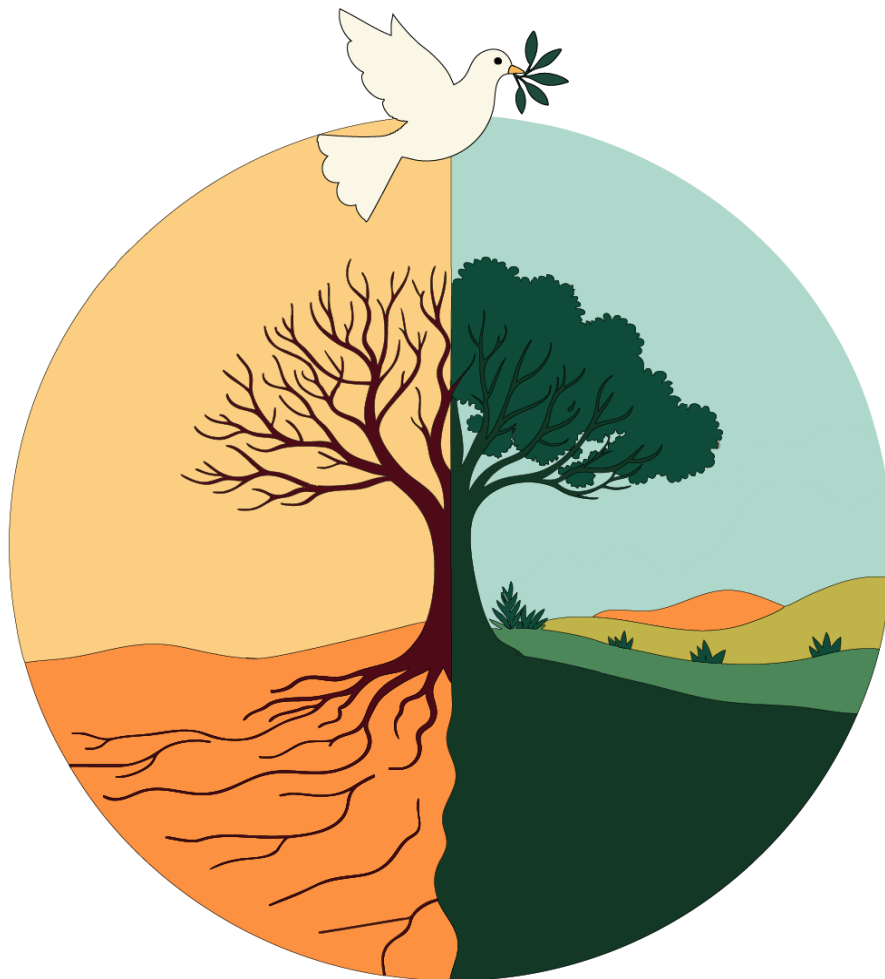


# The Episcopal Church of the Atonement



**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 7, 2025**

**9:00 a.m.**

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

## Prelude

### Entrance Hymn 594

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

*Presider* Blessed be the One who creates all things  
*People* **The Holy One's love is new every morning.**

Come, let us follow Lord Jesus Christ, who inspires us to hope and act for justice and righteousness.

**We give glory to God, who restores the groaning Creation and the vulnerable.**

Come, let us move with the Holy Spirit, striving to establish justice and produce the first fruits of hope.

**We praise God for the abundant life that is assured to all Creation.**

Heavenly Triune God and Creator of all, we gather here, made in the image of the Creator.

**Who created in love.**

We gather in the name of the redeemer, our Savior, Jesus Christ,

**Who reconciles all of Creation.**

We gather in the presence of the life Giver, your Holy Spirit,

**Who inspires new life and instills hope.**

*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.**

### Song of Praise

*by Clifton 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. \_

### The Creation Collect of the Day

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

Let us pray.

Grant us, O God, the courage to choose Jesus's way even at great cost, bearing our cross and releasing our possessions for the liberation and healing of your world; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Reader* A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

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

### **Psalms 139: 1-5, 12-17**

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made;  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you,  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book;  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God!  
how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

*Reader* A reading from Paul's letter to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

### Gospel Hymn 9 vss. 1-3

*Not Here for High or Holy Things*

The Gospel

*Luke 14:25-33*

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

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

## **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. Today we pray in thanksgiving with Jim Barnes and John Hutchison, who have given altar flowers in celebration of their 12<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**We trust in our all-loving God.**

Embolden Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; Sandi, our Priest; 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 Warren Spinning and Warren Howard Spinning for whom the sanctuary lamp burns. 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.*

*The Presider may add a concluding Collect.*

## **The Confession**

Let us confess our sins against God and our God's creation.

*Silence is kept*

**Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*The Presider says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through 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:*      Peace with yourself  
                      Peace with Creation.  
                      The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People:*        **And also with you.**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **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.*

### **Offertory Anthem**

*It's Gonna Cost You*

*by C.J. Noble*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Jesus taught the multitudes<br/>What it really means to be a disciple.<br/>Leave your father and mother behind<br/>Brothers, sisters, even your own life.</p> <p>2. If this is where you want to be<br/>Pick up your cross and follow me<br/>It's a big decision, don't make it<br/>if you don't mean to:<br/>It's gonna cost you. It's gonna cost you.</p> <p>3. Before you start to build a tower<br/>Be sure you've got the bricks and stones to finish.<br/>Before your army goes to war,<br/>Ask for peace or be prepared to win it.</p> <p>4. Nobody knows you anymore,<br/>Fame and fortune out the door<br/>Don't take that step unless<br/>you're sure you want to:<br/>It's gonna cost you.</p> | <p>5. I am the potter, you are the clay<br/>You are the traveler, I am the way.<br/>You are the gloomy night,<br/>I am the breaking day.<br/>For a minute there I thought I'd lost you,<br/>It's gonna cost you.</p> <p>6. Peter and Andrew all over again<br/>Casting their empty nets into the sea.<br/>I said I'd make them fishers of men,<br/>Put down their nets, got up and followed me.</p> <p>7. They signed on to the very end<br/>On a hill outside of Jerusalem,<br/>Where I chose to bleed and<br/>die upon the cross:<br/>It's gonna cost you; It's gonna cost you.</p> <p>8. I am the potter, you are the clay<br/>You are the traveler, I am the way.<br/>I am the Son of God,<br/>I'll be with you always.<br/>For a minute there you thought I'd lost you,<br/>It's gonna cost you.</p> |
|---|---|

## Presentation Hymn LEVAS 144

*Where He Leads Me*

## 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.

## Sursum Corda

*Presider:* The Creator be with you.

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

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to our loving God.

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

### *The Presider proceeds*

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

## Sanctus

*by Clifton J. Noble*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow-er and might.  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bles-sed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Presider continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

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

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*The Presider and the People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit, may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

**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.**

*Presider:* This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.;

*People:* **All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.**



## The Breaking of the Bread

by Clifton J. Noble

Je - sus, lamb of God, You take a-way the sins of the world,  
Have mer-cy on us. Je - sus, lamb of God, You take a-way the sins of the world,  
have mer - cy on us, Je - sus, lamb of God, You take a - way the  
sins of the world, Grant us your peace.

*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.

**Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that these gifts of your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you so that our work is yours and your work is ours. Lead us to transform our lives to reflect your glory in Creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

**Concluding Hymn 484**

*Praise the Lord Through Every Nation*

The Dismissal

*Presider:* Let us go forth into all Creation, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit and the beauty of God's Creation.

*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>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Phil Siska, Josh Vélez
<b>Lectors</b>	Chris Davis, Mary Hull
<b>Ushers</b>	Mark Mueller
<b>Stream Team</b>	Deb Curtis
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Linda Zielinski
<b>Linens</b>	Lisa Reinhausen
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Donna Tatlock-Calkins
<b>Counters</b>	Sue Cole, Karen Newman
<b>Office Angels</b>	Debbie Bruno, Jan Parks
<b>Opener</b>	Kara Noble
<b>Closer</b>	Sue Cole

## 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 and in celebration of the 12<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Jim Barnes and John Hutchison.

**Sanctuary Lamp** burns to the Glory of God and in loving memory of David Warren Spinning and Warren Howard Spinning.

**Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer** for The Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

**Diocesan Prayer** for St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Springfield; Human Resources & Compliance Specialist, Susan Olbon; and National Episcopal Historians & Archivists.

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

**For these families and individuals** Gail, 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 September 7

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
9:00 am Holy Eucharist (*in person & live-streamed*)  
6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15

### Monday, September 8

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

### Tuesday, September 9

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

### Wednesday, September 10

12:15 pm Healing Service & Holy Eucharist  
1:00 pm Brown Bag Bible Study  
7:00 pm *Overeaters Anonymous (SMGR)*

### Thursday, September 11

12:00-5:00 pm *Farmers Market*  
7:30 pm *Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)*

### Friday, September 12

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

### Saturday, September 13

4:00 pm *Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)*

### Sunday, August 14

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
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

*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**

## ***September 7, 2025***

*We return to the Fall Schedule of services @ 8:00am & 10:00am beginning next Sunday, September 14.*

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### **Food Donations Critically Needed**

There is a critical need for food donations for both our Little Free Food Pantry and for the Westfield State University Interfaith Food Pantry. Lists are available in the Narthex indicating the food items, toiletries, and household items that are most urgently needed.

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

#### **Return to Two Sunday Services @ 8:00 am & 10:00 am**

Sunday, September 14 is ECOTA's Homecoming Sunday. We'll welcome everyone back from summer holidays, return to two Sunday worship services, one at 8:00am & one at 10:00. Sunday School re-opens for the season next Sunday too. Kids, bring your backpacks for the Blessing of the Backpacks at the 10:00 am service!

### **Rummage & Bake Sale Information Session ~ Sunday, September 14 after 10:00 am Worship**

We will hold a planning session to begin working on the logistics for the TWO weekends of this fall's Rummage & Bake Sale after our 10:00 am worship service next week. The sale will take place on **Friday, October 17, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm, Saturday, October 18, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**; then again on **Friday, October 24, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (bag sale) and Saturday, October 25, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (bag sale)**. We'll discuss handling and organizing donations to cover both weekends, plan how to have enough baked goods, plan set up and take down, and work on finding volunteers to cover the sale on both weekends. If you can help, but can't make the meeting, sign up to volunteer or bake on the sheets in the Narthex.

### **Women's Luncheon ~ Tuesday, September 16, 2025 @ 12:00pm**

Join us for our next Women's Luncheon on Tuesday, September 16 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—it will lift your spirits! Bring a brown bag lunch and we'll provide beverages and treats. Sign up in the Narthex.

### **Prayer Shawl Knitting Group ~ Saturday, September 20 @ 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.

### **Free Narcan Training Course Sessions Available on:**

**Thursday, September 25 : 12:30-1:30 pm OR 3:30-4:30 pm**

**Thursday, October 9: 12:30-1:30 pm OR 3:30-4:30 pm**

ECOTA has two Narcan stations to assist people in the event of an opioid drug overdose (one outside the church office and the other in the Great Hall). The Westfield Farmers Market, in conjunction with Tapestry Health, will hold a free training course to teach Market and church volunteers, staff, vendors, members, and customers how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and how to administer Narcan, the opioid overdose reversal drug. Each one-hour training session includes the complete course. Each participant will be given a free Narcan kit if they would like one. Sign up for the session that best fits your schedule on the sheets in the Narthex.

### **Ecumenical Worship & Picnic @ Stanley Park ~ Sunday, September 28, Service begins @ 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 8:00 am 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 featuring members of the ECOTA community portraying Bill and Lois Wilson, the co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous. Come hear the story of the couple's strength, resilience, and creativity as 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 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary at ECOTA.

**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! We hope you'll join us!

**Season of Creation ~ September 1 – October 4**

The World Council of Churches designates September 1 through October 4 each year as the Season of Creation. The season begins with a Day of Prayer for Creation and ends with the Feast of St. Francis. Our Collect of the Day this morning is the Creation Collect to mark the beginning of the Season. Over the next few weeks, we will incorporate special prayers, salutations, confessions, and other elements into our services as part of our celebration of the Season of Creation. For more information, visit [www.SeasonofCreation.org](http://www.SeasonofCreation.org) or [www.episcopalchurch.org/season-of-creation-and-st-francis-day-resources](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/season-of-creation-and-st-francis-day-resources).