



## Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

18 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 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20-Tract 2):  
Old Testament – Amos 8: 4-7  
Psalm 113 (SUNG)  
New Testament – I Timothy 2: 1-7  
Gospel – Luke 16: 1-13

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

### The Collect

GRANT US, O LORD, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### The Gospel

#### **Luke 16:1-13**

JESUS SAID TO THE DISCIPLES, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him,



‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit

down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

### **Gospel Engagement Question:**

The parable can be confusing, but the author sums it up with: "You can't serve God and wealth."

Can you think of one way to use wealth to serve God?

## **The Sermon**

### **God's Kingdom Economy of Love**

*How could a parish participate in a local economy in a way that reflects our values as Episcopalians: things like inclusiveness, generosity, kindness, respect, connection to our community, and sustainable and environmentally conscience practices of production and energy use?*

This is the question posed to us by our former bishop several years ago. It is an intriguing question and a challenging one. The intention behind it was to wonder how we as a Church can meet our neighbors

where they are without proselytizing and letting them see us practicing what we believe beyond charity work. This made it particularly challenging because as a church we are more used to taking the charity approach of asking what our community needs and then using our resources to provide that need as best we can. By seeking to engage in a local economy – that is, a system of interaction and exchange - we needed a broader perspective and the courage to “move out of our lane of experience”, so to speak.

To participate in this question, as many of you know, we started a new kind of ministry. It looks like a coffee shop, but it isn't like any corporate franchise we are all familiar with. We call it CrossRoads Café because it operates at our location which happens to be the literal crossroads of University Terrace and Park Place and because it is also a crossroads of the secular and sacred. While the shrewd practice of purchasing everything from cars, houses, education, clothing, food, blue books, to coffee on debt is convenient and the socially accepted practice, one of our values is generosity, which is contrary to debt. So, we have a pay-it-forward model of operations at CrossRoads. It works like this: at CrossRoads Café your drink has already been purchased. If you like, you can purchase a coffee or tea drink of your choice, but technically, it is a donation for the next person who orders the same thing. This is why if someone doesn't have the cash to pay for a drink, it is no big deal. People can also contribute volunteer work for a cup of coffee or tea. So far this semester, one person has taken us up on that and done some weeding.

I never tire of watching people try to figure out our pay-it-forward system. It is pretty simple, but because it so contrary to the way corporate business operates, it can feel confusing. To understand pay it forward, all you have to do is adjust your thinking from debt based to generosity based. And that change in thinking is what is difficult, not getting a cup of coffee or tea at CrossRoads Café. I've seen people respond to that invitation to think differently with resistance. Some offer to leave their contact information when they didn't have cash. I've seen others return moments later with money. And then, there are the folks who I watch figure it out and it is like watching a heavy weight fall from their shoulders. They stand a little taller. They smile, and yes, I see that smile even behind a face mask. They relax. These folks return for coffee or tea on other days, and they give. They give much more than the \$2 suggested donation price on the sign because they are grateful to be our respected neighbors, and not treated like consumers.

Sometimes well-meaning folks suggest we get an electronic system so people can use their cards, but I have yet to discover one that doesn't depend on the debt system of hidden charges or percentages

taken by companies who are not involved in the direct line of coffee farmer to coffee roaster to us to our neighbor that is one of values. These folks mean well. They want to improve what we have and want CrossRoads to succeed. But it misses the point. We aren't trying to be the next corporate giant. We are trying to be the church in the world in a way that looks like Jesus, without being of the world. It can be a struggle to understand.

Just like a lot of folks struggle to understand the parable Jesus told in today's Gospel. When we look at the parable through the commonly accepted practices many corporations engage in that put profit above the wellbeing of people and see customers as disconnected consumers instead of neighbors, this parable is difficult to understand. Because it looks like Jesus is praising values of shrewdness or cleverness. But when we look beyond the parable to the part of the Gospel where Jesus was talking about practicing generosity and faithfulness with what has been given, we might start to realize what Jesus was getting at.

This parable is more of a description of the way things are, that when pushed people can be clever with what they have to get themselves out of trouble. Jesus' comments after the parable appear to be asking what if people thought differently and used the abilities of intelligence, creativity, and adaptability to practice the values that exemplify God's love in the world -- values of inclusion, generosity, respect, connection to community, sustainable and environmentally conscience production and use?

Sound familiar? We could say today's Gospel is a lot like the question Bishop Breidenthal asked several years ago. As we've experienced, once you can let go of trying to understand the question through corporate practices based on greed, it changes or transforms into a life-giving question. To participate with us in this question, Bishop Breidenthal gave us money he had been given to start our coffee shop without taking on debt. He paid it forward, and never asked for money back or for a return on his investment. Instead, he delighted in the reports I gave on how we were doing and when he had insight as to how to handle challenges, he shared them. Always, he was a supportive presence. Over the years I've worked with a few student groups at Ohio University in the school of business who were assigned projects to help us with CrossRoads Café. At first, I thought they were supposed to help us figure out some of our challenges, but then I realized they were assigned projects for what they could learn from us. It was another way to participate in the question and let them experience how we were doing something different that makes a difference, something good, something rare that their professor wanted them exposed to. That's when I realized it was our turn to pay it forward by sharing our time and story of how we are

practicing what we believe. The professor tells me how the students who work with me on their projects have positive experiences, and in some cases, learned more than he hoped.

Ultimately, the question, whether it's expressed the way Jesus asked it or how the bishop asked, is how we engage in God's Kingdom economy of love while living in a world that relies on a debt economy that sees consumers instead of neighbors, scarcity instead of generosity, power instead of inclusion, where greed is good, and love is not. As we are learning, it isn't easy because people are far more likely to experience greed and scarcity than of the love of God. Which means our little coffee shop ministry isn't so little because it is a glimpse at something different, something life-giving. It proves there is another way to be as people, as community, as individuals, yes, even as a business, that does not rely on debt or greed. It can be liberating to learn we don't have to be limited to or constrained by systems of debt or greed.

Which is why today's Gospel is so important. It reminds us being followers of Jesus means practicing what we believe even when someone else might not understand. When someone doesn't understand, or when we struggle, it might be because we've been too deeply embedded in a system that is not based on God's Kingdom economy of love. When we can step out of that system and invite others to consider the perspective of God's kingdom economy of love then we can stop using so much time criticizing the faults in the current systems and begin creating institutions, businesses, even a politic based on generosity, respect, inclusion, kindness, connections to community, sustainable and environmentally conscience production and care. The Gospel practiced in real life. Through Christ, it is possible. We've seen a tiny bit of it right here.

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### **Sermon Engagement Questions:**

The sermon indicates we can use our gifts of creativity, intelligence, and adaptability to serve God instead of self.

If you could choose, what would you change and why?

How would you go about making the change?

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The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost,  
18 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. \*\*

BIRTHDAY: Ilona Carlson Bond (9/18), Sally Spero (9/23), Cita Strauss (9/24)

ALTAR FLOWERS: The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the birthday Mary Harmison by Lois Wagner. (Above)

\*\* 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](mailto:grahammowery@aol.com).

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 21, 7:00 p.m. -- Choir Rehearsal**

**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 Rehearsal**

**Sunday, October 2, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

**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**

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

**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**

**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)**

### **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.

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### **Hiring New 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, contact Mother Deborah at [revdebwoolsey@gmail.com](mailto:revdebwoolsey@gmail.com).



Pay starts at \$12 an hour. No experience necessary, we provide paid training.

The Job description is available on our website [chogs.org](http://chogs.org) ([printable pdf file](#)) and or request one from Mother Deborah.

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## 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](mailto: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.

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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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[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.

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## Two New Bishops

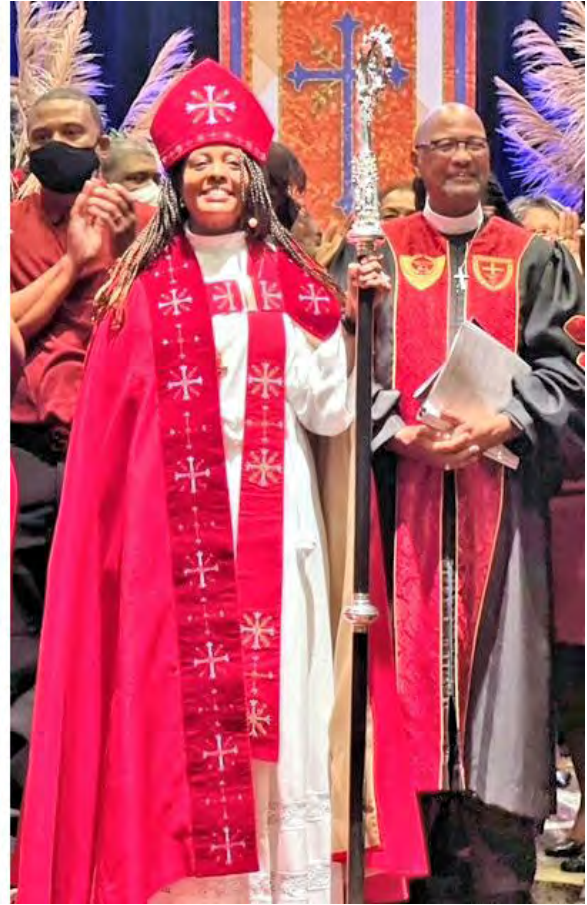
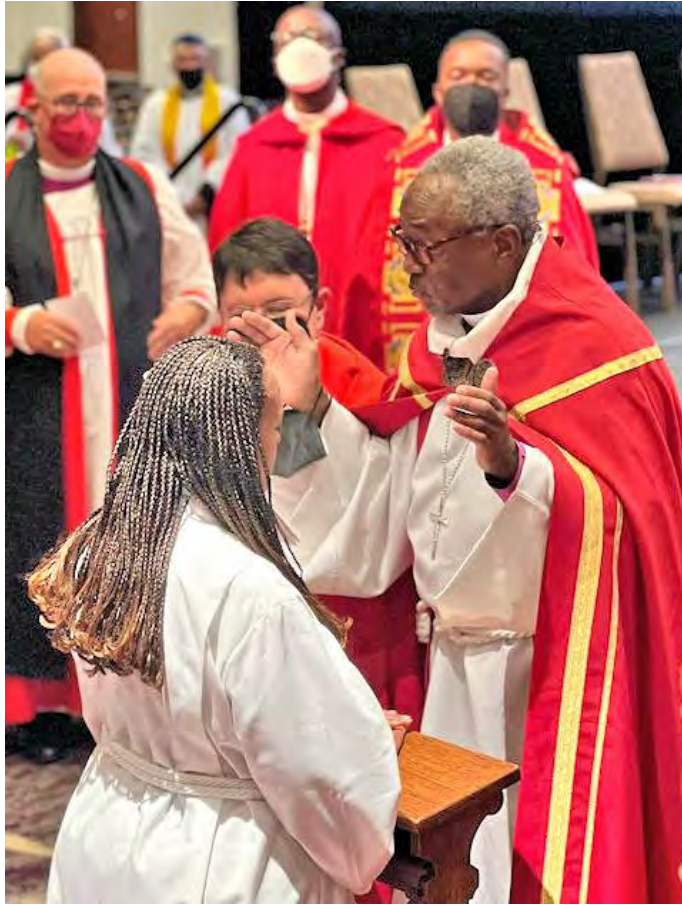
We rejoice with the whole Episcopal Church in the consecration of two new bishops on Saturday, September 17, 2022. The Rev. Phyllis Spiegel (former priest in our diocese) was consecrated the 12th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah. The Rev. Paula Clark was consecrated 13th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. It was a glorious day for the church!

Below are pictures of The Rev. Phyllis Spiegel's consecration as 12th Bishop of Utah. The former Presiding Bishop The Most Rev. Katharine Jefforts Schori presided. Phyllis was a priest in this diocese.



Below taken from the Presiding Bishop's Facebook page are pictures of Paula Clark's consecration. The Presiding Bishop Michael Curry presided. Paula is the 13th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. She is their first female bishop. She has recovered from an accident and while recovering her husband died. Her perseverance and the diocese of Chicago's patience

and support are inspiring.



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**Nice to see the return of the student music assistants.**



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.chogs.org)

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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