



EPISTLE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville, Ohio

Helping all people find a connection to God's community.

June 2022

Hello Friends,

As I write this, I'm preparing for our celebration of the Feast of the Ascension. This major feast day doesn't get a lot of attention these days, because it always falls on a Thursday. The opening chapter of the Acts of the Apostles sets the timeline.

Forty days after the resurrection, Luke tells us, Jesus led his disciples (only eleven at this time) out to Bethany. He "opens their minds" to understand what everything they've been taught and experienced says about who Jesus is. He then tells them to return to Jerusalem and wait to be "clothed with power from on high." Then, as he blesses them, he is taken up into the heavens.

Just then, a couple of messengers appear, wondering why the disciples are just standing there gazing up into the sky. Well, duh! If a companion of mine suddenly disappeared into the clouds while we were standing and talking, I would probably find it impossible to stop doing a bit of sky-gazing myself.

In our own time, we seem to be stuck in that sky-gazing position. Popular teaching has many watching and waiting, not amazed at Jesus' disappearance, but waiting around for his coming again. Meanwhile, that "power from on high," otherwise known as the Holy Spirit, keeps moving all around us, doing God's work while we twiddle our thumbs.

It's not like Jesus didn't give his disciples a to-do list. They are to proclaim repentance and forgiveness, starting from Jerusalem and moving outward from there. And, the word is "proclaim." Not demand, not require something of others. The job the disciples have is to let the whole world know that God desires a healthy working relationship with all the world, and to establish that has forgiven all that has separated God's creation and its creatures from their Creator.

But what about the repentance part, you might ask. Repentance is about turning our focus in the right direction. In this case, it's away from our own power (not necessarily from "on high," mind you) and status toward the God who has already forgiven us of our tendency to turn away from God. That may be a different understanding than what we've been used to hearing, but it is what Jesus really says.

Like the Feast of the Ascension, discipleship is not a thing of convenience. It is the foundation of the life of the Body of Christ, which is the true Church, and not the corporate institution or its structures. We become truly alive in Christ when we stop treating "church" as a convenience store where we stop by to get some bread when we realize we've run out.

But then that's how the corporate institution we call "church" seems to have established itself. It's time to let our minds be opened again to the scriptures to understand who Jesus is, and in turn who we are as his Body in our own time. Unlike those first eleven disciples, we don't have to hang around waiting for the Spirit to tell us what to do. That voice is all around us, waiting for us to pay attention.

What are we waiting for?

--Wayne+

A Statement of Mission



As Episcopalians in the
Diocese of Southern Ohio,
we commit to:

† Know the common story

Deut. 11:18-21

† Proclaim our common
faith

Matt. 28:19-20

† Pray our common prayer

1 Thess. 5:16-19

† Drink the common cup

Mark 10:38

† Serve the common good

Matt. 25:37-40

In the name of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ.

This is our common
ministry.

Date/Proper	Readings	Assistants	Flowers*
June 5 Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:25-35, 37 Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17, 25-27	Jan Dunwoody, Lector Marty Davis, LEM/Prayers Gary Benesh, Usher	Gail & Gary Benesh
June 12 Trinity	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15	Duane Johnson, Lector Chris Nelson, LEM/Prayers Peter Hemer, Usher	Barbara Wert
June 19 Second Sunday after Pentecost Proper 7	Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm 22:18-27 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39	Karen Burkett, Lector P.J. Brumbaugh, LEM/Prayers Richard Mote, Usher	Mara Cox
June 26 Third Sunday after Pentecost Proper 8	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62	Gary Benesh, Lector Kim Bohler, LEM/Prayers Chris Nelson, Usher	Dena Benesh

*Please notify the office of flower dedication by noon on the Tuesday before the Sunday listed.

June 2022

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">May 2022</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jul 2022</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	
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