

# **The Episcopal Church of the Atonement**



## *Hope*

**First Sunday of Advent**

**November 30, 2025**

**8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

*Please observe silence during the musical prelude.  
The 10:00 a.m. service is live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook*

Prelude

## Entrance Hymn 73

*The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

### First Sunday of Advent

*The person lighting the candle reads*

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. This first candle is HOPE.

*The candle is lit. Then person lighting the candle reads*

“We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and shield.”

*Psalm 33:20*

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.**

All of our waiting is a waiting for God.

**God of our hearts, we wait for you alone.**

*The Presider and People offer the Collect of Purity*

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Sung at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.*

### Song of Praise S280

*Glory to God*

The musical score for 'Glory to God' is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are: 'Glo-ry to God in the high-est and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord, God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and fath-er, We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord, Je-sus Christ on-ly son of the fath-er Lord God, lamb of God, 4. You take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer-cy on us. 5. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the fath-er, re-ceive our prayer. 6. For you a-lone are the ho-ly one; You a-lone are the Lord; You a-lone are the most high, Je-sus Christ with the ho-ly spi-rit In the glo-ry of God the fath-er. A-men.' The score ends with a double bar line.

### The Collect of the Day

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*        And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Reader* In this reading, the prophet Isaiah sets forth a majestic vision of a time when people throughout the world will worship the Lord and live in peace with one another.

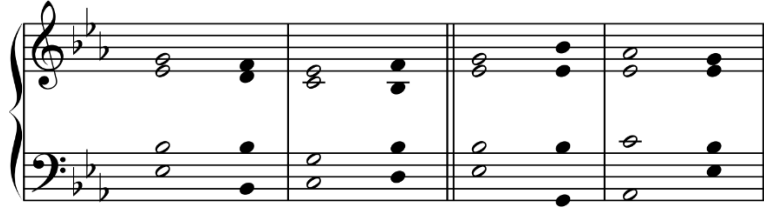
The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.  
Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
  
O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Spoken at 8:00 am. Chanted at 10:00 am

## Psalm 122



1 I was glad when they said to **me**, \*  
"Let us go to the house of the **Lord**."

2 Now our feet are **standing** \*  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a **city** \*  
that is at unity with **itself**;

4 To which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the **Lord**, \*  
the assembly of Israel,  
to praise the Name of the **Lord**.

5 For there are the thrones of **judgment**, \*  
the thrones of the house of **David**.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
"May they prosper who **love you**."

7 Peace be within your **walls** \*  
and quietness within your **towers**.

8 For my brethren and **companions' sake**, \*  
I pray for your **prosperity**.

(second half)

9 Because of the house of the Lord our **God**, \*  
I will seek to do you **good**."

## The Second Reading

*Romans 13:11-14*

*Reader* In this reading Paul urges a way of life in full awareness of the nearness of salvation.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Sung at 10:am.

**Gospel Hymn 56, vss. 1-2**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of Christ according to Matthew.  
*People* **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

*The Rev. Sandi Albom*

### The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. Who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Church. We pray especially for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Worcester; Human to Human; the Pittsfield Council of Churches; and the Anglican Church of Australia.  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, and other spiritual leaders. We pray especially for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; Miguelina, our Bishop-elect; and Sandi, our Priest;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world. We pray that you will guide the president of the United States, all our elected officials, and local leaders to serve this country and govern it wisely;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.  
You are invited to add your own prayers, silently or aloud, at this time.  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give the departed eternal rest. We pray especially in memory of Linda Martin, for whom altar memorials have been given; and for Pasquale H. Casetta, Mary Hilner, Marion Amy McGilpin, and Russell W. McGilpin, for whom the sanctuary lamp burns, that they may all have a place in your eternal kingdom. You are invited to add your own prayers, silently or aloud, at this time.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for the blessings and joys that you have given us. Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

*The Presider may add a concluding Collect.*

### **The Confession**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Presider says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*Presider:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Dedication of the Salvadoran Stations of the Cross**

*The Presider introduces the Salvadoran Stations of the Cross:*

Let us pray.

**O Christ, you walked the road of suffering with the poor, the silenced, the disappeared, those to dared to speak when silence was safer. As we walk this way of sorrows, open our eyes to see you in every wounded body, in every voice crying out for dignity, in every act of courage born of faith. May the memory of martyrs and saints—named and unnamed—kindle in us a holy fire: to speak truth, the seek justice, and to follow you, even to the cross. We pray in the name of the Crucified and Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Stewardship Message**

*Jean Brown*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*When we gather, we are happy to offer “our life and labor,” which we present to God. The ushers will pass the offering plate to receive your donations. You may also give online at [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) or scan the QR code in the pews.*

Sung at 10:00 am

### Offertory Anthem

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Mozart/Hopson

Prepare the way of the Lord  
Make straight in the desert a highway  
For God to come.  
See the valleys lifted high,  
All the mountains and hills made low.  
See uneven ground made level,  
All the rough places made plain.  
Prepare a highway for the Lord.

Hear the voice of him who cries,  
Make a highway in the desert,  
Make a highway for the Lord.  
All the earth shall see it together  
For God has spoken it.

Sung at 8:00 & 10:00 am

### Presentation Hymn 596

*Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor*

### Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3

*Old Hundredth, Isaac Watts*

Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; Praise God, all crea - tures  
here be - low, Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise  
Fath - er, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Presider proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

*Spoken at 8:00 am. Sung at 10:00 am.*

### **Sanctus S130**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



The musical score is written on six staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change from two flats to one flat (B-flat only). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,\_\_\_\_". The second staff continues the melody with the same lyrics. The third staff has the lyrics: "Heav - en and earth are full,\_\_\_\_ full\_\_\_\_ of your glo - ry. Ho -". The fourth staff has the lyrics: "san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.". The fifth staff has the lyrics: "Blesed is the one who comes\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord,\_\_\_\_ Ho -". The sixth staff has the lyrics: "san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." and ends with a double bar line.

### *The Presider continues*

We give thanks to you, O God for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all, in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command O Father:

**We remember his death.  
We proclaim his resurrection.  
We await his coming in glory.**

*The Presider continues*

And we offer our sacrifice and praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all, presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and for ever. Amen.**

### The Breaking of the Bread

*Spoken at 8:00; Sung at 10:00 am.*

#### Fraction Anthem

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us  
Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us  
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**



Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

***All are welcome to receive the presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. In the Episcopal Church we believe that God is uniquely present with us in the Bread and the Wine—and we also believe that receiving only Bread or only Wine does not limit God. Bread is offered in the form of a small wheat wafer. Gluten-free wafers (wrapped to prevent cross contamination) are available—ask for one if you need it. Both wine and grape juice are available—ask for juice if you prefer it. All are welcome to take a small sip from the Common Cup or you may intinct (dip the bread) into the cup. Please cleanse your hands with the alcohol-based hand cleanser in the dispensers at the foot of the stairs leading to the altar rail prior to receiving.***

## Spiritual Communion

*Let us pray together in solidarity with those who are unable to receive communion in person this prayer of Spiritual Communion:*

**O God, we are united here in your transcendent power of love. From this center of goodness, you appear to us now in a new way, a new light, a new understanding, a new power of friendship and unity. We receive this life from you; we share this life together. You appear in our midst as Life itself, and we rise up together, beyond the resistant forces around us and within us. We receive you. This is the Body of Christ. Amen. — (Ilia Delio, OSF, adapted)**

## Communion Meditation

*After Communion, the People stand when the Presider says*

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

**Concluding Hymn 68**

*Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

The Dismissal

*Presider:* Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the name of Christ.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## Postlude

### PERMISSIONS

Except as noted within the text of the service leaflet: The structure and words of our service are taken from The Book of Common Prayer, Expansive Language; Enriching Our Worship; The Book of Occasional Services; Liturgy for the Whole Church, by Susan K. Bock, and Prayers for an Inclusive Church, by Steven Shakespeare; Hear Our Prayer by Jon White and Lisa Graves (all by Church Publishing). Today's Greeting and Call to Worship are from the World Council of Churches, Eco-School at the Orthodox Academy of Crete, Greece, 11-18 November 2023. The Biblical texts of the Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA. Hymns are taken from The Hymnal 1982, Lift Every Voice and Sing II, and Wonder, Love, and Praise (all by Church Publishing) and Songs & Prayers from Taizé, (GIA Publications, Inc.). Permission to print/post hymns for congregational use is granted by Rite Song and/or One License and permission to podcast/stream the music in this service is granted by One License: #A-723294.

## THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

|                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Presider</b>      | The Rev. Sandi Albom       |
| <b>Opener</b>        | Kara Noble                 |
| <b>Linens</b>        | Lisa Reinhagen             |
| <b>Flower Guild</b>  | Donna Tatlock-Calkins      |
| <b>Sunday School</b> | Judy Harvester,            |
| <b>Counters</b>      | Deb Bruno, Alice Ehresman  |
| <b>Office Angels</b> | Margo Halton, Karen Newman |
| <b>Closer</b>        | Kara Noble                 |

|                                | 8:00 am             | 10:00 am                          |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Altar Guild</b>             | Lesley Frazar       | Alice Ehresman                    |
| <b>Greeter(s)</b>              | Samantha Hemmingsen | Jean Brown                        |
| <b>Eucharistic Minister(s)</b> | Kara Noble          | Jan Parks<br>Karen Newman         |
| <b>Lector(s)</b>               | Sandra Chamberlain  | Sandra Chamberlain<br>Laura Smith |
| <b>Usher(s)</b>                | Samantha Hemmingsen | Jody Brown                        |
| <b>Stream Team</b>             | NA                  | Kara Noble                        |

### PARISH PRAYER LIST

*Please use this list in your daily prayers. We are happy to add your concerns.  
Contact office administrator at [program@atonementwestfield.org](mailto:program@atonementwestfield.org) or call 562-5461.*

**Altar Memorials** are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Linda Martin.

**Sanctuary Lamp** burns to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Pasquale H. Casetta, Mary Hilner, Marion Amy McGilpin, and Russell W. McGilpin, for whom the sanctuary lamp burns, that they may all have a place in your eternal kingdom.

**Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer** for The Church of Bangladesh.

**Diocesan Prayer** for St. Mark's Episcopal Church/Iglesia Episcopal San Marcos, Worcester; Non-parochial priests & deacons; Church Video & Film; and the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

**For those suffering throughout the world** especially from the ravages of war, violence, hate, environmental changes, and disease.

**For these families and individuals** Tom, Michael, Gail, Mark, Jessica, John, Ray, Chris, Richard, Mark P., Jim L., Kate, Rick, Lee, Teresa, Candi, John, Coralee & Gemariah; Nancy, Tracy Davis; Lily and her parents, Leianne, Fran, Madeline, Debra, Brad, Colin, Bill, Jimmy, Billy, Les, Sally, Denise, Heather, Pearl, Sandy & George, Lily, Bill, Jim, Kathy, Fred, Tom, Shannon, Joan, Deborah, Matt, Darlene, Rick & family, Anne, Ann, Jean, Ruth, Thelma, Connie, Candy, Jeff, David, Christina, Sharon, Marcia, Jan, John, Addison, Hannah, Donna, Jack, Mickie, Chris, Josh, Tim, Mike, Juan, John, Sheila, Ann, Gary, David, Sabrina, Wendy, Bernie, John, James, Jeffrey, Brittany, Rick, Katie, Sherry, Niko, Mervin, Frances, Toby, Theresa, Philadelphia, David, Jean, Jonathan, Natalie, Lisa, Jacques, Elaine, Tracey

## THIS WEEK AT ATONEMENT

### Sunday, November 30

First Sunday in Advent  
8:00 am Holy Eucharist (*in person*)  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (*in person & live-streamed*)  
6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15

### Monday, December 1

5:00 pm *Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) (SMGR)*  
5:30 pm *Girl Scouts*  
8:00 pm *Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)*

### Tuesday, December 2

6:00 pm *Music Together (SMGR)*  
6:00 pm *Adult Children of Alcoholics (Little Chapel)*  
7:00 pm *Bridge Fellowship (Sanctuary)*

### Wednesday, December 3

12:15 pm *Healing Service & Holy Eucharist*  
1:00 pm *Brown Bag Bible Study*  
6:00 pm *Overeaters Anonymous (SMGR)*

### Thursday, December 4

6:15 pm *Handbell Rehearsal*  
7:00 pm *Choir Rehearsal*  
7:30 pm *Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)*

### Friday, December 5

7:00 pm *Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (SMGR)*

### Saturday, December 6

10:00 am *Prayer Shawl Ministry*  
4:00 pm *Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)*

### Sunday, December 7

The Second Sunday of Advent | InGathering Sunday  
9:30 am Holy Eucharist (*in person & live-streamed*)  
10:30 am *Potluck Coffee Hour/Breakfast*  
6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15

*SMGR= Saint Margaret's Guild Room (Parlor)*

### ***"Drawn in by Grace; Reaching out in Love"***

*God calls people of any age, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexuality to join us in worship and work in the world. God's grace draws us in—all of us. And together all of us reach out with God's love.*



**The Episcopal Church of the Atonement**

36 Court Street • Westfield, MA • 01085 • (413) 562-5461 • [www.atonementwestfield.org](http://www.atonementwestfield.org)

*Drawn in by Grace • Reaching out in Love*

The Rev. Sandi Albom, *Priest in Charge*

Jerry Noble, *Music Director*

The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, *Bishop, The Episcopal Church of Western MA*

The Rt. Rev. Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop and Primate*

### **The Vestry**

Holly Rodriguez, *Sr. Warden* ~ Robert Frazar, *Jr. Warden* ~ Gene Giacometti, *Treasurer* ~ Deborah Bruno, *Clerk*

Mike Ehresman, *Asst. Jr. Warden* ~ Bonnie Adams ~ Raymond Brown ~ Sue Cole

Tanya Kellogg ~ Phil Siska ~ Josh Vélez

# ECOTA Happenings

## November 30, 2025

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### **Prayer Shawl Knitting Group ~ Saturday, December 6 @ 10:00 am**

Love is woven in every stitch when our Knitting Group gathers to knit and crochet prayer shawls to donate to Baystate Noble Hospital (as well as other items to help warm hearts and hands and heads). Don't know how to knit? That's OK! We have all the necessary supplies, and our supportive members are happy to teach you. Contact Donna Tatlock Calkins for more information.

### **InGathering Sunday (One Service) & Potluck Breakfast/Coffee Hour ~ December 7 after 9:30 am Worship**

December 7, 2025 is InGathering Sunday, when we come together to reflect on and celebrate the ways we have been blessed. We make a faithful commitment to care for our community and foster its growth and vitality. **On**

**InGathering Sunday, we will have one service at 9:30 am**, followed by a celebratory Potluck Breakfast/Coffee Hour in the Narthex. There's also a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so you can let us know what you will bring.

### **Women's Luncheon ~ Tuesday, December 9 @ 12:00 pm**

Join us for our next Women's Luncheon on Tuesday, December 9 at 12:00 pm in the St. Margaret's Guild Room. Let's come together to share a good meal, good conversation, and good company—and a Christmas singalong with Jerry Noble! Bring a brown bag lunch and we'll provide beverages and treats. Sign up in the Narthex.

### **Farmers Market's Annual Winter Market ~ Saturday, December 13 from 11am-3pm**

If you enjoyed the Harvest Market in November, then you definitely won't want to miss the Winter Market run by the Westfield Farmers Market on Saturday, December 13, from 11am-3pm @ ECOTA. There will be loads of handmade craft and artisanal items from a wide variety of talented local vendors—perfect for Christmas gifts!

### **Ecumenical Blue Christmas ~ Saturday, December 20 @ 6:00 pm**

#### **Second Congregational Church, 487 Western Avenue**

The holidays can be difficult—the stress, strain, and commercialization take their toll on everyone. The holidays can be especially challenging for those who are grieving or suffering. In lieu of the usual urgency to be festive, the Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service offers a time of worship that is meant to embrace us wherever we are in life, a moment of quiet respite and solemn prayer, gentle song and intentional silence, seeking to find God in the midst of it all. If you find the holidays difficult, join us on Saturday, December 20 @ 6:00 pm at the Second Congregational Church, 487 Western Avenue, Westfield for the Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service.

### **Christmas Cookie Sale ~ Sunday, December 21 after each Worship Service**

Are you a sharp cookie? Or can you bake one? Then be sure to sign up for ECOTA's annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 21! Bakers are invited to delight the crowd with their favorite Christmas cookie recipes. Homemade cookies only, please (no store-bought ones) Cookie consumers will also be needed after each worship service on December 21 to buy the cookies to make this tasty fundraiser a success! If you can bake a tasty contribution, please sign up in the Narthex.

### **Angel Tree ~ Give a Gift to a Child or Senior in Need**

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program provides gifts to children who otherwise might not receive anything for Christmas. Westfield Gardens Nursing & Rehabilitation provides the same service for its seniors. We are looking for 30 ECOTA Angels to fulfill the wishes of children and seniors in these wonderful programs. The tree in the Narthex has paper angels with wish lists for those in the two programs. Take an angel, sign your name on the appropriate Angel Register beside the tree, and get shopping!

For the kids, return your unwrapped gifts to ECOTA with the angel gift tag you took by **December 15**. You can donate wrapping material if you'd like. The Salvation Army will pick up, wrap, and distribute your gifts.

Gifts for the seniors can be wrapped; please return them to the church by **December 12**. Include a note telling what is inside the wrapped package so the staff will know. Pick up your angel in the Narthex!

### **Episcopal Advent & Christmas Resources**

Advent and Christmas are packed full of joy, special moments and visitors—and just plain busyness. It's easy to lose sight of the blessing and true Good News of these special seasons. So the church has put together some resources to help all of us find time to take a breath, pray, remember our neighbors, strengthen our faith, and appreciate our blessings. On the counter outside the Sanctuary, you can find a Reverse Advent Calendar you can use to plan giving to the Little Free Food Pantry; an Episcopal Advent Word-a-Day Calendar; and a booklet about The Great O Antiphons that are traditionally prayed in Advent to prepare for Christmas. Additional Advent resources are also available online at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/advent-and-christmas-resources>.

### **Calling All Shepherds, Sheep & Angels!**

Children are invited to come to the church school to learn songs for our Christmas Eve Pageant at the 4:00pm service! The Sunday School meets during our 10:00am service each week, and we need to fill many different roles for children of many different ages in the Pageant. Judy Harvester can answer your questions about Sunday school, and Jerry or Kara Noble can answer questions about the Christmas Eve Pageant.

### **Special Christmas Flowers & Music**

Special music and flowers add to the beauty and spirit of our worship services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This is the perfect time to make a donation to add flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for the special people in your life. To contribute, complete the form for flowers & music (available in the Narthex) by **Monday, December 15**. Completed form & payment can be placed in the collection plate or returned to the church office.

### **Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services**

**Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 24 @ 4:00 pm & 9:00 pm**

**Christmas Morning: Thursday, December 25 @ 9:30 am**

Planning for Christmas already? Yes! This Christmas Eve, ECOTA will have its Family Worship Service at 4:00pm. The Evening Worship Service will start with a substantial musical prelude; the service itself will begin at 9:00pm. On Christmas morning, we will meet for a Worship Service at 9:30 am.