



## Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Eucharist D

22 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 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament – Isaiah 9: 1-4

Psalm - 27: 1, 5-13 (Sung)

New Testament – I Corinthians 1: 10-18

Gospel – Matthew 4: 12-23



<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

## The Collect

GIVE US GRACE, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Gospel



### Matthew 4:12-23

WHEN JESUS HEARD that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of

Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James, son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

### Gospel Engagement Questions:

What part of today's Gospel catches your attention?  
What about today's Gospel are you curious about?

## The Sermon

## God's Kingdom Come Near

Right outside the front door of the church building something as wonderful as the Kingdom of Heaven manifested. In our neighborhood, God's Kingdom was so close we could have touched it, maybe some of us did.

An article dated September 13 in *The Post* introduced us to a remarkable Ohio University alumna who is in her own way, bringing God's Kingdom closer. Her name is Akisa Fukuzawa. She was born and raised in Tokyo Japan where she found her calling, her passion, playing baseball. She formed her first women's baseball team in the 1980's when she was in college, but because there were no degree programs in sports administration that accepted women in Japan at the time, Akisa turned to the United States, where she was accepted in the sports administration and management program here at Ohio University.

Here at OU, Akisa asked the question that continues to be a driving force for her today: why is there no women's baseball? There is a historical precedent for it, as anyone familiar with the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League that played during World War II knows. Akisa's question and OU faculty brought her to an internship with the Colorado Silver Bullets, a professional women's baseball team formed in the mid 1990's that played exhibition games to create a women's baseball league. When sponsors dropped out after only three years ending the Silver Bullets, Akisa had learned a lot but was no closer to the answer to her question.

In 2008, she started another women's baseball team, this time in Columbus, Ohio, the Columbus JetStream. They played other women's teams around the country for eight seasons. If you want to learn more, Akisa's story was featured on a lovely and inspiring episode of the television series *Little America*. At the end of that episode, a postscript reported Akisa is currently pursuing a PhD here at Ohio University to go deeper into the question of why there is no women's baseball. And last semester Akisa started another women's baseball team here in Athens. Perhaps some of you saw them play.

Akisa's passion does more than just make for inspiring television entertainment or newspaper stories. She is an embodiment of what Jesus was calling people to in today's Gospel: to repent and help him bring about the Kingdom of Heaven, what other Gospels refer to as the Kingdom of God. If you have a hard time equating baseball with God's Kingdom, there are plenty of books and movies that describe God's Kingdom of Heaven with baseball; the movie, *Field of Dreams* is just one you might be familiar with.

When Jesus was calling people to repent, he wasn't trying to shame them for sinful behaviors. The word *repent* doesn't mean to feel bad. It means to change direction; like a course correction, such as when the GPS recalculates your route after you miss a turn or a road is closed. The course Jesus is inviting people to change is that of the status quo, the culture, whose values are contrary to that of God. Like the idea that the only way to stop violence is with more violence, or the belief that the sole purpose of a person's life is to keep whatever economy, government or institution going.

Take for example the fishermen Jesus called in today's Gospel. They were serving the Roman Empire who occupied their land by participating in the economy that benefited Rome. Notice these fishermen all had equipment like boats and nets, which indicates they were probably pretty secure in their work, as long as they paid their taxes, and the fish population didn't decrease. Jesus called them away from supporting Rome's economy to follow him and help him bring God's kingdom a little closer. That is what he meant when he said following him would change them into fishers for people. For those in different lines of work, Jesus would have used different phrases. Perhaps for Akisa Fukuzawa, he would say something like, follow me and we'll play baseball with all kinds of people.

God's Kingdom is not a paradise in an afterlife we call heaven. God's Kingdom of Heaven is this world the way God dreamed it would be like when God created it. It is a world where God rules instead of imperial entities like the modern equivalent to ancient Rome. In God's kingdom we are all beloved children, which means there is no racism, no ableism, no economic disparity, no misogyny, or sexism which means baseball can be played and enjoyed by people of all genders, all ages, all abilities. Which is why, in her way, by pursuing her passion for women's baseball, and by continuing to challenge the powers that be that insist on men's only baseball, Akisa Fukuzawa is working to bring God's Kingdom a little closer to reality.

Akisa's story isn't just inspiring for what she is trying to do for women and the sport of baseball. She is reminding us that answering Jesus' call isn't just about leaving what you know and love to become an ordained minister or professional religious like a nun or a monk. That is a different and specific calling. All followers of Jesus are called to participate in the type of healing Jesus did in the Gospel. The problem with healing stories is we tend to focus on the miraculous physicality of healing, which can lead to moving farther away from God's kingdom by discriminating against anyone who is ill, disabled, differently abled, addicted, etc. God's kingdom is about healing that kind discrimination. The healing Jesus did is about restoring wholeness, not only to individuals, but to families and communities. The healing Jesus brings is the repairing of breaches in families, communities, and institutions as a sign of God's presence and the type of society that is centered on loving God and loving our neighbor, not a society centered around producing, consuming, and dividing.

This call isn't just for ancient fishermen or a woman who loves baseball. We are all called, in some way, to follow Jesus which means we are all called to help bring God's kingdom of heaven a little closer. What that looks like depends on our passion, on what we love. If we love our job, then we might ask how we can in or through our work help others feel valued, respected, cared for. If what we love is music, we can ask how through our love of music can we invite others to experience the connection or joy we find in it. If what we love is cooking, then we can ask how we can share what we enjoy about cooking to help teach others to prepare food for themselves and others. If what we love is the church, being together to worship, to praise God, then we can ask how we as a parish can continue to be an Episcopal presence to our neighbors. We already do that through our ministries, but maybe we are being called to new ministries or to renew ministries that have taken a hiatus.

Another thing we can do is recognize when someone else in our neighborhood is engaged in God's Kingdom of Heaven work, like OU PhD student Akisa Fukuzawa who dreams of a day when everyone who loves baseball can play together at whatever level we choose. And when we recognize someone doing Kingdom work, ask if there is anything we can do to help support it. Whether it is baseball, cooking classes, pay-it-forward coffee, music therapy, or providing a place to grieve losses, God's Kingdom of Heaven can and does break through the busyness of our routines when we answer the call to follow Jesus in the healing Kingdom of Heaven work, and support each other in that call together.

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A sermon by The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, God's Kingdom Come Near, 22 January 2023, at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio.

\*\* [Here is link to the Post article mentioned in the sermon.](#)

### **Sermon Engagement Question:**

What is one thing you can do to help make God's Kingdom closer?

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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., 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, Dale Showman, Michael Vaughn, Mary-Anna Welch, and we pray for all who care for them. \*\*

BIRTHDAY: Anne Walker (1/22)

FOR THE DECEASED: Robin Jones, Marjorie Stone

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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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## Religious Life Sunday

Today the Episcopal Church celebrates all people who have answered the call to live as a nun or monk. The Episcopal Church has about 18 religious communities. If you know a nun or monk, send them a little note of love and appreciation today.

**Prayer for Religious Life Sunday** from page 819 in the BCP

O Lord Jesus Christ, you became poor for our sake, that we might be made rich through your poverty: Guide and sanctify, we pray, those whom you call to follow you under the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, that by their prayer and service they may enrich your Church, and by their life and worship may glorify your Name; for you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## January 22, 2023 Religious Life Sunday!



Celebrating the many gifts of religious orders  
in the Episcopal Church

Go to [www.religiouslifesunday.org](http://www.religiouslifesunday.org)  
for free print and video resources to share with your parish  
on Religious Life Sunday.

*The Episcopal Church Welcomes you.* 

### 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

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Tuesday, January 24, 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 (Burning palm branches)

Sunday, February 5, 2:00 p.m. - - Good Shepherd 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)

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

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

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

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)

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## Coffee Hour Schedule

January 29 - - Lynn Graham

## Open Dates for Altar Flowers

January 29

[To Altar Flower Procedure](#)

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

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## Nominating Committee Report

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to invite individuals to participate in the various positions overseeing the life and stages of the parish. This year's committee consisted of outgoing vestry members Anne Braxton, Doug Dygas, and Sharon Huge. Mother Deborah was chairperson and Senior Warden Alex Buckley served in support.

**Senior Warden:** Alex Buckley (may serve three consecutive one-year terms, this will be her third year)

**Junior Warden:** Deb Hillard (may serve three consecutive one-year terms, this will be her first year)

**Treasurer:** Allyn Reilly (may serve unlimited consecutive one-year terms)

**Vestry:** Elect two individuals to serve three-year term: Norm Fox and Malin Irwin

**Delegates to Diocesan Convention:** Anne Walker and Allyn Reilly (We may send up to 4 delegates, the wardens automatically serve as other two delegates)

**Alternate Delegates to Diocesan Convention:** Lois Wagner and Curt Sherman (serve in case delegates cannot attend):

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## Reports for Annual Meeting

**Due this Friday, Jan. 27**

Anyone who oversees a ministry at Church of the Good Shepherd, please write a brief report on the ministry and submit it to Barb in the church office no later than Friday, January 27 so she can put them in the annual report.

Thank you for writing a report and thank you for your ministry.

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**Annual Meeting Sunday, February 5 at 2:00 p.m.**

Please join us for the annual meeting of the parish Sunday, February 5 at

2:00 pm. The meeting will be held on zoom to make it accessible for those concerned with weather and mobility challenges.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is primarily to vote on new vestry, wardens, treasurer, etc. and be presented with the parish's budget for the year. We also express gratitude for the ministry that has been done over the previous year and learn about upcoming events and programs.

Looking forward to another year of ministry at Church of the Good Shepherd.

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## **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.

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## **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 pm**

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



"The Standing Committee is pleased to share with you the profile of our diocese prepared by the Bishop Nominating Committee as we search for our 10th Bishop... The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for bishop until midnight on February 28...."

[Read the profile here.](#)

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**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.

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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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Saturday Jan 21 was Squirrel appreciation day. Below is a picture of Scout, Harriet, and Freddy of Mother Deborah's household "appreciating" a squirrel a squirrel about to "appreciate" a potted plant.



## Contacts, Information

### Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

### 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

[Staff](#)

[Campus Interest](#)

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

[Diocese Southern Ohio](#)

[Bishop Transition](#)

[\[E\]Connections](#)

[Episcopal News Service](#)

[Episcopal Journal & Café](#)

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](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**

## [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](#).

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

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[www.chogs.org](http://www.chogs.org)

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[45701](#)

**Office Hours:**  
Masks are required.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday  
740-593-6877  
[chogs@chogs.org](mailto:chogs@chogs.org)

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Blessings !

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

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