



## Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday

Holy Eucharist B

30 April 2023

**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 Fourth Sunday of Easter and  
Good Shepherd Sunday

New Testament – Acts of the Apostles 2: 42-47

Psalm – 23 (Sung)

Epistle – I Peter 2: 19-25

Gospel – John 10: 1-10



<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

### The Collect

O GOD, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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## The Gospel

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### John 10:1-10

JESUS SAID, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”



### Gospel Engagement Question:

Why do you think the disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying to them?

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## The Sermon

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### Understanding Jesus

Have you ever experienced difficulty understanding a new concept, reason for a change, or different method of doing something than you are familiar with? I have watched many people struggle to understand the pay-it-forward model for our coffee shop ministry CrossRoads Café because it is so completely different from the debt or

transactional system of business that is the cultural norm. If you can relate to struggling to understand something different, then perhaps you might find today's Gospel comforting, because we just heard Jesus' disciples shared that same struggle.

Today's Gospel reveals Jesus' attempt to explain to his disciples how they can tell he is more than a wisdom teacher, prophet, or miracle worker, he is God's Messiah. His explanation utilized concepts his disciples were probably familiar with in the description of what makes a good shepherd. In Jesus' day a ruler was respected for being aware and sympathetic to the conditions of their people, a characteristic described as knowing their people by name. Modern rulers or leaders have a much different set of standards and expectations. It seems the more powerful or influential or important a modern leader is, whether it's a president, CEO, military general or admiral, or business owner, the farther removed they are from their employees, customers, and community. When Jesus is mistaken for a modern leader, there is a tendency to ascribe the same distance and indifference to him, which can make it difficult to understand what Jesus meant about being a good shepherd in today's Gospel. To help his disciples and us understand he is of God, not their cultural norm, Jesus switched gears and attempted to plainly explain he did not come for power, prestige, to accrue wealth or status, but so all people can have life and have it abundantly.

This can also be difficult to understand. Our modern culture struggles to define life as something other than consuming oxygen and nutrients, reproducing, and expelling waste. And when we hear the word *abundant*, we tend to think of big: big numbers, lots of stuff, that gives a sense of security. But in his life, death, and resurrection Jesus did not exemplify life or abundance that looked anything like that. Jesus shows us life is not necessarily just the basics, and abundance is not about accumulation, it is a practice.

Fortunately for us, there are examples of life in abundance right here, which can help us not only understand what Jesus was talking about, they can help us practice this stuff of resurrection life in our own lives and in this parish. One of my favorite examples is from a wedding several years ago. I learned about this wedding from social media, and it was the talk of the country for a brief time. If you are familiar with it, this is a good time to remember.

Photographers get to observe a lot of different family dynamics at weddings. Such events can be emotional and bring out all kinds of unresolved family issues. Like the wedding in Cana, they can also reveal resurrection life. This particular wedding took place in Ohio and like many families, the parents of the bride were divorced and had both married other people. Weddings can (but certainly don't have to be)

uncomfortable for those second spouses who are never really sure of their place in the family. The traditional roles of mother of the bride and father of the bride are pretty specific and don't leave room for any additions.

So, when the bridal march began, the photographer at this wedding was surprised to see the father of the bride came down the aisle by himself. He went directly to the bride's stepfather, who was seated several rows from the front, and invited him to walk not his daughter, but their daughter down the aisle together. The stepfather accepted the invitation with tears in his eyes and by the time the bridal march began again, no one at that wedding, not even the photographer, had a dry eye.

When the news media heard about this wedding, they reached out to the father and stepfather who both agreed to do interviews explaining why they did what they did. In those interviews it was revealed the two men did not get along well. They were not friends and described their relationship as strained. But, the father of the bride said, in that important moment in the bride's life, and the family's life, there was something far more important than limited traditional roles, there was love. The father of the bride recognized while he didn't necessarily like his ex-wife's husband, he is a good father figure for his daughter (which does not diminish nor eliminate his own fatherhood) and a good husband to his ex-wife and as he was about to walk his daughter down the aisle, he felt it necessary to make room for her stepfather, because he is part of the family. For his part, the stepfather understood it was equally necessary to stand in love with a young woman whose life he was an essential part of, who he also loves, and share in that journey down the aisle at her wedding.

It was perhaps the best gift a father and stepfather could give their daughter and son-in-law and it is a stunning example of the abundant life Jesus was talking about in today's Gospel. Abundant life isn't getting as much of whatever it is you think you want (whether that is money or food or property or status or prestige or attention or power) and holding onto it so no one else can have any. That grasping is called scarcity. Scarcity, just as it sounds, is scared there is not enough for everyone and is afraid to share or invite others in.

Abundant life is the belief and trust that we already have more than enough because God has already given us everything we all need. Therefore, abundant life is brave, vulnerable, and gracious in stepping back and making room, even for people or ideas that might make us feel uncomfortable. Discomfort does not always indicate someone is not safe. It can mean we are outside a comfort zone, which is the place where we can grow and learn and gain understanding.

That is what two men did at their daughter's wedding, and by so doing showed us all the abundant life of the Risen Jesus is not something for a

next life, it is already with us all, waiting for us to choose to live it. Alleluia.

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### **Sermon Engagement Question:**

What examples of abundant life can you think of?

Third Sunday of Easter, 30 April 2023 – Sermon by Rev. Deborah Woolsey, Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio

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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 all families and law enforcement affected by gun violence. 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.

THOSE WHOM OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED: Al S., Bud and Carol, Chris L., Jean R., Lia, Miriam, Sharon, R.C., Douglas and Gwynne Campbell, Ann Carswell, Zelma Coleman, Lee Kembell-Cook, Richard DeNune, Norm Fox, Debbie Hunsberger, John Jefferson, Peter Kachenko and family, Christine McGinn, Jeff Maiden, Rev. Ed Payne, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Virginia Richards, Jack Roach, Katyana Sayers, Bonnie Savage, Annette Secoy, Dale Showman, Michael Vaughn, Tom Walker and we pray for all who care for them. \*\*

BIRTHDAYS: Jacob Sheehan (4/29), Nadia Yisa Doko (4/29), Pam Rollins (4/30), Amelia Dygas (5/1), Lois Wagner (5/5), Margaret Kennedy Dygas

(5/5), Therese Lackey (5/6)

FOR THE DECEASED: Ron Schneider

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\*\* 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).

## 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/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, May 7, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Sharing Cabinet)

Sunday, May 14, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, May 18, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting

Sunday, May 21, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Discretionary sUNDA)

Wednesday, May 24, 11:00 a.m. - - Julie Nehl's Service

Sunday, May 28, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

LOOKING AHEAD:

Wednesday, May 24, 11:00 a.m. - - Julie Nehl's Service

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## Coffee Hour Schedule

May 7 Lois Wagner  
May 14 Dana Carlson  
May 21 Alex Buckley  
May 28 Anne Walker

## Dates Open for Altar Flowers

in May - 8th

in June - 4th, 18, 25th.

[To Altar Flower Procedure](#)

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

### The Sharing Cabinet

In late Fall of 2020, the four teams that prepared and served the hot lunches on Wednesdays, inspired by our creative Rector, came up with an idea to continue to offer food to our community. They found a small cabinet, put it on the front porch and have kept it stocked weekly with non-perishable items. We are not sure who takes the food, but folks who need it do. Often a team fills the cabinet on a Monday and by Saturday the food is gone.



Beginning on the first Sunday in May, with approval from the Vestry at its April meeting, we are asking the parish to help continue to offer this important ministry. Vestry has budgeted \$1,000 toward the stocking of the cabinet, but, as we are all aware of the soaring prices of everything, this doesn't go very far. To stock the cabinet costs an average of \$70 per week. Our plan is to apply for a diocesan grant to help further fund this ministry. At the same time, we are asking parishioners for contributions, either monetary or in-kind non-perishable items.

Examples of non-perishables are easily opened canned goods, rice, toilet paper, tooth paste, breakfast bars, etc. Unfortunately, beans and lentils often sit for weeks and don't seem to be popular, at least for our guests.

The first Sunday of each month will be designated Sharing Cabinet Sunday. Should you wish to contribute you can do so in one of two ways: (1) using the envelopes in the pews marked "Sharing Cabinet", or (2) bringing any non-perishable items on the first Sunday of the month. We will store those in the pantry in Nehls Hall.

Thank you for your help in continuing this important outreach ministry at Good Shepherd.



## Celebration of the Life of **Julia J. Nehls**

**May 24, 11:00 a.m.**

After working out multiple different schedules, the date that was found to work the best for Julie Nehl's service is Wednesday, May 24 at 11:00 am.

Details will be forthcoming about the reception and a link to watch the service live online.

[Julia's obituary.](#)

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## End of Choir Season

Today marked the end of the choir season and the last Sunday for the Choral Scholars until fall.

When you see any of the choir members please give them a big thank you for their dedication this year. Choir members are Nancy Covington, Kathleen Ristinen Jonas, Lois Wagner, David Burton, Allyn Reilly and Gregory Proctor.

Our bass choral scholar, Doug Grimm is headed home to North Carolina and then, later in the summer to Turkey to participate in an opera program. Our tenor choral scholar, Ben South and our soprano choral scholar, Kailey Klimkowski will be in Athens this summer so you will see them around. Unfortunately, our alto choral scholar had to drop out before the year ended.

Please express your thanks to them as well. They will be returning in the fall.

Choir members are always needed so please speak with Music Director, Marsha Reilly if you are interested.

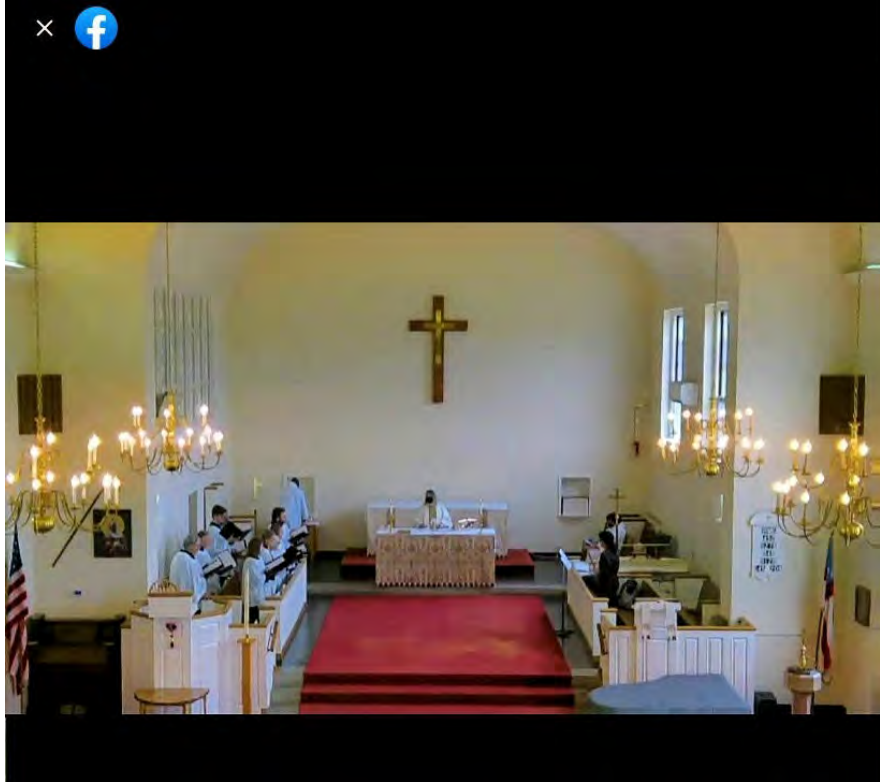




## Going Live Today

**Editors Note:** Camera in the balcony -- the service was streamed live today. The stream ends before taking communion out of privacy concerns. I did find it on Facebook [HERE](#). If you are not a Facebook regular I am not sure if the link works

without signing in. This service may appear on [YouTube](#) later. Below is a screenshot. (Ted Foster)



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 45701 was live. 6h · 🌐

### Good Shepherd Sunday

Good Shepherd Sunday Service...  
See more

You and Deborah Woolsey 1 32 👁

35 People reached 2 Reactions, comments, and shares

32 3-Second Video Views Retention curve

View more video details

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🧑🏻

Comments Hide

Most relevant ▾

we know you are joining us!  
Like Reply Unpin 6h

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 45701 · 0:00  
We are so glad that you are joining us for Eucharist this morning. Comment below so we

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## For Bishop Transition News and Updates

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

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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 (including Ukraine) please consider contributing to [Episcopal Relief and Development \(ERD\)](#) which is the official ministry of the Episcopal Church.



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## Contacts, Information

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### Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

### Pandemic Notes:

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

[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](#)

In light of local conditions, we still recommend wearing masks inside the church building **regardless** of vaccination status.

**Office Hours:** 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Masks recommended.

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 recommended.

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 740-593-5513 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).

## [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

**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)

Church's  
[YouTube](#)  
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[the Good Shepherd](#)  
[45701](#)

**Office Hours:**  
Masks recommended.

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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