

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost



2 October 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

For the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22-Tract 2):

Old Testament – Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2:1-4

Psalm 37: 1-10 (SUNG)

New Testament – 2 Timothy 1: 1-14

Gospel – Luke 17: 5-10

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

The Collect

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Gospel

Luke 17:5-10



THE APOSTLES SAID said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me

while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

The Sermon

Write The Vision

We Episcopalians have our scripture readings prescribed for us each Sunday: one from the Old Testament—or also known as Hebrew scriptures—one from the Epistles, and one from the four Gospels. We absorb these readings with varying degrees of interest. Mostly, I think, we pay closest attention to the Gospel reading, as it tells us the stories of Jesus and the apostles.

Alas! To focus solely on those readings is often to miss both a strong link to our common history as well as a message to us in our present moment that comes to us from time to time from the reading from the Old Testament.

Such is the assigned reading we have today from the 7th Century BCE prophet Habakkuk. At first blush, the reading may seem simply to be a complaint by a worshipper of Yahweh that no matter how faithful the protagonist in the account is, the faithful worshipper's experience is that evil always seems to triumph over good! As Habakkuk writes in today's lesson, "the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous--therefore judgment comes forth perverted."

Now, we can just dismiss these verses as something from a distant past with no relevance for today. Or we can read them with our mind's eye informed by our newspapers, TV, and radio. I suggest that when we take this latter course, we can see a relevance for Habakkuk reading today.

For instance: we regularly and frequently hear, read, see cries from the people of Ukraine for deliverance from attacks from outside their borders who

want to persecute the people of the country-- attacks where, in an echo of Habakkuk, "Destruction and violence are before them, strife and contention arise."

That comment is surely the situation for the people of Ukraine: "destruction and violence are before them"; thus, we pray each week for their deliverance from assaults upon the people of Ukraine and their country. We hope and pray-- affirming the confidence of Habakkuk, in our proclamation identifying with the confident courage of this prophet, "standing watch at (our) watch post, and stationing (our)selves on the ramparts". We wonder about Ukraine as Habakkuk wondered about himself and his own countrymen: will "the Lord answer... and say, "write the vision; and make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it"? Yes, even a runner moving quickly by-- big letters, big message-- make it plain! As Habakkuk proclaims, "There is still a vision... it will surely come, it will not delay."

Thus it was for this prophet: holding to a strong faith that adversity will be overcome. Righteousness will prevail.

So what, we may say. That was ancient history; but sometimes we can be informed by what transpired in centuries past. As the poet Seamus Haney writes in "The Cure of Troy", "It means that someone is hearing/ The outcry and the birth cry/ Of new life at its term. It means that once in a lifetime/ That justice can rise up/ And hope and history rhyme."

Yes: "justice can rise up" as "hope and history rhyme" -- thoughts of a contemporary poet echoing the words of the prophet Habakkuk of centuries past: "There is still a vision...it will surely come, it will not delay."

All well and good we might say to ourselves-- but what of us? We are important, too, and we need some solace and reassurance in our own lives, here, now. What about the struggles and injustices of those of us today, in our county, in our town, we who are here, this morning, in these pews? Yes, we, too, have our own struggles, our own trials.

We are fortunate that in our daily lives we do not hear the same shouts of "Violence!" as Habakkuk describes or that are heard in Ukraine. Yet, we do hear cries of "Violence!" in our own communities-- but they are most often cries of a different sort, cries of a different kind of violence-- more muted, less prominent-- but potent and destructive, nonetheless.

They are cries heard from our many neighbors struggling to put food on their tables, clothes on their children, gas in their car-- if they have a car. We also hear the cries of victims of physical violence--especially of violence by guns, but also violence by domestic abuse, social prejudice, economic inequity for instance. What to do? How to respond? Habakkuk's response to his troubles is to appeal to his God. We, too, can send up such cries: "Oh Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen?" But we, too, sometimes feel like neglected worshippers: echoing Habakkuk in our own thoughts: "our prayers

are not answered.” Or “The Lord just doesn't hear me-- or pay attention to my prayers for help.”

That's hard when that happens to us. To feel ignored anytime, by anyone-- and especially by the Lord! But let's remember: the Lord is not a stage magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat! The Lord is the one who brought forth the planet Earth, this “mortal coil on which we live and move and have our being.”

The Lord is the one who helps us keep strong to be able to combat those who want to take our homes, the places of God's people wherever they may be, places to live and be free-- whether that be in Ukraine, or perhaps in our own towns and country. These are the people for whom and the places nearby where, like Habakkuk, we “stand at (our) watch post/and station ourselves on the ramparts, to keep watch what [the Lord] will say to (us), and how he will answer (our) complaint.”

The Good News, of course, is that in the person of Jesus of Nazareth the Lord has “written the vision”. The Lord has “made it plain”. It is the “vision for the appointed time”-- a time that you and I believe has come in the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In him is our hope. In him is our promise. And it is in him that we trust in all of life's struggles-- be those struggles in Ukraine, in places of personal poverty, in combatting prejudicial activity, in reducing and eliminating racial confrontations, in an end to violence by guns-- it is in Jesus of Nazareth that we put our trust and our faith that although we have not arrived at a completely satisfactory time of peace and justice, we continue to strive in his name. It is our own vision and knowledge of him that we know there shines a more glorious light, one that overcomes the darkness.

Thus, we continue to work and watch and pray that justice and righteousness will not only triumph but will also flourish and prevail. As with Habakkuk, “we stand at our watch post,/and station ourselves on the rampart,/to keep watch what he will say to us.” “And the Lord answered and said, “write the vision.” My friends, Habakkuk has called us across the centuries, in our own time and in the Lord's name, to “write the vision.”

A sermon by The Rev. David McCoy, the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, 2 October 2022, at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio.

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, we pray for the community of Uvalde, Texas, 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, Jan Gault, Lindsey and Regina Golden, Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, Debbie Hunsberger, Bob and Nancy Jackson, Peter Kachenko and family, Julie Nehls, Donald and Junie Oney, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Virginia Richards, Michael Vaughn, Emily Woolsey and we pray for all who care for them. **

BIRTHDAY: Leslie Flemming (10/4), Christy Ortman (10/5), Connie DeBerardinis (10/6), Katharin Foster (10/7)

FOR THE DECEASED: Steve Steward

** 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 its services Sundays at 10 a.m. These are saved and can be watched anytime later.

<https://cincinnatiathedral.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

Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 p.m. -- Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 9, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 p.m. -- Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 16, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Discretionary Sunday)

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 p.m. -- Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 12, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's

Thursday, October 20, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m. -- Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 23, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. -- Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's

Sunday, October 30, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Events Looking Forward

Oct. 7-10 (Friday – Monday) College Student Retreat in the Hocking Hills

Nov. 6 (Sunday) Newly Refurbished Organ Celebration 3pm (first in a series)

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)

In memory of Steve Steward



Choir 1986

Last week Good Shepherd lost a faithful member of the parish and, most especially, the choir. Steve came to Good Shepherd as one of the first group of Vocal Music Assistants (now called Choral Scholars) in the 1980's. He continued in this role as tenor section leader for several years even after graduating from OU.

When the decision was made to limit the program to students, Steve continued on as a choir member and remained so until his untimely passing. One of many memories

about Steve was his role as "pancake flipper" at the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

Fortunately, Steve was able to fulfill a lifetime dream of attending the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany which had originally been scheduled for 2020. As part of this same trip he was also able to attend an opera in Vienna. Opera was one of his passions, being a regular attendee at both the Columbus and Cincinnati opera productions.

**Steve, you are missed.
Rest in peace.**

Marsha Reilly
Music Director



Mother Deborah has been in contact with Steve's family to express her

sympathy and will be officiating his celebration of life service. More information will be shared after Mother Deborah returns from vacation on Oct.11. Until then please keep Steve's family in your prayers.

Mother Deborah and Michael are on Vacation

Starting Monday, September 26, Mother Deborah and Michael will be out of town on vacation. Please pray for their safe travel. They will return on Oct. 11.

Mother Deborah will not be checking her email while she is away.

Please direct any pastoral emergencies to the Senior Warden, Alex Buckley.

CrossRoads Café is closed until we find new staff.

If you know someone looking for a job and can work mornings, have them email chogs@chogs.org or contact Mother Deborah.

We Are Hiring

CrossRoads Café Staff

Please help us get the word out: we are hiring new staff for our coffee shop ministry. If you or someone you know is interested in working mornings. Pay starts at \$12 an hour. No experience necessary, we provide paid training. The [Full job description](#) is available on our website. Please contact the Rev. Deborah Woolsey at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com for more information or to apply. (She will return your email when she gets back from vacation.)

Video/Media Communications

Assistant for making and posting church videos ([Full job description](#)). Please contact the Rev. Deborah Woolsey at

revdebwoolsey@gmail.com for more information or to apply. (She will return your email when she gets back from vacation.)

Volunteers Needed to Serve as Ushers

If you are interested in or feel called to serve as an usher, please contact Mother Deborah.

The ministry of ushers is:

- Warmly greeting people coming into church service by giving them bulletin and mask (if they don't have one already).
- Passing the collection plate at the offertory hymn. - Be available to answer any questions visitors might have (ex. where restrooms are located).
- Help collect discarded bulletins after the service and put them in recycling
- . - Assist Treasurer with counting and reporting on the money collected that day. How often a person serves depends on how many people volunteer.

Scheduling can be flexible. Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to this ministry of welcome and hospitality.

Altar Flower Procedure

Email Lynn Graham (grahammowery@aol.com) or phone her (740-593-5098) to give her your dedication. Lynn will order flowers through Hyacinth Bean Florist and give your name and address for billing. The cost is approximately \$90.00 for the arrangement and delivery. Lynn will print your dedication so that it appears in the e-news and bulletin.

If you wish special flowers or a more elaborate arrangement you can call Polly Creech (740-594-9302), our florist, and make those arrangements with her. Keep in mind that this MAY increase the cost.

OPEN DATES FOR FLOWERS FOR 2022

October 9, 16, 23, 30
November 13
December 4, 11, 18

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.



Vacation ---

This week Mother Deborah and Michael will be staying at her parent's summer cottage which looks out over Shawamegon Bay, Lake Superior.

I don't know about others, but I am jealous!

Below -- Michael has plans for fishing from the shore and a nearby pier, but his plans have been thwarted until this flock of Mergansers floating on the water moves on (fish eating ducks, see insert).



Contacts, Information

Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

[Staff](#)

[Campus Interest](#)

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

[Diocese Southern Ohio](#)

[Bishop Transition](#)

Pandemic Notes:

[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

[\[E\]Connections](#)

[Episcopal News Service](#)

[Episcopal Journal & Café](#)

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 -- Join us Sunday after the 10:30 service.

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.

[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](#).

LIKE us on Facebook [Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 45701](#)

Office Hours:

**The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd**, 64 University
Terrace, Athens OH 45701

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

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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