



## Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Eucharist

15 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 Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament – Isaiah 49: 1-7

Psalm 40: 1-12 (Sung)

New Testament – I Corinthians 1: 1-9

Gospel – John 1: 29-42



<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

## The Collect

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The Gospel



### John 1:29-42

JOHN SAW JESUS coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

### Gospel Engagement Questions:

John the Baptist twice mentions Jesus as a person of greater importance than he is, thus pointing away from himself and toward Jesus in what is often interpreted as a way to support his ministry and identify Jesus.

Have you ever supported someone like John the Baptist supports Jesus?  
What did it feel like?  
Have you been supported like John supported Jesus?  
What did that feel like?

## Where is Jesus

Early in the morning, before sunrise, Mary went to the cemetery, the one in a garden where only a few days before the dead body of Jesus had been placed. But when she came to the tomb, she saw the stone that sealed the tomb shut had been rolled away.

For her, the open door caused anxiety that can be summed up in one question: Where was Jesus? She ran to the other disciples who were not able to answer the question. So, she wept at the open door. The appearance of angels did not help. They would not tell her where Jesus was.

Then she heard someone behind her ask why she was weeping. She told him, she didn't know where Jesus was. He asked her the question: who are looking for? But – possibly because Mary had not been there when John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God from today's Gospel lesson, and didn't hear his question (which was too similar to be a coincidence) to the disciples' question: what are you looking for? she didn't recognize what the author of John's Gospel is hoping those of us reading the Gospel today will recognize: This is what Jesus had been inviting his followers to come and see when they asked Jesus where he was staying. We might think of this question as a literal one, expecting an answer that is the ancient equivalent of a street address we can program into a GPS that will take us to a physical location. But that is not what the author of John's Gospel intended with the question of where Jesus was staying. That question is theological and points to Jesus' identity, not a street address. And because it is theological, both questions of what and who will be answered in one.

John's Gospel – and all the gospels – are not historical documents, adventure stories, novels, nor murder mysteries. All the gospels are a type of theological reflection on who Jesus is and what that means. So, sometimes, especially in John's Gospel, we need to remember the end to understand the beginning.

When Jesus passed by John the Baptist (who is a different person than who is believed to have written John's Gospel) John the Baptist recognized Jesus is the Lamb of God. This is an important theological point. This lamb isn't a sacrificial lamb, like a scapegoat. The lamb the author of John's Gospel is comparing Jesus to is the Passover lamb, the last meal the people of God ate before their long journey from slavery to freedom. The Passover lamb is symbolic of that transition to freedom; it is the nourishment that reminds them of God's sustaining presence and desire for God's people. Jesus as the Lamb of God is therefore the spiritual nourishment of a new kind

of freedom God longs for all people: freedom from the evil of sin.

That is what the author of John's Gospel wanted us to recognize. So much so, it was stated in the very first chapter in the Gospel. Then, like the story of Exodus, we are taken on the journey of Jesus' ministry, his miracles, followers, encounters, and the conversations that are not verbatims but are again told through the lens of who Jesus is and what Jesus brings so we can learn to recognize God with us through all situations, transforming life into what God has always dreamed and longed for.

It is not always easy to recognize God present with us, even when we are trying to follow Jesus. Since tomorrow we will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I recalled something he wrote in a sermon about a time he needed the reminder God was with him. Now that Dr. King is thought of as a hero, we often forget he was a person of faith who made mistakes, struggled, felt disappointment, despair and then found help or hope and kept going. Instead of making him weak or less, these are reasons why I admire him. Life was not easy for Dr. King. The more vocal and visible he became the more threats of violence he received. He recalled times when he answered his telephone only to hear someone threaten to burn his house down, to kill him and his family. Sometimes that made him feel guilty, especially when he thought about his children, who were babies at the time. When he marched, more threats were shouted. Sometimes there were sounds of gunfire and he couldn't stop himself from flinching.

During a time when he was feeling scared, he spoke at a meeting about the now famous Montgomery bus boycott. He confessed it wasn't his best speech because he was trying to project a strength and a confidence he wasn't feeling. After the meeting he was approached by a Black woman he called Mother Pollard. The title Mother was one of respect for her age, wisdom, and support. She was not a professional religious person like a nun or priest. Mother Pollard took Dr. King aside and asked what was wrong. "Are the white people getting to you?" she asked. "You know we are all with you, don't you? And if we aren't with you, then you know God is."

Dr. King said he often thought of her wisdom. It was a reminder that revitalized him any time he felt despair. She helped him see or recognize God was with him when he couldn't.

Of course, Mother Pollard didn't mean God was present in the physical body of Jesus like when Jesus was on the earth. She meant God is incarnate, or present through the Risen Christ who brings the Holy Spirit to empower us to live into that resurrection life that is freedom from the sins of the world, including the sins of racism, segregation, and keeping people in poverty that Dr. King fought against.

Like the Risen Christ revealed to Mary Magdalene in John's Gospel, the one we usually hear on Easter Sunday, no one can keep the Risen Christ in one place. Not even a tomb can hold him back. Instead, he is with us, like

he was with Mary Magdalene. When she recognized the Risen Christ with her, he told her to tell those who had followed him, and she did. They told others, who told others and despite attempts to silence this good news by those frightened by it, and despite similar attempts to appropriate that good news by making it into that same stuff of sin Jesus took away, there are those who continue telling people to this day Christ is with us, bringing with him the chance to rid ourselves of sins like arrogance, elitism, greed, sexism, racism, agism, ablism, homophobia, transphobia and all the other forms sin can take.

We are free to live into the resurrection life of Christ, even though not everyone will understand or accept it. People like Dr. King show us there are those who will fight it, even take up violence in vain attempts silence it. But, like Jesus himself, resurrection life can't be locked away and forgotten. It can't even be killed. There is no place or person on this earth who can prevent Christ and resurrection life from being with us.

We might not always be able to see it. We all can get discouraged from time to time. That is why we need each other. To support each other, to be there for each other, even when we disagree. To be kind. To be creative. To laugh together. To be honest with each other. To pray together. And always to remind each other no matter what happens, we do know where Jesus is because we know who Jesus is. Jesus is the Son of God, the Lamb of God and Jesus is right here, with us, through the resurrection, just like he invited his followers and continues to invite us all, like Mary Magdalene, to see.

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A sermon by The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, *Where is Jesus*, 15 January 2023, at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio.

### **Sermon Engagement Question:**

What or who can distract you from recognizing God With You? What or who helps you recognize God With You?

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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.

THOSE WHOM OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED: Al S., Bud and Carol, Chris L., Gloria R., Jean R., Lia, Miriam, Scott, 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, 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, Dale Showman, Michael Vaughn, Mary-Anna Welch, and we pray for all who care for them. \*\*

BIRTHDAY: Coira Cottrill (1/17), Ingrid Ortman (1/20), Phyllis Dean (1/21)

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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).

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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://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/>

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# Coming up on the Calendar

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Thursday, January 19, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting (via Zoom)

Sunday, January 22, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 22, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 25, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting (Nehls Hall)

Sunday, January 29, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 29, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 5, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 5, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 5, 2:00 p.m. - - GS Annual Meeting (via Zoom)

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)

## Looking Ahead

Sunday, February 5, 2:00 p.m. - - Good Shepherd Annual Meeting (via Zoom)

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

Sunday, March 26 - - AGO concert for organ and instruments at 1st Presbyterian Church. Marsha Reilly and Kathleen Ristinen Jonas will be participating.

Sunday, April 30, 3:00 p.m. - - Celebration Concert III Dr. Gregory Crowell, guest organist.

## Coffee Hour Schedule

January 22 - - Alex Buckley  
January 29 - - Lynn Graham

## Open Dates for Altar Flowers

January 22  
January 29

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

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**In Honor of Monday's Observance of  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

*"In spite of the darkness of this hour we must not despair. We must not become bitter...."*

*"...At times life is hard, as hard as crucible steel. It has its bleak and painful moments. Like the ever-flowing waters of a river, life has its moments of drought, its moments of flood. Like the ever-changing cycle of the seasons, life has the soothing warmth of summers and the piercing chill of its winters. But through it all, God walks with us. Never forget that God is able to lift you from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope and transform dark and desolate valleys into sunlit paths of inner peace."*

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Eulogy for the Martyred Children, Birmingham, Alabama, 1963

On September 15, 1963, Dr. King preached at a funeral every clergy person dreads: that of a child. Only this funeral wasn't for just one child, it was for four girls ages 11, 14, 14, and 14 at the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church who had been killed when a bomb planted by members of the KKK went off inside the church. The loss of a child is horrible. The grief it causes parents and a community can be devastating. Such a grief can inspire retaliation, despair, and violence.

In his sermon for these young women, Dr. King eschewed such a response to grief. His sermon is a short but powerful read about how grief, even grief over such a devastating loss, can lead to healing.

These words might be helpful sixty years later as we continue to witness tragic deaths of children, and perhaps even more tragically acts of violence committed by children younger than the girls who died in the church bombing. Our refusal to grieve together and heal together has hindered that better day. But that does not mean the sun will never rise on such a day. It just means we must continue to strive for it.

There are those who never have the love of God in Christ and we could



reveal such love in our words, actions, acts of generosity, and kindness. We can even reveal God's love by showing the courage to acknowledge loss and grief in our personal lives and in the life of the parish. This past year we experienced a great deal of loss with people moving away and dying. We lost more people in one year than we have in any other year in the eight years I have been here. Compounded with so few people moving into Athens this year, this can bring us to despair. But we can grieve without despair. We can grieve with hope. We can listen to the words of Dr. King that are still relevant. We can love each other through this time, support each other, pray together, heal together, and continue to do the ministry we were called to do by being a unique Episcopal presence to our Ohio University neighbors every day. Any loss can cause fatigue. Like Dr. King wrote, "Never forget that God is able to lift you from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope and transform desolate valleys into sunlit paths of inner peace."

On MLK day, perhaps this reminder can become our prayer and our hope.

Many Blessings,

**Mother Deborah**

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For more information about the bombing and the full text of the Eulogy follow this link: [face2faceafrica "Eulogy for the Martyred Children"](#)

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## **Blessings on Another Semester at OU**

As another semester begins at Ohio University this week, we pray for all students, faculty, staff, and administrators and hope you all have a good semester.

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, especially Ohio University, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.* BCP page 824

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**Something to Look Forward To**  
**A March Lenten Program - - "Practicing Compassion"**  
Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. (Nehls Hall downstairs)

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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](#)

[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

[Staff](#)

[Campus Interest](#)

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

[Diocese Southern Ohio](#)

[Bishop Transition](#)

[\[E\]Connections](#)

### 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.

[Episcopal News Service](#)

[Episcopal Journal & Café](#)

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 740-593-5513 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).

**The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd**, 64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701

## [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:**  
Masks are required.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday

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

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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