



Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

11 September 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 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19-Tract 2):

Old Testament – Exodus 32: 7-14

Psalm 51: 1-11 (SAID)

New Testament – I Timothy 1: 12-17

Gospel – Luke 15: 1-10

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

The Collect

GRANT US, O LORD, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; 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 15:1-10

ALL THE TAX COLLECTORS and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is

lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Gospel Engagement Question:

Jesus mentions joy multiple times in today's Gospel. Why do you think the religious leaders criticized Jesus instead of sharing joy?

The Sermon

What's Found After Loss

Tears and fears and feeling proud, to say I love you right out loud, dreams and schemes and circus crowds, I've looked at life that way. But now old friends are acting strange, they shake their heads, and they tell me that I've changed. Well, something's lost but somethings gained in living every day.

Even if you are unfamiliar with the songs of singer songwriter Joni Mitchell, perhaps you recognize the lyrics of one of her best loved songs that was featured in the movie that was last year's *Academy Award Winner* for Best picture, *Coda*. While the performance of the song *Both Sides Now* was moving in the movie, Joni Mitchell herself brought something even more profound to the song a few months ago when she sang it at a concert no one expected her to give.

Joni Mitchell has had a long career. *Both Sides Now* was written in 1967, when she was in her early 20's and it became a hit. Possibly because the lyrics are a wise reflection of how life has its painful side that can inhibit delight and happiness. The song is also about how when both sides of life can be held together, both what is lost and what is found can

give us something better than innocent certainty, they give us joy.

In 2015, Joni Mitchell suffered a brain aneurysm. While she survived, the brain aneurysm left her unable to do most of the things you and I take for granted: walking, talking, sitting down in a chair. Through daily physical therapy, Joni slowly healed. Not over a period of days, but over the last 6 years. She learned how to play guitar again by watching videos of her younger self. She had to relearn the songs she wrote. This summer, singer and songwriter Brandi Carlyle gave a concert with Joni Mitchell where she and several other famous singers provided back up for Joni. It was a beautiful concert. Joni can no longer stand for long periods of time, and in a strong show of love and respect everyone on stage was seated, like she was. Her voice has changed significantly, it is much deeper, but no less beautiful. When she faltered on a lyric, either because of emotion or forgetfulness, Brandi quietly, subtly provided it and then let Joni sing.

Of all the songs she sang at that concert, it was *Both Sides Now* that moved people to tears. You can watch a video of it on You Tube. Perhaps because 78-year-old Joni deeply embodied the song she wrote so long ago with a wisdom that is more than philosophical: it was spiritual and physical. Joni Mitchell isn't just an elder who has healed, she is showing us as individuals and as a country how we can heal after a tragedy. She shows us moving forward well means not forgetting or ignoring the past. We move forward well when we hold both sides, the good and the bad, the pain and the hope, the past and the present, what has been lost, and what has been found together. That is how we heal and grow into the joy of God's Kingdom.

This is the same wisdom of Jesus' parables we heard in today's Gospel where Jesus responded to the criticism of religious leaders with two stories about the rejoicing that happens when someone found what was lost. In both parables, the seeker never gave up, even if it was difficult or dark, if they were tired, even if they didn't know where to look. It could be said the joy in the finding resulted because of how challenging the seeking was. In both parables, the joy of the person who found what was lost was so great they couldn't keep it for themselves, they had to share it by inviting others to join them, illustrating joy is what can both draw us and hold us together.

A common interpretation of these parables is to associate the lost sheep or coin with people who have left the church. But I wonder if that is a mistake, because Jesus didn't tell these parables in the context of church communities. He told them in response to criticism he was hanging out with the wrong kind of people; quite possibly as an attempt to discredit him. This wasn't about worship; this was about who Jesus ate dinner with. This can lead us to assume that Jesus supported the tax

collectors and sinners, but I don't think that was the case either. Jesus loved them, but the joy of heaven, according to the Gospel, comes from the change of heart that leads to the kind of life God wants for us. That's what it means to repent, it means to change.

There has been a lot of change in our world and in our lives, in the last year, in the last two years, in the last twenty-one years since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and thwarted attack on the Pentagon. Many of us might be feeling overwhelmed or fatigued from all the changes, because many of these changes have caused losses. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, not only caused the loss of thousands of lives, but the economy also suffered losses that took years – not days not weeks not months, years – to recover from. It also caused a feeling of the loss of security in our country. The Covid-19 pandemic has not only caused the deaths of over a million Americans, it has also caused losses to the economy and institutions, families and friendships. We could also say it has contributed to a loss of trust in the government and leadership, eroded the feeling of community, and care for the vulnerable and the common good.

Just like Joni Mitchell's song *Both Sides Now*, loss of innocent certainty, is only one side. There is the other side. Both tragedies did cause a lot of loss. And there was also something found.

A friend of mine was a chaplain at Ground Zero, serving out of St. Paul's Episcopal Church not far from The World Trade Center. He spoke of how Ground Zero became a sacred place, hallowed ground where there were daily interfaith worship services. The families of the lost, the rescue workers, the people who survived the attacks, and others gathered together every day outside to pray, regardless of their faith. They supported and cared for each other by being together. And they healed. Like Joni Mitchell, healing did not mean they were the same as before the attacks. They were changed, and their change was a type of repentance, because they had learned about people who were different by praying and worshiping with them. They experienced for themselves the joy loss and the gain together can bring.

This type of thing didn't happen only in New York. For a time, all over the country, people of all faiths intentionally came together to grieve, heal and to grow closer together in a holy joy. Here in Athens, people came together every year on September 11 to walk together along the streets, stopping at different churches to sing or pray. The walk started right here on this porch and ended at the Muslim center.

A year after the September 11 attacks, in an interview for the NPR program *On Being*, host Kristina Tippet interviewed a Muslim leader, a Quaker writer, and an Episcopal theologian. All three spoke about the

pain of loss, and the joy of what was found in the aftermath of the tragedy. They all especially thought it was good we had a curiosity about religions we weren't familiar with and sought to learn about them. All three also mentioned their worry that society's drive to return to what they called "business as usual" would cause us to lose the joy that had been found, and the wisdom of what we were learning.

Twenty years after that interview, many of us who experienced beauty of creating new or deepened relationships during the pandemic or hoped what we learned would create a new respect for and effort to include the disabled have the same concern. Only now the words are "return to normal" where "normal" seems to be working at a job in order to consume and things like community, citizenship, and care for the common good are considered outdated relics of the past.

But whether it is called "business as usual" or "return to normal" it will not bring the joy Jesus talked about in the Gospel. The joy we can see briefly as 78-year-old Joni Mitchell who has lost a lot from a brain aneurysm, struggled daily to heal, to relearn what the brain aneurysm took from her sings an old song with a new voice. Such joy comes when we accept change, when we are brave enough to grieve and heal, and grow closer to God and each other by making room for each other even when society that mistakes maturity for cynicism might criticize us for not getting back to what they call normal.

Today's Gospel reminds us there is something better than "normal", because what we called "normal" was never strong enough to nourish us during times of loss. What is strong enough to nourish us in times of crisis or tragedy or recovery is the holy kind of change, repentance. It is so good it cannot be hoarded like toilet paper; it invites sharing with others. This kind of change is a holy journey that will require work and effort, like the shepherd that searched for a sheep, the woman who had to go through a lot to find a lost coin and the singer songwriter who endeavored to learn again what she had lost. Through their joy, they all invite us to share the holy journey, the work, and the beauty of the transformation of the love that makes room for everyone on all sides. This is the journey where we will find God patiently, lovingly, waiting for us.

Sermon Engagement Questions:

The sermon talks about remembering both good and bad in the past as a way to get closer to the joy Jesus mentioned in the Gospel. Think back twenty one years to September 11, 2001: what do you remember?

If you were not born or too young to remember, take the opportunity to ask people who are older than you what they remember. By listening to others, you can learn a lot about the event, even though you were not there. This is not only a good way to learn, it is a good way to practice empathy.

Here is a link to Joni Mitchell “Both Sides Now” with Brandi Carlile Live at Newport Folk Festival, July 24, 2022 - [YouTube](#). This surprise performance at the festival is worth the time to watch.

The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost,
11 September 2022

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. **

AMMIVERSARY: Bob and Ann Shelly (9/12)

BIRTHDAY: Harolyn Brient 9/9

FOR THE DECEASED: Mary Culp

** 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://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

Wednesday, September 14, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's

Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 p.m. - - Choir Practice

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

Sunday, September 18, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, September 21, 7:00 p.m. - - Choir Practice

Sunday, September 25, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, September 28, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's

Wednesday, September 28, 7:00 p.m. - - Choir Practice

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)



Remembering the Peace Walk

For many years on September 11, people of all faiths in Athens gathered together to remember the attacks on the World Trade Center, reflect on how that event shapes us as individuals, a community,

and country, and to walk to gather to renew our commitment to heal and move forward in peace. Along the way we'd stop at different churches and places of worship to pray or sing. The Peace Walk started on the front steps of our parish and ended at the Muslim Center. Sadly, the Peace Walk is no longer happening, and each church and place of worship is doing its own thing. Since it began on our front porch, we held our worship service this morning outside so we could still pray with our community. In addition to special music, the service featured prayers we used during the Peace Walk. We are still committed to moving forward in peace for a better day.

Above: 12 September 2019

Below: 14 September 2017



CROP WALK

Crop Walk will take place on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 1:45 pm at the Athens Community Center. Interested walkers should contact David Burton (740-593- 5634 or email: drabeja02@yahoo.com).

If you are not a walker, that's OK. Donations are joyfully welcomed. In the past Good Shepherd has been quite generous in helping feed the hungry through this program. Athens receives 25% of the total raised. This year that amount will be divided equally between the Athens County Food Bank and the Community Food Initiative. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to October 2.

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](#).

[Follow this link](#) if you want **HELP WITH EASTERN KENTUCKY FLOOD RELIEF** directly via the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington.

[Follow this link](#) to support Humanitarian Response to the Crisis in Ukraine via ERD.

Alternatively 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.

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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