

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement



The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgy of the Word

August 30, 2026
9:00 a.m.

The service is live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook.

Prelude

Opening Hymn 11

Awake My Soul, and With the Sun

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom now and for ever.**

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

Lord Have Mercy S91

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

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

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

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Reader In this reading, Jeremiah complains to the Lord about the pain and difficulties of his mission. He then receives God's answer.

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Psalm 26:1-8

- 1 Give judgment for me, O Lord,
for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
- 2 Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.
- 3 For your love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.
- 4 I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
- 5 I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.
- 6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your altar,
- 7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
- 8 Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.

The Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

Reader In this reading, Paul exhorts the disciples in Rom to live lives full of Christian dedication and virtue, overcoming evil with good.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

The Gospel*Matthew 16:21-28*

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

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

Reflection*Janet Parks***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

Father, we pray for your holy catholic church;
That we may all 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, and deacons;
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;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

We thank you for the many blessings you have given us, with special thanks for 13th wedding anniversary of Jim Barnes and John Hutchison, for whom altar memorials have been given;
May we always cherish your gifts.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

Silence is kept. The congregation is invited to add their prayers silently or aloud. Then all reply together:

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest. We especially remember Joseph & Irene Myette; Irene and Seth Kellogg Sr., Seth Kellogg Jr.; and all those who have been killed by bombs, for whom the sanctuary lamp burns.

Silence is kept. The congregation is invited to add their prayers silently or aloud. Then all reply together:

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our needs and those of others.

Silence is kept. The congregation is invited to add their personal intercessions silently or aloud.

Then the Presider adds a concluding Collect.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Then the Presider says

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence is kept. Then all pray together:

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.

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 Peace

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us greet one another with peace in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Anthem

Take Up Your Cross

Clifton J. Noble

1. What will you give for your soul?
Will you give your life to the Lord?
Completely relinquish control
And devote your whole heart to his word?
Think what the Lord did for you.
Sent his son into the world
Sent him to die on the cross
Sent him to die on the cross...

REFRAIN:

Take up your cross and follow Jesus
Forget about the things of me.
Let go of the world and trust in Jesus,
For Jesus will come again.

2. What will you give in exchange?
Will you leave the whole world behind
And lose your life for His sake?
Tell me, what are you hoping to find?
There are some standing here
Who shall not taste death 'til they see
The son of man come in his kingdom
The son of man come in his kingdom

REFRAIN:

3. What will you do when He comes?
What will you say to your lord?
What are the works you have done?
Do you know what will be your reward?
Put away worldly concerns
Fix your mind on a heavenly goal
What will you give for your soul?
What will you give for your soul?

REFRAIN:

Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3*Old Hundredth, Isaac Watts*

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 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.

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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 30, 2026

SPECIAL SATURDAY HOLY EUCHARIST

Saturday, September 5 @ 5:00pm.

The Rev. Molly Scherm presiding (in person & live-streamed)

The Saturday service replaces our usual Sunday morning service.

There will be NO SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES on Sunday, September 6.

Little Free Food Pantry Wish List Food of the Week

This week the Little Free Food Pantry is in need of “Meals in a Can”—canned foods that can provide a full meal all by themselves. Meals-in-a-can such as Beefaroni, canned raviolis, stews and hearty soups, clam chowder, chicken a la king or chicken & dumplings, chili, tamales in a can are in high demand. Place your donations in the basket in the Narthex.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group ~ Saturdays, September 19 & October 24 @ 10:00 am

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

Fall Rummage & Bake Sale ~ Friday, October 16 & Saturday, October 17

Friday, October 16, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm | Saturday, October 17, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Preparations have begun for this Fall's Rummage & Bake Sale—one of the biggest fundraisers of the church year! We are now accepting donations of clean, gently use items for the sale in the Great Hall in the basement. Appliances and other electrical equipment must be in working condition. **Please: NO flammable liquids, luggage, large furniture, golf clubs, or child car seats!** We're also looking for people to bake, and volunteers to help with everything from setting up through running the sales and then cleaning up after it's all over. Sign up sheets are available in the Narthex!

Westfield High School Community Closet Needs Clothing & Personal Hygiene Products

Students at the Westfield High School are again seeking donations of basic toiletries, T-shirts and other gently used clothing, new underwear and socks, personal care and hygiene items for its Community Closet. Financial donations are also welcome. If you can help, place your donations in the plastic tote just outside the sanctuary door. Talk to Tammy Joseph for more information.

Western Mass Hospital Be a Star for a Senior

There are still some stars on the “Star Tree” for the Compassionate Care Ministry's “Be a Star for a Senior.” Place your gifts/donations in the basket in the Narthex. Members of the Compassionate Care Ministry will deliver them to elderly patients at Western Massachusetts Hospital who don't have nearby family. If you would like to help with the program, contact Tammy Joseph for more information.

Westfield Farmers Market Church Table | Thursdays, June - October

We would like to show the community that ECOTA is a welcoming community, but we have not had enough volunteers to staff our Market Table. Can you help us greet visitors to the market and show them what a welcoming place ECOTA is? Do you have suggestions about how to make it easier to encourage volunteers to sit at our table? We'd love to hear your ideas!

When do we go back to two services? When Does Sunday School Restart?

On Sunday, September 13 we plan to return to two services, at 8am and 10am. Sunday School also will resume that day. ***REMINDER: We still need Teacher's Helpers to assist Judy Harvester and Jean Brown to run the Church School classes. No previous experience is required, but you must be Safe Church trained.***

Safe Church Training

The Diocese has recently overhauled its Safe Church Training system for volunteers, staff, and clergy. The new system includes online training modules and a Zoom meeting with Safe Church trainers from the diocese. The online training modules are now activated and available. If you would like to obtain Safe Church training so you can help with activities like the Sunday School or Compassionate Care, or if you need to be recertified for Safe Church (recertification is required every three years), please contact Kara in the church office for more information.

THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presiders	Janet Parks, Karen Newman
Vestry Person of the Day	Rob Frazar
Lectors	Sandra Chamberlain, Jim Barnes
Usher/Greeter	Deb Curtis
Stream Team	Kara Noble
Linens	Deb Bruno
Flower Guild	Donna Tatlock Calkins
Counters	Lesley Frazar, Alice Ehresman
Office Angels	Jan Parks, Gail Meehan
Opener	Kara Noble
Closer	Jan Parks

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 special thanks for 13th wedding anniversary of Jim Barnes and John Hutchison.

Sanctuary Lamp burns to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph & Irene Myette; Irene and Seth Kellogg Sr., Seth Kellogg Jr.; and all those who have been killed by bombs.

Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer for the Province of the West Indies.

Diocesan Prayer for Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield; the Administrative Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary, Karen Warren; the Seminaries of the Episcopal Church; Multicultural Bridge, Berkshires

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

For these families and individuals Nyla, Victoria, Lucas, Aidan, Jesse, Siobhan, Ginger, Ed, Barbara, Mike, Ann, Anne, Danny, Janet, Caroline, Liz, Chris, Caryl, Frank, Jenny, Mark, Sally, Fred, Sue, Hala, Tom, Michael, Mark, Jessica, John, 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, 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

THIS WEEK AT ATONEMENT

Sunday August 30	Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost 9:00 am Liturgy of the Word (in person live-streamed) 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15
Monday, August 31	5:00 pm <i>Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) (SMGR)</i> 8:00 pm <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Tuesday, September 1	
Wednesday, September 2	6:00 pm <i>Adult Children of Alcoholics (Little Chapel)</i> 7:00 pm <i>Overeaters Anonymous (SMGR)</i>
Thursday, September 3	12:00-5:00 pm <i>Farmers Market</i> 7:30 pm <i>Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Friday, September 4	7:00 pm <i>Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (SMGR)</i>
Saturday, September 5	9:00 am <i>Adult Children of Alcoholics (Chapel)</i> 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist (in person live-streamed) 4:00 pm <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Sunday, September 6	Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost Services this week are on Saturday evening at 5pm NO SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE THIS WEEK 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. Miguelina Howell, *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* ~ Steve Adams, *Treasurer* ~ Deborah Bruno, *Clerk*
Mike Ehresman, *Asst. Jr. Warden* ~ Sue Cole ~ Gene Giacometti ~ Phil Siska ~ Gail Meehan