



Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Eucharist D

5 January 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 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

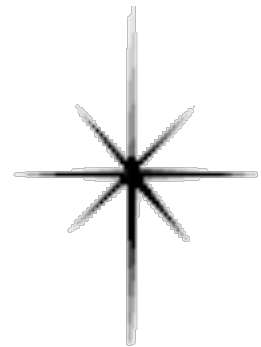
Old Testament – Isaiah 58: 1-12

Psalm – 112: 1-9 (Sung)

New Testament – I Corinthians 2: 1-16

Gospel – Matthew 5: 13-20

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>



The Collect

SET US FREE, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Gospel



Matthew 5:13-20

JESUS SAID, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Gospel Engagement Question:

Which part of the Gospel spoke to you?

The Sermon

Did Jesus Write A Song?

Despite its mysterious origin, there is a song that has come to be called an American Anthem because it can transcend individuality and make people feel connected. It is a simple song about hope. It is sung by children, in

churches of every Christian denomination, professional singers, even rap stars. Although it predates the Civil Rights movement, it was embraced by activists because of its simple, powerful, hopeful message that can unite both sides of any issue. To this day, it is still called upon to bring peace in potentially volatile situations.

It happened not too long ago, in 2018 in Charlottesville, VA, during a white supremacy rally. A group of people of all races, including many religious leaders and prominent academics, had legally gathered on the other side of the street from the rally and intended to stand in silence in peaceful protest. However, the white supremacists turned on the silent protesters and taunted them by shouting insults and threats. One of the organizers of the protest, the Rev. Sekou, an author and theologian, noticed the people who had showed up to protest were not emotionally or spiritually prepared to be verbally assaulted like that and were beginning to get anxious, angry, and aggressive. He realized if something wasn't done to change the atmosphere, things might escalate in a direction that would not be the peaceful protest he and other organizers had intended.

So, he broke the silence by beginning to sing the one song he knew everyone there already knew. A song deeply rooted in civil rights, in Christian religion, a song so simple and hopeful yet powerful enough to change the atmosphere. He began to sing: *This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,*

It wasn't long before everyone was singing. Not only did the song break the tension of the protestors, but the white supremacists also backed off. According to the Rev. Sekou, "they didn't know what to do with all that joy."

That is the power of the song, *This Little Light of Mine*. Although no one has ever been able to trace its origins, it is believed the song was inspired by the very Gospel reading we heard this morning, which I do not doubt. The song does what Jesus was explaining in today's Gospel when he talked about his followers being a light; it exposes things as they are while lifting up what they could be. That's the thing about light, it doesn't shine for its own sake, it illumines what is around us. Without light it is difficult to find what we want or need, it lets us recognize what is potentially harmful before we touch it, or if it soft. It helps us recognize who and what is around us. Light is both singular and plural at the same time, which is important for today's Gospel.

When we read or listen to today's Gospel and hear or read Jesus say the words, "You are the light of the world," we might interpret that Jesus is referring to us as individuals. We can blame the English language for that misinterpretation, because in the original language the Gospel was written in, the word *you* is not singular, it is plural. If more southerners had been involved in translating the Gospel, it might more accurately read, "All y'all are the light of the world."

The light Jesus was talking about wasn't like the single flame of a candle or beam of a flashlight; he was talking about how all his followers joining together to show love for God and their neighbors through what they say, and do, and even sing, can be like light by exposing God's love present in the world. When God's love is exposed, it can illumine our world in unexpected ways, like revealing things even the most divided of us have in common. Or revealing some beliefs like white supremacy for the evil they are. It isn't the light itself, but how it reveals God's presence and love that matters. That is what the song *This Little Light of Mine* is about and why it has endured for hundreds of years.

It is also a good way to understand the Church. No parish is light unto itself, nor is every individual member; it is our collective light, whether we participate in person or online, that can reveal God's love in the world. As wonderful and talented as each of us are individually, when we work together, we can be what Jesus was talking about in today's Gospel.

Later today we will hold the annual parish meeting. I know not many people look forward to such events. Parish meetings are not fun nor are they entertaining, they aren't meant to be. They also aren't actual ministry to and with our neighbors, which is why some folks do not want to attend. Others do not attend because they fear there will be tension or anxiety over changes in the parish. The purpose of the parish meeting is to set things up so the parish can function as a light for another year by electing new people to serve on vestry and witnessing the budget the vestry approved. It's an opportunity to learn every parish has some basic necessities to attend to, even if they are not exciting. But these necessities might be appealing to some members and could be the beginning of an interest that might mature into participating in the parish in a new way.

The meeting is also an opportunity to express gratitude to people who have and do work hard in the parish, to learn about the past year and what we hope for this year. It is also an opportunity to pray together for each other as a whole. To realize we are not all there is, our light is part of the larger light of the diocese. And the diocese is part of the light of the National Episcopal Church, which can be both a comfort and source of encouragement.

Not everything we do is exciting, but it is part of being together, being a little light that we shine, just like the song says, into the world so the world knows it is not abandoned, that God is present, and God loves everyone, no exceptions.

Whether it is big or small does not matter as much as the light Jesus spoke of in the Gospel still shines.

2023, at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio.

Sermon Engagement Question:

How can you be part of the light at Church of the Good Shepherd?

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 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., Connie D., Gloria R., Jean R., Lia, Miriam, Sharon, T.C., Ann Carswell, Zelma Coleman, Lee Kembell-Cook, Richard DeNune, Roy DePue, Norm Fox, Lindsey and Regina Golden, Debbie Hunsberger, Bob and Nancy Jackson, John Jefferson, Peter Kachenko and family, Ann Lloyd, Christine McGinn, Jeff Maiden, Julie Nehls, Betty Oltorf, Donald Oney, Sandy Oney, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Virginia Richards, Flo and Jack Roach, Nancy Rue, Annette Secoy, Dale Showman, Michael Vaughn, Mary-Anna Welch, and we pray for all who care for them. **

BIRTHDAY: Michael Wootton (2/11)

DECEASED: Ruth Vogel

** 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.

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/ccclive-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, February 12, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 12, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, February 14, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting (Nehls Hall)

Sunday, February 19, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 19, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Discretionary Sunday)

Sunday, February 19, 3:00 p.m. - - Celebration Concert II featuring our Choral Scholars and other guests.

Tuesday, February 21, 5:30 p.m. - - Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 22, 11:30 p.m. - - Ashes to Go

Wednesday, February 22, 5:30 p.m. - - Service from Book of Common Prayer

Sunday, February 26, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 26, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, February 28, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting (Nehls Hall)

Coffee Hour Schedule

Feb. 12 Dana Carlson
Feb. 19 David Burton
Feb. 26 Anne Walker

Taken Dates for Altar Flowers this month.

[To Altar Flower Procedure](#)

Notes & Announcements (additional items in the Friday Bulletin)

Parish Annual Meeting



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 45701
21m · 🌐

We were grateful to have our annual parish meeting today via ZOOM. In this meeting, we were able to reflect on the past year and look forward to the upcoming year.

From all of us at Good Shepherd, may the peace of the Lord be always with you.

The screenshot shows a grid of approximately 15 participants in a Zoom meeting, many of whom are making peace signs.

This afternoon approximately 25 people logged in to the Zoom Annual Meeting this afternoon.

Mother Deborah thanked those many who did so much work this year and is looking forward to the future.

The nomination slate was approved as presented and the 2023 church budget was received as presented.

If you have not seen it, [HERE](#) is the reports brochure for the meeting.



Burning of the Palm Branches Sunday February 19

On the last Sunday in the season of Epiphany, it is tradition to burn the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday service to make the ashes that will be used on Ash Wednesday. Although we purchase ashes for the service, we can still practice the enjoyable tradition of burning palm branches. It's fun for all ages and an ancient practice in the church.

The Sunday service will conclude with the burning of the palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday service. If you still have your palm branches, remember to bring them that morning. If you can't be with us in person that day, feel free to drop last year's branches off at the church and we'll throw them in the fire for you.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, February 21**. That's the day the great tradition of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday returns to Good Shepherd!!!

Since we're returning in a smaller version of former years, we'll only serve from 5:30-6:30. And our offerings will be a little different. We'll provide regular pancakes, gluten-free pancakes and coffee. We ask YOU to volunteer to bring butter, syrup, and juice.

We also need volunteers to help set up (beginning at 5), to cook, to serve and to help clean up.

Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex and in Hobson.

Ash Wednesday February 22, 2023

Ashes to Go 11:30 – 12:30

Mother Deborah will be distributing ashes on the front porch of the church.

Service from the Book of Common Prayer 5:30 p.m.

Please join us as you are able for this lovely liturgy to begin the season of Lent.



Something to Look Forward To

A March Lenten Program - - "Practicing Compassion"

Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. (Nehls Hall downstairs)

[TO MORE DETAILS](#) Please consider joining us.

For Bishop Transition News and Updates

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

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.



Below is a sample of the artwork by Miichael Luelloff given to retiring vestry and officers this year and below that some words of truth that appear on the churchyard sign on occasionally.



Contacts, Information

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.

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.

[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

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

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

Blessings !

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

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