

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement



**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Liturgy of the Word**

**August 24, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

*Please observe silence during the musical prelude.
The service is live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook.*

Prelude

Entrance Hymn 375

Give Praise and Glory unto God

Presider Blessed be the one holy and living God.

People **You come to your people and set them free!**

The 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.

Song of Praise

Lord Have Mercy

by C.J. Noble

Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us...

— Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy Christ, have mer - cy up - on us...

— Lord, have mer - cy Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us...

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

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

Psalm 103:1-8

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18-29

Reader A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken-- that is, created things-- so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

Gospel Hymn WLP 773

Heal Me, Hands of Jesus

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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

Sermon

Mr. Joshua Vélez

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 was made 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

Let us pray with confidence in a faith that is alive with the wonder and awe of new life all around us:
We trust in our all-loving God.

Fill our hearts with gratitude for our many blessings and for the love and joy you give us.
We trust in our all-loving God.

Embolden Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; Sandi, our Priest; our Presiders, and all other church leaders with your grace, that they may proclaim your truth and minister your justice with compassion.
We trust in our all-loving God.

Inspire all our local, state, and national leaders to speak with truthfulness and govern with mercy.
We trust in our all-loving God.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, put away from us all hurtful things and give us those things which are beneficial for us as a nation and as a world.

We trust in our all-loving God.

Through your merciful guidance, O God, may we act to benefit those who are in need within our communities.

We trust in our all-loving God.

Almighty God, grant that those who suffer and those who are faced with great difficulties may know the healing dimensions of your mission here on earth.

The People may add their own prayers silently or aloud at this time.

We entrust all those who call out to your care.

We trust in our all-loving God.

We are joined together in unity of spirit with those who have died. We especially remember David Spinning and Warren Spinning, for whom altar memorials have been given; Peter and Irene Myette for whom the sanctuary lamp burns; and Herman Wilkinson recently departed. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

We trust in our all-loving God.

The People may add their own prayers silently or aloud at this time.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Confession

The Presider says

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of sins.

Silence is kept.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Presider says

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

The People stand.

The Peace

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offertory Anthem

Set Free on a Sunday Morning

C.J. Noble

1. Took my donkey down to the river
And I let her take a good long drink.
I realized it was Sunday morning
And I began to think
How Jesus healed a cripple on the Sabbath day
The elders couldn't slow him down.
The blind got vision and the lame started walkin'
When Jesus came to town.
2. Jesus saw the cripple and he called her to him
Laid his hands on her and made her straight.
The ruler of the synagogue complained about it
And Jesus was heard to say,
"You took your donkey down to the river today
So don't give me that hypocrite talk
The daughter of Abraham, bound by Satan
Deserves a chance to walk!
3. Then I started to extrapolate
To ponder and philosophize.
My donkey knew just what I was thinkin'
I could tell by the look in her eyes.
How one of her relations gave Mary a lift
When she travelled up to Bethlehem.
And another carried Jesus on his fateful journey
Through the gates of Jerusalem.
4. Love your donkey and she'll love you back
And that works with people too.
The golden rule is mighty important
When you're thinkin' 'bout what to do.
Now don't go bringin' your donkey to church
They might think you're some kind of a freak.
But a donkey needs water like anybody else.
It don't matter what day of the week.

RERAIN:

And she was set free on a Sunday mornin'
Healed by Jesus' hands.
Set free on a Sunday mornin'
Sound the glory of God all across the land,
God will set you free without any warning
He can come like a thief in the night.
But as long as you're doin'
the Good Lord's business
Everything will be all right!

REFRAIN:

And you can be set free on a Sunday morning.
Go down to the river to pray.
Set free on a Sunday morning.
Let Jesus into your heart today.
When you least expect it anything can happen
He could come along and change your life.
If a thirsty donkey can teach you a lesson
Then you're gonna be all right.

Presentation Hymn 304

I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord

Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3

Old Hundredth, Isaac Watts

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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

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)

The General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may we give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

Concluding Hymn 411

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

The Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ
People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

ECOTA Happenings

August 24, 2025

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Summer Schedule: One Sunday service @ 9:00am

Tuesdays: Bridge Fellowship, 7pm | Wednesdays: Healing Service & Holy Eucharist, 12:15pm

Fall Schedule: We Return to Two Services on Sunday, September 14

8:00am & 10:00am

Rev. Sandi on Vacation ~ August 21-September 2

Rev. Sandi will be taking vacation time from August 21-September 2. Josh Velez and Jan Parks will preside at a Liturgy of the Word on Sunday, August 24 and The Rev. Peter Courtney will preside over a Holy Eucharist service on Sunday August 31. If pastoral care is needed, please contact the office. Please hold Rev. Sandi and Bob in your prayers during her respite time as she holds you in hers.

Support the Laundry Love Program on August 27

Laundry Love offers free laundry services to low-income/no-income individuals and families; it also provides a good meal for participants while their clothes are in the machines. This month, Laundry Love could use bottles of water, detergent pods, dryer sheets, and volunteers to help at Laundry Central on August 27 (a shift is from 4:10-6:45 pm). Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact Holly Rodriguez for more information.

Welcome Baskets for Incoming Westfield State University Students ~ Donate by Sunday, August 31

Each year, the Interfaith community at WSU, provides Welcome Baskets to the college's incoming foster care students. For the past few years, ECOTA has provided laundry baskets filled with bedding and other items the students need as they move into their dorm rooms & begin their college career. Can you help again this year? If so, please prepare a laundry basket for a student filled with:

- Extra-long twin sheet set
- Extra-long twin comforter or quilt/blanket
- Pillow
- Bath towel set
- And (of course) the laundry basket

Deliver your filled laundry basket to the church by Sunday, August 31.

Homecoming Sunday & the Blessing of the Backpacks ~ Sunday, September 14

Services @ 8:00am & 10:00am

Mark your calendars for the Atonement Homecoming on Sunday September 14. We will welcome everyone back from summer holidays, return to 8am & 10am worship services, and resume Sunday School. Kids, bring your backpacks for the Blessing of the Backpacks at the 10am service!

Ecumenical Worship @ Stanley Park ~ Sunday, September 28 ~ 10:30 am

Save the date! Our neighbors from the First Congregational Church and the Southwick Congregational Church have invited us to a joint ecumenical service at Stanley Park at 10:30 am Sunday, September 28. We will have our 8am Holy Eucharist service at ECOTA as usual that morning. At 10:30 am, there will be an interfaith ecumenical service at the pavilion in Stanley Park, followed by a picnic for all our church communities to share.

Blessing of the Animals ~ Saturday, October 4 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm @ Westfield Feed

Rev. Sandi is going to the dogs (and cats, parakeets, guinea pigs, goats, and other critters) at a special Blessing of the Animals at Westfield Feed, 288 Union Street, Westfield on Saturday, Oct. 4. Let her bless your pet! If your animal is uncomfortable in crowds, feel free to bring a photo instead. All pets and humans are welcome!

Bill & Lois Wilson: Their Journey in Letters ~ October 5 @ 4:30 pm

As part of our recognition of National Recovery Month, ECOTA is delighted to present this dramatic reading portraying the strength, resilience, and creativity of Bill and Lois Wilson, the co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous, told through their own letters. The show will begin at 4:30pm; doors open at 4:00 pm. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the work of Stepping Stones Foundation and Bridge Fellowship @ Atonement.

Ecumenical Recovery Service ~ Sunday, October 5 @ 6:00 pm

Recovery is worth celebrating—and it is easier to achieve with the support of a caring community that encourages the recovery journey. Offer your support for those celebrating recovery and those working to achieve it at this ecumenical worship service on October 5 at 6pm in the Sanctuary at ECOTA.

ECOTA Rummage & Bake Sale ~ Two Weekends this Year!

Friday & Saturday, October 17, 4-7pm & October 18, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Friday & Saturday, October 24, 4-7pm & October 25, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

It's time to begin preparations for ECOTA's Annual Rummage Sale! Start gathering items to donate, plan what you can contribute to the bake sale and save time in your schedule to help set up, run the sale & clean up after it is over. More information and sign up sheets will be available soon in the Narthex.

Bridge Fellowship: A Community of 12-Step Spirituality for Everyone ~ Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm

Looking for a way of living that works? Curious about 12-Steps? Seeking a welcoming community of faith and discovery? Bridge Fellowship offers all that and more! We meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm. On the first and third Tuesdays of each month we have a healing service with music and fellowship. On the second and fourth Tuesdays, we join in a prayer circle with reading, discussion, sharing, and fellowship. If there are five Tuesdays in the month, we'll use the fifth one for Dinner Church! Our next gathering is Tuesday, August 19 for our Healing Service. We hope you'll join us!

Farmers Market Raffle Baskets—Only One More Week!

The Thursday, August 28 drawing for our Farmers Market Raffle Baskets will be a two-fer! Get your tickets now for our Back-to-School Basket (everything the kids need to start the school year right!) and our Warm and Cozy Basket (everything you need to snuggle in and relax once the kids are back in school!). Tickets are \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5; you can purchase them in the church office, after the service, or at the ECOTA table at the Market.

THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presiders	Ms. Janet Parks, Mr. Joshua Vélez
Preacher	Mr. Joshua Vélez
Lectors	Sherrie Denison, Raymond Brown
Ushers	Chris Steger
Greeter	Samantha Hemmingsen
Stream Team	Kara Noble
Altar Guild	Gail Meehan
Linens	Deb Bruno
Flower Guild	Kara Noble
Counters	Deb Bruno, Karen Newman
Office Angels	Linda Zielinski, Alice Ehresman
Opener	Gail Meehan
Closer	Joshua Vélez

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 or call 562-5461.*

Altar Memorials are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of David Spinning and Warren Spinning., for whom altar memorials have been given.

Sanctuary Lamp burns to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Peter and Irene Myette.

Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer for The Church of the Province of South East Asia.

Diocesan Prayer for the Southwick Community Episcopal Church, Southwick; the Bishop's Executive Assistant, Lainey Hurlbut; the Ministry of the Armed Forces Chaplains; and the Episcopal Disability Network

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

For these families and individuals Mark, Jessica, John, Ray, Chris, Richard, Uncle Billy, 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, Samantha, 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 August 24	The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Holy Eucharist (<i>in person & live-streamed</i>) 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15
Monday, August 25	5:00 pm <i>Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) (SMGR)</i> 8:00 pm <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Tuesday, August 26	6:00 pm <i>Adult Children of Alcoholics (Little Chapel)</i> 7:00 pm <i>Bridge Fellowship (Sanctuary)</i>
Wednesday, August 27	12:15 pm <i>Healing Service & Holy Eucharist</i> 7:00 pm <i>Overeaters Anonymous (SMGR)</i>
Thursday, August 28	12:00-5:00 pm <i>Farmers Market</i> 7:30 pm <i>Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Friday, August 29	7:00 pm <i>Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (SMGR)</i>
Saturday, August 30	4:00 pm <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Sunday, August 31	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Holy Eucharist in person live-streamed 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

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