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CHURCH OF THE



GOOD SHEPHERD

Good Shepherd E-News (14 December 2017)

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.

This Sunday: 17 December 2017



Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II-A

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey



Vestry Meeting tonight - Thursday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

REJOICE! This Sunday is 3 Advent

The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete" Sunday from the Latin opening words of the introit antiphon: "Rejoice (*Gaudete*) in the Lord always." The third Sunday of Advent is the day we



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From our friends
in St. Luke's
Episcopal Church
in Mérida,
Mexico.

"José's Weekly
Reflection"

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[Altar Flowers
How to Order](#)

light the pink candle in the Advent Wreath, symbolizing that we are nearly through the season of anticipation. The readings and collect for the day reflect the theme of rejoicing in God's actions and remind us God will and does keep God's promises. This gives us reason to rejoice, especially as we wait in longing anticipation for God.

Sunday Dec. 17 Last Day for Advent
Conversation of Wonder 9:00 am Hobson
Room

Whether you have participated in prior conversations or not, you are invited to join the final conversation around the Advent devotional about practicing wonder. This week's conversation will be around the Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickle's reflection on busyness and silence. No reading ahead required. Coffee will be ready and waiting for you. Please join us.

Presiding Bishop Curry's Christmas Message

Click [HERE](#) for a link (via the Diocese Connections) for the text and video of Presiding Bishop Curry's 2017 Christmas message.

Upcoming Church Events

Vestry Meeting - Thursday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

Free Lunch - Wednesday, December 20, 12:00 noon

Choir Rehearsal - Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 p.m.

Last Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 24, 10:30 a.m. (no 8:00 a.m. service)

Christmas Eve Services - Sunday, December 24, 4:00 and 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service - Monday, Dec. 25, 11:00 a.m.

Free Lunch - Wednesday, December 27, 12:00 noon

Upcoming Community Events

December 15 - Messiah Sing-along, Good Shepherd, 6:00 p.m.

December 17 - Communiversy Band Holiday Concert and ACMS Children's Chorus, Memorial Auditorium, 4:00 p.m.

No 8:00 am Service on Sunday, December 24

Because of the Christmas Eve services that day, there will not be a service at 8:00 am.

Please join us for the 10:30 am service to observe 4 Advent.

Altar Guild Help: **Greening** of the Church

This year the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day. The Altar Guild will not be able to begin the greening of the church until after the 10:30 a.m. service on December 24.

The Altar Guild will need help from everyone to get the church ready for the first Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. There will be a limited coffee hour that morning so that people can stay and help the Altar Guild. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Huge or Sally Spero.



Season of Advent

For the Church, the days leading up to Christmas are called Advent, from a word that means "arrival." More than a time of preparing for the celebration of Christmas, the season of Advent is a time for practicing awareness of the distractions that prohibit us from recognizing when Jesus is in our midst. It reminds us that Christmas is about more than the birth of a baby; it is about the arrival of Jesus--Emmanuel, God With Us--not just once in history, but every day. Therefore the Church invites you to practice awareness during this season, to learn to

recognize distractions for what they are, and to look past those distractions for the Holy Presence of Jesus.

Practicing Advent

There are several ways we invite you to participate in the Season of Advent at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Sunday Services

Will include the Lighting of the Advent Wreath, a prayer and practice we do together as part of our corporate worship to tell the time of the season, and to practice seeing the Light of Jesus in the darkest parts of life. We encourage you to light a similar wreath or candles in your home during the week as part of your personal or family devotions.

Practicing Wonder With All Your Heart, Mind, Soul, Strength, and Mind

A FREE gift to you, this little book contains brief readings for each day in Advent intended to help you practice letting go of distractions and re-connecting with the gift of wonder. Featured contributors include the Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, Executive Director of Forward Movement, the Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickel, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, and others.

Conversations of Wonder

Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in Hobson Room you are invited to join Mother Deborah to discuss the day's readings and reflection in the Advent book, *Practicing Wonder*. No need to read the reflection beforehand.

Participants scheduled for

This Sunday, Dec. 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

Altar Guild: Sally Spero and Hailey Luellhoff

Altar Flowers:

Coffee Hour: Betty Larson and Mike Wootton

8:00 a.m. Service: Holy Eucharist Rite I

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Joanne Larson

Prayer Leader: Earl Stump

10:30 a.m. Service: Holy Eucharist Rite II-A

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Zella Nisley

Eucharistic Ministers: Dana Carlson (Prayer Leader) and David Burton

Ushers: Anne Braxton and Daniel Dygas

First Crucifer: Peter Buckley

Second Crucifer: Owen Buckley

Lessons: for the Third Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 (sung), I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28. <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

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 people affected by natural and environmental disasters. We pray also for the people who are suffering from war, especially all refugees. We pray for Donald, our president, and John, our Governor, the Supreme Court, and the members of Congress.

In our diocese, we pray for Thomas, our Diocesan Bishop, and Nedi, our Assisting Bishop.

In our parish, we pray for Good Shepherd's continued growth, for our Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Deborah Woolsey, for our Associate Priests, the Rev. Leslie Flemming, the Rev. Katharin Foster, and the Rev. David McCoy, and for our ministry to students, the university, and the community. We pray for our friends at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mérida, Mexico. We pray also for the Kairos prison ministry.

Those for whom our Prayers are Requested: Kris, Kristi, Mary Lou, Weston, Paul, Jackie, Pam, Jill and family, Jane, Louise, Dot, Ann and Bill, Stephen, Mary, the D'Andrea family, Julie, Chris, Sally, Norm, Jan, Pat, Doris, Molly and Mateo, Ivan, and Alejandro, Candace, Emma, Sharon, Bill, Ron, Clif, William, Lyle, Ernst, Monya, Patricia, Paul, David, Holly, Robert, Don, the Sheets family, Ann, Elliot, John, Eleanor, Nancy, Consuelo and family, Arvin, Sandi, June, and Sister Emmanuel, and we pray for all who care for them.

Birthdays: Levi Lackey (12/17), Alex Buckley (12/18), Norm Fox (12/18), Marsha Dutton (12/19), Don Randolph (12/21), Joanne Larson (12/23)

Gospel

Third Sunday of Advent

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.



This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Sale of Christmas Coffee Update O-O-O-O-G-A-A-H! O-O-O-O-G-A-A-H!

I have been in contact with Silver Bridge Coffee to verify that my order was received. It has been. However, in years past they delivered on Friday, but now they deliver on Tuesday. And, as luck would have it, they will not be delivering our coffee until Tuesday, December 12. This means that I will not have your coffee until this Sunday, December 17.



But on a brighter note, we have earned a profit of \$114 for Good Shepherd. This will be applied to our Outreach Ministry. Thank you for your support. (Jack Flemming)

Wednesday Free-Lunch Report



On **December 13**, Group II fed 39 people 48 servings. The main dishes were Tuna Casserole and Veggie Casserole. Tossed salad, fresh fruit, desserts, and beverages were also served.

The volunteers were Zelma Coleman, Helen Chila, Esther Hernandez, Anne Walker, Harold Smith, Brad Handlin, Betty Hollow, and Hailey Luelloff.

Please remember the hungry in our community in your prayers. To become involved in one or more of the four lunch teams, please speak to Phyllis Dean, Zelma Coleman, Joanne Larson, or David Burton.

Soul Biscuits

Handel's Messiah Sing-Along Dec 15

Handel's Messiah

Sing-Along

December 15, 2017

6:00 pm

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Come and Sing or Come and Listen!

Come and celebrate the Holiday season with an audience favorite, a *Messiah Sing-Along*. The community of Athens, students and faculty are all encouraged to be part of this choral event. Soloists from Ohio University School of Music will join the community in a sing-along of the choral numbers in Part 1 of *Handel's Messiah*. No singing experience is required. All voices and ages are welcome!

Featuring

Lena Daitz, *soprano*

Anne Yuan, *soprano*

Alexandra Bruno, *mezzo-soprano*

Jeralayne Ruiz, *mezzo-soprano*

Kelly Burns, *tenor*

John Faulconbridge, *baritone*

Andrew Ryker, *baritone*

Tony Bruno, *organ*

Jeff Daubenmire, *organ*

Marsha Reilly, *organ*

&

Kyle Berkley, *music director*

Free and open to the public.

Scores will be supplied or you may bring your own.

For more information contact Kyle Berkley, berkleyk@ohio.edu

Bring your non-perishable food donation to help the Athens Food Pantry.

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
64 University Terrace, Athens, Ohio 45701
740-593-6877

www.chogs.org



Poster creation credit: Kyle Berkley

Soul Biscuits and the Church of the Good Shepherd invite you to participate in--or just come and listen to--a community Messiah Sing-Along. Please see above poster. Join us after the Dec 15 performance for a reception with cookies and punch.

This event is free. Donations are gratefully accepted. Church of the Good Shepherd is located at the corner of University Terrace and Park Place.

Soul Biscuits is a non-profit, secular community series hosted by the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 64 University Terrace, as a way of promoting community connections, relaxation, and artistic and intellectual nurture. Please contact Elizabeth Thompson at elizabeththompson1004@gmail.com for more information.

Christmas Services

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Comfort and Joy



Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 2017

Traditional Family Service
4:00pm

Favorite Christmas hymns
everyone can sing.

All children will be invited to
participate in an interactive
telling of the Story of Jesus's
birth.

A special Christmas sermon
for all ages.

Holy Communion

Christmas Music Recital
10:00pm-10:30pm

Relax and enjoy the
music of Christmas.

Where tradition and beauty
meet to bring
comfort and joy to all.

Traditional "Midnight" Service
10:30pm

Traditional Christmas
hymns and music.

Holy Communion

Candlelight singing of
"Silent Night."



Christmas Service

December 25, 2017

Christmas Day Service
11:00am

Celebrating the birth
of Jesus Christ with hymns, Holy
Communion, and sermon



Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd | 64 University Terrace | 740-593-6877 | www.chogs.org

4:00 pm Family Service

This service for the whole family features an Interactive Gospel where all the children are invited to participate in telling the story of Jesus' birth, favorite Christmas carols, an intergenerational sermon, and Holy Communion. A joyful celebration full of Christmas Spirit.

10:30 pm Traditional Christmas

This service features the beautiful traditions of Christmas, including soaring Christmas hymns, candlelight, a sermon, and Holy Communion. A glorious celebration of the birth of Christ.

Christmas Day December 25

11:00 am Said Service with Holy Eucharist

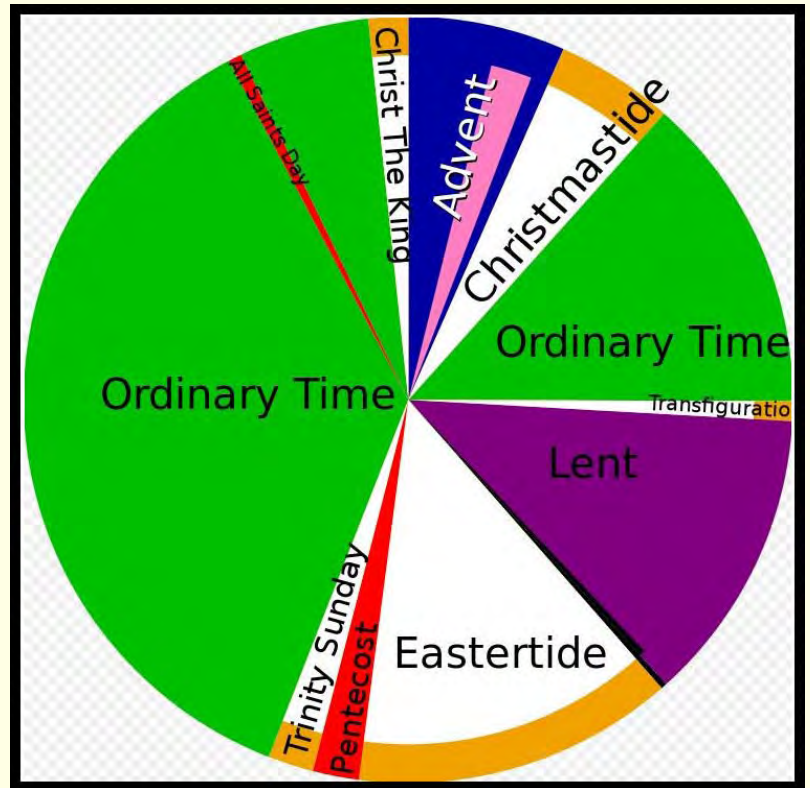
A simple, quieter celebration of the birth of Christ will feature the reading of John's Gospel instead of the birth narrative from the Gospel of Luke as we embrace the Mystery of Incarnation on this Christmas Day.

With each service distinctly different, it is possible to attend more than one to experience a deeper sense of Christ with Us. Whichever service or services you attend, it is our hope that you will come close to the Incarnate Christ this Christmas.

The church year

After reading Mother Deborah's introduction for this week's Sunday Bulletin, being somewhat curious, I looked up "Gaudete Sunday" in Wikipedia and as I expected, *Gaudete* is Latin for "rejoice": *Gaudete in Domino* is (Rejoice in the Lord).

While in the neighborhood I also ran across this interesting chart of the church year. Exact slice sizes depend on the calendar year. Since this year the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day Gaudete Sunday represents pink slice and the fourth Sunday is hardly a sliver before Christmastide takes over.



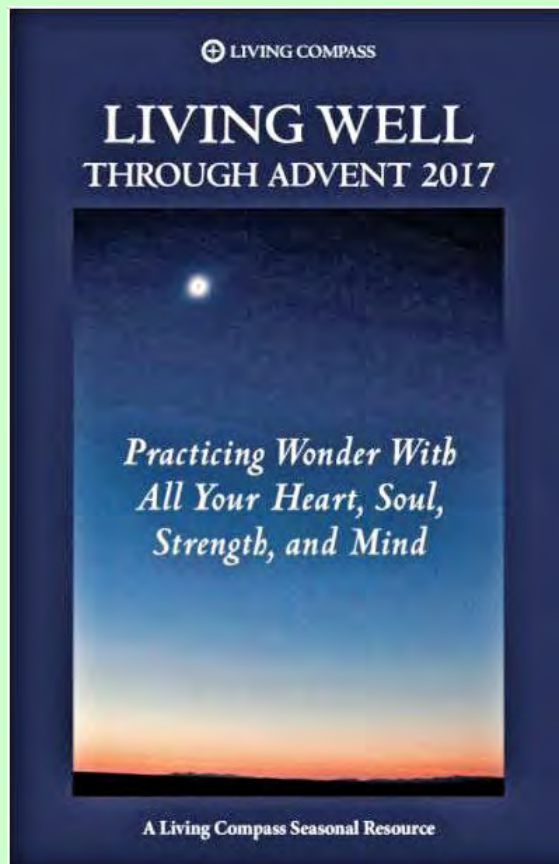
This led to remembering our singing "Gaudete" in the choir, a few Christmases past I think. So I looked up *Gaudete* on YouTube as well and ran across this marvelously pure vocal blend that calls up a primordial sensation of what rejoicing

or grace really feels like from deep down in one's soul.

Listen [HERE](#).

Ted

Repeat Material Below



FREE Advent Resource Now Available

Practicing Wonder with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

You are invited to join contributing authors The Rev. Scott Gunn (Executive Director of Forward Movement), Wendy Claire Barrie, the Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickel, and the Rev. Scott Stoner to consider and practice the spiritual art of wonder during the Advent season with a new daily devotional resource from Living Compass. This free devotional is a gift from a growing ministry in the Episcopal Church that Mother Deborah used to work for. Its brief daily readings are intended to give you the opportunity to set aside daily distractions in order to focus on the wonders around you. This can be a helpful way to practice resiliency and prepare to once again receive the wondrous gift of Jesus we celebrate at Christmas.

Disaster Relief (via ERD)



There are ways we can help those in the path of disaster. One way is to pray. Another is through Episcopal Relief and Development. ERD is one of the first relief organizations to arrive at locations hit by disaster and to stay to help with recovery. They have an excellent reputation for fund distribution and volunteer coordination.

Please visit their website, episcopalrelief.org, to donate, volunteer, and learn more.

Pastoral Care

Because of health care privacy laws, hospitals are no longer able to call your priest or parish when you are in the hospital. That means that if you want a visit from Mother Deborah or a Lay Eucharistic Visitor (a parish member who has some training) you need to call and ask for a visit. For emergencies please call Mother Deborah's cell phone 937-689-8895. If you would prefer prayers instead of a visit, just call and ask for prayers.



Mother Deborah's home phone is 740-249-4497, and her cell number is 937-689-8895, for emergencies.

Her personal email is the Rev. Deborah Woolsey <revdebwoolsey@gmail.com>, and the email through the church is the Rev. Deborah Woolsey <revdeborah@chogs.org>.

Mother Deborah has found that people like to communicate in many ways, so she is reachable on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/deborah.woolsey.12>) and on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/DeborahWoolsey>), and you can check out her blog at (<http://www.revvedupwoolsey.com/>).

Also, here is the link to the Church of Good Shepherd's **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Episcopal-Church-of-the-Good-Shepherd-45701/554345594588086?fref=ts>. Once you get on the page, just LIKE it if you are already a Facebook person. Otherwise you will need to create a Facebook account first.

And the Church of Good Shepherd's Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/CHOGSofAthens>.

Contact Information

For pastoral needs, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 740-249-4497 (H) or 937-689-8895 (C) 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 Allyn Reilly, Senior Warden, at 740-592-2596 or by e-mail at reillya@ohio.edu.

For maintenance matters, please leave a note at the office or contact Allyn

Reilly, Senior Warden, at 740-818-5476 or by e-mail at reillya@ohio.edu.
For emergencies, please call The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895.

NOTE: NON-emergency messages can be left on the church answering machine (740-593-6877).

Office Hours:

10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday (closed Friday and Saturday).
The parish office administrator is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877
or barbara@chogs.org).

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The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons

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