



## Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost

30 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 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 26-Tract 2):

Old Testament – Isaiah 1:10-18

Psalm 32: 1-8 (SUNG)

New Testament – 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12

Gospel – Luke 19: 1-10

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

### The Collect

ALMIGHTY AND MERCIFUL GOD, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### The Gospel

**Luke 19:1010**



JESUS ENTERED JERICHO and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

### **Gospel Engagement Question:**

Can you relate to struggling to be noticed like the character Zacchaeus?

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## **The Sermon**

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### **Healing the Crowd**

Once upon a time, fifteen years ago to be precise, several journalists working for *The Washington Post* teamed up with world renowned classical violinist Joshua Bell for a social experiment. Chronicled in the April 8, 2007 article titled *Pearls Before Breakfast: Can one of the nations' great musicians cut through the fog of a DC rush hour?* the experiment was for Bell to perform incognito as a street musician on his Stradivarius violin, made in 1713 by Antonio Stradivari himself during his "golden period" - which means the violin is both priceless and perfect - during early morning rush hour at the L'Enfant Plaza station in Washington DC and see how many people recognized him or the music written by Bach he performed.

Prior to the experiment, the journalists consulted with the music director of the National Symphony Orchestra who predicted Joshua Bell performing live in such a place would draw a crowd and would collect

\$150. However, on the morning of January 12, a Friday, that is not what happened.

Perhaps some of you have seen the video or remember reading the article detailing the results of the experiment. Of the little over 1000 people who were in the station early that Friday morning, about 37 people stopped for a minute or two and less than \$50 was tossed into Bell's violin case laying open on the ground. No crowd gathered. And when a few of the people who passed by or briefly stopped were interviewed, only one person, a woman, reported recognizing Bell and no one recognized the pieces of music he was playing. Some acknowledged he was pretty good, one reported that even though he didn't know what piece of music was being performed it moved him and made him feel at peace.

In the end, the journalists concluded that the demands of modern life are stronger than the beauty that is often in our midst. However, to this day, beauty in the form of street musicians still shows up there and in other places.

In our Gospel reading today there were also crowds of people on their way to wherever they were going in the city of Jericho where Jesus was passing through on his way to Jerusalem. We didn't hear the crowds were gathered around Jesus, he wasn't stopped to teach on a street corner, he was just one person among a crowd of humanity that was as busy with the demands of their time as those in Washington DC 15 years ago.

But one person in the busy city was curious enough to realize there was something beautiful in their midst, and he wanted to get close enough to see for himself. The man named Zacchaeus was not like the rest of the crowd. Luke's Gospel tells us a lot about Zacchaeus. We are told his job was chief tax collector, which meant he was probably not liked by the citizens of the city, and he was rich. We also heard he was inhibited from seeing Jesus because he was small in stature, and he couldn't get through the crowd of people.

Most commentators and preachers focus on Zacchaeus' job and wealth as reasons why he was called a sinner by the people in the crowd. Maybe because it is easier for most of us to relate to despising the head of tax collectors because most of us do not like hearing from the IRS. But there may be more to Zacchaeus the author of Luke's Gospel wanted us to recognize, and that has to do with his being small of stature.

Thanks to the diversity of Biblical scholars who share their perspectives with us, we are given many facets through which to interpret the Bible. This can be good because sometimes we might miss details

that stand out to someone with a different perspective. For example, Professor of Theology and Mission at Fuller Theological Seminary, Amos Yong has pointed out that disabled people notice something in the story of Zacchaeus that often gets overlooked: that Zacchaeus was most likely what some people call a little person.

In Jesus' time, there was just as much body shaming as we have in our modern times. At that time, being short or small was considered evidence of a person's sinful nature and short and little people were negatively stereotyped as greedy, closed minded, and unable to get close to God. Which could be why the crowd called Zacchaeus a sinner when Jesus called him down from the tree and invited himself over to Zacchaeus' house.

When given the opportunity to speak, Zacchaeus did not defend himself, but proclaimed his intention which was the opposite of the stereotype: to be generous to the point of giving reparations to those he had cheated. Jesus joyfully responded this was a sign of salvation and the reason Jesus came not only to Zacchaeus' house but became incarnate in the world. Jesus came to restore all people to right relationship with God, and in so doing shows us God's Kingdom is full of marvelous diversity. Jesus has a way of making room for those the crowds try to squeeze out or exclude, which can be for us as individuals and a church the reminder to always consider how we make room for each other and for those who might feel excluded or pushed to the back of the crowd.

When we look at this story through the perspective of the crowd, it is easy to judge Zacchaeus as the outcast in need of healing or restoration instead of realizing the crowd is in just as much need of healing. The crowd judged Zacchaeus on his size, something we call ableism today. They didn't recognize the intention of Zacchaeus, but Jesus did.

By proclaiming Zacchaeus a child of Abraham Jesus is reminding the crowd Zacchaeus is one of God's beloved, just as much as they are.

Zacchaeus might not have been able to see Jesus through the crowd, but he did recognize the beauty, the hope, the salvation Jesus brought and acknowledged his own desire and need for salvation. Not only did Zacchaeus stop in a busy rush hour, he found a way to get around the crowd and get closer to Jesus. His desire and effort were noticed by Jesus who in turn recognized salvation was near not only in himself, but in a heart that desires to live into that salvation by using what he had to repair damage in hopes of restoring relationships.

Fifteen years ago, well over 1000 people missed the opportunity to

come close to joy for a few moments because they were in the crowd hustling, doing what they needed to make their living. They even ignored the few Zacchaeus' among them who recognized beauty on a winter morning. It can be easy to get lost in a crowd, or in longing for the security of the past, or in the anxieties or grief of the present, or in the fear of the future, and miss the moments of joy, beauty, and even salvation that continue to show up all around us, whether or not we recognize them. It can also be easy to feel resentment or anger when we try to offer generosity or some bit of hope or beauty in our ministries here on campus and watch the crowds pass us by. Perhaps we can take comfort in today's Gospel that God always recognizes those moments of beauty. And even if we miss them the first time, or the second time, the invitation is always present to stop, notice, and come close to beauty whether in the performance of a street musician, a sunrise, the song of a bird, a hymn, an expression of generosity, forgiveness, an act of kindness, or some other incarnation of the of the love of God here on earth.

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A sermon by The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, 30 October 2022, at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio.

### **Sermon Engagement Questions:**

Read the *Reflection Zacchaeus: Short and Un-seen* published by Baylor University in 2012 for more insight on the disability justice interpretation of this story. To learn more about disability justice in the church, read *My Body is Not a Prayer Request* by Amy Kenny, Brazos Press, 2022

### **More:**

[\*\*Pearls Before Breakfast: Can one of the nation's great musicians cut through the fog of a D.C. rush hour?\*\*](#) Let's find out. - The Washington Post (By Gene Weingarten, April 8, 2007)

The Joshua bell metro video on YouTube:

[\*\*\(original 2007\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*\(again with comments 2017\)\*\*](#)

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

BIRTHDAY: Katherine Dygas (11/5), Betty Larson (11/5)

FOR THE DECEASED: Fausta Gutiérrez, Jan Gault

\*\* 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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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/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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**Sunday, November 6, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, November 6, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (All Saints)**

**Sunday, November 6, 3:00 p.m. - - Newly Refurbished Organ Celebration**

**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. 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

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

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### Jan Gault

Jan Gault died Saturday morning peacefully at her daughter Susan's home in Lancaster. More information is forthcoming, but tentatively, the service will be in the church, Saturday, November 19 at 1:00pm.

**Rest in Peace Janice Gault.**

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### All Saints Necrology

All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, November 6, 2022. If you would like the name of a deceased loved one added to the All Saints' Roll to be read during the service, please notify our Parish Administrator, Barbara Martin, **no later than**

**Tuesday, November 1** for inclusion in this year's Necrology. The Church Office telephone number is 740-593-6877, or you can submit names by email at [barbara@chogs.org](mailto:barbara@chogs.org).

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**Newly Refurbished Organ Celebration  
Sunday, November 6, 3:00 p.m.**

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### Daylight Savings Next Week

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday, November 5 so you can enjoy an "extra" hour of sleep and won't be an hour early for church.



# Stewardship Pledge Season

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is a pledge? A pledge is a promise. A stewardship pledge is a promise we make to the ongoing spiritual life of Good Shepherd. We promise to make a financial donation in order that the church may continue to exist in our lives and in our community as the place we find spiritual fulfillment, fellowship, guidance, and ministry.

I pledge each year to Good Shepherd because I am connected to the place, the people, and the liturgy. My pledge matters to the church, it matters to me, and I hope that your pledge matters to you.

Parishioners and friends have generously contributed financially to special infrastructure projects such as the organ refurbishment/rebuilding and the kitchen renovation. Yet it is through our pledge donations that we pay our daily bills, afford four staff members, and keep the doors open and welcoming to all.

We should be so proud of the work we do, given our limited resources. Our parish is never short of creativity, energy, love, compassion, and curiosity. Let us continue to be there for one another, for our beloved Church of the Good Shepherd, and for God as faithful servants of Jesus Christ.

Please join me and my family in making a pledge of financial support in this coming new year. You can download a pledge card pdf using this link: <https://www.chogs.org/chogarchives/PledgeCard2023.pdf> and mail it back to Parish Administrator, Church of the Good Shepherd, 64 University Terrace, Athens, Ohio 45701. You are also encouraged to bring it in person to a Sunday service or drop off in the church office during the week. We hope to have all pledges turned in by November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Alex Buckley, Senior Warden

Editors Note: Many of you have, or will, also receive information by mail.

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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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## Happy Halloween from The Holy Ghost

**A Spirited Comic** by John Hendrix, published by Abrams Comicarts, New York, 2022

# THE HOLLY GHOST



To celebrate All Hallows' Eve tomorrow:  
here are a few prayers and blessings:

### Scottish Prayer For All Hallows'

From ghoulies and ghosties and  
long-legged beasties and things  
that go bump in the night, Good  
Lord, deliver us!

### Irish Blessing for All Hallows' Eve

At All Hallows' Tide, may God keep you  
safe

From goblin and pooka and black-  
hearted stranger.

From harm of the water and hurt of  
the fire.

From thorns and bramble, and all other  
danger.

From will o' the wisp haunting the mire.

From stumbles and tumbles and  
tricksters to vex you.

May God in God's mercy this week  
protect you.

## Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

[Staff](#)

[Campus Interest](#)

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

[Diocese Southern Ohio](#)

[Bishop Transition](#)

[\[E\]Connections](#)

[Episcopal News Service](#)

[Episcopal Journal & Café](#)

## 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 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](mailto:revdebwoolsey@gmail.com).

**To find out more about Good Shepherd** and other matters, please contact Alex Buckley, Senior Warden, at 740-593-

## [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

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**, 64 University  
Terrace, Athens OH 45701

740-593-6877  
chogs@chogs.org  
[www.chogs.org](http://www.chogs.org)

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:**  
Masks are required.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday  
740-593-6877  
chogs@chogs.org

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Blessings !

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

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