

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

[Parish calendar](#)

[Staff](#)

[Campus Interest](#)

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

[Diocese Southern Ohio](#)

[Bishop Transition](#)

[\[E\]Connections](#)

[Episcopal News Service](#)

[Episcopal Journal & Café](#)

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 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

[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](#)

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, 64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701

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

[Channel.](#)

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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

Blessings !

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

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