



Pentecost

Holy Eucharist B

28 May 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](#)

This 10:30 service is streamed live. Find it on the Church of Good Shepherd's Facebook page [HERE](#). (The streaming stops before taking communion out of privacy concerns.)

Celebrant: Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Lois Wagner

Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte: Lynn Graham

Eucharistic Minister/Prayer Leader: David Burton

Altar Guild: David Burton

Coffee Hour Host: Anne Walker

Cantor and Soloist: Benjamin South

Lessons

Lessons for Pentecost

New Testament – Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-21

Psalm – 104: 25-35, 37 (Sung)

Epistle – I Corinthians 12: 3b-13

Gospel – John 20: 19-23

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>



The Collect

ALMIGHTY GOD, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Gospel



John 20: 19-23

WHEN IT WAS EVENING on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Amen.

Gospel Engagement Question:

Why do you think Jesus commissioned his followers to forgive?

The Sermon

Origin Stories

One of my favorite genres in literature, theology, and entertainment is the origin story. Sometimes called backstories or pourquoi stories, they explain how a character like a superhero or villain came to be, what motivates them, and how they developed their unique perspective through which they experience the world and other people. Origin stories also explain the relationship between people and the earth, like the creation stories in the Bible and the stories of Indigenous people of every tribe. Origin stories are important because they ground a character or group to their intended purpose while providing guidance and direction on how to move forward. One could argue the Bible is comprised of many origin stories that could help us understand our relationship with God and with each other.

The two creation stories in Genesis highlight our fragility and dependence on the earth, each other, and God, revealing when humanity rebels against God we are harming the earth, each other, and our relationship with God. The story Exodus in the Bible – when Moses led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt into the promised land where they were free to worship God - explains the origins of traditions in both the Jewish religion and Christianity because it is a story about how God liberates people and reveals God is not the oppressor we humans so often mistake God to be.

That story is especially important today for two reasons. One is because we are going to be baptizing Kailey this morning. In just a little while we will be blessing water, and the prayer I will say recalls how water played an important part in God liberating people from pharaoh when they passed through the Red Sea unharmed. This is why John the Baptist invited people to participate in a ritual where they went into a river and came out renewed when he was preaching about being prepared for the arrival of the Messiah. These origin stories influence our own tradition where we will bless water and pour it over Kailey's head because Baptism is liberation from the power of sin and death into new life in Jesus Christ.

The other reason the story of Exodus is important today is because it is tied to the origin of Pentecost. In Jewish tradition, Pentecost is 50 days after the Passover, which is part of the Exodus story. 50 days after leaving Egypt, Moses went up a mountain, and returned carrying the tool intended to help the newly liberated people live the way God wanted and intended them to live: closer to God and each other and to show the world what God is like. That tool is the 10 Commandments.

Today marks 50 days after Easter Sunday, and is the origin story for the church. In our first reading from the New Testament book in the Bible called the Acts of the Apostles, we heard about an amazing event that happened on the Jewish festival of Pentecost, when they were celebrating the gift of the law, which was intended to give structure and guidance to help

them make choices that reflected God's love. It is not a coincidence that on that very day, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to his followers who were in a house together. Instead of new rules or a laws, Jesus sent his followers his own Spirit so they could go into the world and show the world God's love as they experienced it through Jesus Christ.

In the reading from Acts this was described as a dramatic event with rushing wind and flames. The Gospel reading this morning described the same event without the drama. Jesus appeared and breathed upon each disciple while wishing them peace and forgiveness. Which means everyone is going to experience receiving the Holy Spirit differently. Sometimes it might feel like wind and flame. Sometimes more like peace and forgiveness. But whether the Holy Spirit is experienced dramatically or gently, one of the main points of the church's origin story is the Holy Spirit was given to everyone who was there.

Everyone received the Holy Spirit: people of all ages, all abilities, genders, races, class, status, education, maturity, and yes even political affiliation. Together, through the Holy Spirit this diverse group was transformed into the Body of Christ. Not a literal biological body. No one is a toe or a nose or a finger, but body in the sense of a whole group. Christ is now in the world not as a biological man walking around doing wonders, but as a whole group called the church.

Origin stories aren't just for entertainment. They are intended to help us remember where we come from, why we became who we are, what motivates us, why we make the choices we do and how we make decisions. Not only as individuals, but as a whole group. Origin stories tie us to reality, especially when we are faced with challenges and difficulties, by reminding us of our purpose so we can find our way through.

I know churches are struggling these days. Pew studies reveal all religions are experiencing decline in participation and membership. In a culture that preaches bigger is better, getting smaller can feel like a punishment. When we feel like we are being punished, we will often revert to blaming ourselves, leaders, or whatever we can, just like the first man and woman did in the second creation story. That origin story teaches humanity's fallback behavior is blaming others for our suffering, which has never actually helped make us or relationships or the world better, but we do it anyway.

Fortunately, we also have the origin story of the church to remind us, we all have the gift of the Holy Spirit which both empowers and enables us to go out into the world and live like Jesus. That is how the church grew, and how it will always grow no matter the time period we are living in. The church grows whenever it goes out into its community and lives like Jesus by noticing and talking to the people others pass by. When share peace. When we forgive. When we care for each other by showing respect for each other, especially people we disagree with. That is the intention and purpose of all churches, including Church of the Good Shepherd.

I understand this might sound overwhelming right now because I only have one more Sunday with you after today before I leave for the next parish the Holy Spirit is calling me to. And you might be feeling anxious about who is going to be your next priest and what the process for finding a new priest is going to look like. Maybe you are even worried about how to afford a priest.

I hope you can take comfort in knowing on June 11 the Rev. Michael Spencer who is Canon for Transitional Ministry will be here with you and he will talk to you about the process you will start then. I hope and pray it will be as life giving for you as the search process I have been experiencing.

I also hope and pray you will take inspiration from the church's origin story that the Holy Spirit is given to everyone, including people who are not ordained. You don't need to have a priest to fulfill the purpose of the church. You already have everything you need. You have the Holy Spirit. You have each other. Just as I am being called to the next chapter of my ministry, you are being called to the next chapter of your life and ministry as a parish. I don't know what it will be, but whatever it is, I believe it will be drenched in the new life of the Holy Spirit who simultaneously grounds you in your origin so you can grow even closer to God, each other and your community. One of my favorite genres in literature, theology, and entertainment is the origin story. Sometimes called backstories or pourquoi stories, they explain how a character like a superhero or villain came to be, what motivates them, and how they developed their unique perspective through which they experience the world and other people. Origin stories also explain the relationship between people and the earth, like the creation stories in the Bible and the stories of Indigenous people of every tribe. Origin stories are important because they ground a character or group to their intended purpose while providing guidance and direction on how to move forward. One could argue the Bible is comprised of many origin stories that could help us understand our relationship with God and with each other.

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Sermon Engagement Question:

What origin stories do you know?

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., Jean R., Lia, Miriam, Sharon, R.C., Chuck Brient, Douglas and Gwynne Campbell, Zelma Coleman, Lee Kembell-Cook, Phyllis and Dick Dean, Richard DeNune, Norm Fox, Honor Haddox, Debbie Hunsberger, John Jefferson, Peter Kachenko and family, Christine McGinn, Jeff Maiden, Rev. Ed Payne, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Virginia Richards, Jack Roach, Bonnie Savage, Katyana Sayrs, Annette Secoy, Ann Shelly, Michael Vaughn, Joanne Worstall and we pray for all who care for them. **

ANNIVERSARY: Geoff and Alex Buckley (6/2)

ALTAR FLOWERS: The Altar Flowers are given in celebration of Pentecost.

THANKSGIVING for the Baptism of Kailey Klimkowski



** 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/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, June 4, 10:30 a.m. - - Rev. Woolsey's last service (Sharing Cabinet)

Sunday, June 4, 11:30 a.m. - - Farewell Luncheon

Sunday, June 11, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (The Rev. Can. Michael Spencer officiating)

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Coffee Hour Schedule

June 4th	Luncheon
June 11	Lynn Graham
June 18	Lois Wagner
June 25	Dana Carlson

Dates Open for Altar Flowers

In June - 4th, 18, 25th.

[To Altar Flower Procedure](#)

Notes & Announcements (additional items in the Friday Bulletin)

NAMI Memorial Day on the Ridges 1:00 p.m., May 29

Mother Deborah will be giving the prayer at NAMI's Memorial Day service. This is a lovely service that remembers the names of people who have been forgotten by the institution that cared for them. Like all good observances of Memorial Day, it also inspires us to care for each other.

June 4th

Mother Deborah's Last Sunday

Please join us in person or online for Mother Deborah's last Sunday at the Church of the Good Shepherd. For those who have not heard, Mother Deborah has accepted the call to serve as the next Rector of St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Minocqua, Wisconsin.

Please join us as we say goodbye to Mother Deborah and Michael and wish them well.

Luncheon on Sunday, June 4th

As a way of wishing Mo. Deborah and Michael Godspeed, the Marthas will serve a luncheon after church in Nehls Hall. The menu will include Chicken Enchilada casserole (gluten-free and not spicy), salad, bread, iced tea and cake. All one needs to do is show up with an appetite!

Timeline for Mother Deborah and Michael

June 4 Mother Deborah's last Sunday at Church of the Good Shepherd.

June 6-8 Mother Deborah and Michael will pack up her church office.

June 12 Movers will load Mother Deborah and Michael's belongings into the moving truck to transport them to Wisconsin.

June 15-20 Mother Deborah and Michael's stuff will be delivered to their new house in Minocqua, Wisconsin.

July 2 Mother Deborah's first Sunday at St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Minocqua, Wisconsin.

What Happens After Mother Deborah Leaves?

The Rev. Can. Michael Spencer, the Canon for Transitional Ministry will be at Church of the Good Shepherd on Sunday, June 11. He will celebrate the Eucharist and preach at 10:30 am. Canon Spencer oversees the process of

helping parishes find their next rector. He will be available after the service to answer questions and he will meet with the vestry.

Remember, if you can't be there in person, you can watch the service on the church's Facebook page.

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.



Kailey Klimkowski was Baptized Today !

511
5128
513
296





Yesterday was a good day for a cruise on the river.



Contacts, Information

Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

[Staff](#)

[Campus Interest](#)

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

[Diocese Southern Ohio](#)

Pandemic Notes:

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

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

[Bishop Transition](#)

[\[E\]Connections](#)

[Episcopal News Service](#)

[Episcopal Journal & Café](#)

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.

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.

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.

[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

Masks recommended.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Monday - Thursday
740-593-6877
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Blessings !

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

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