

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement



The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost Morning Prayer

**September 20, 2026
8:00 a.m.**

This service is Morning Prayer, Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer (beginning on page 75).

*I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”*

—Psalm 122:1

Prelude

Opening Hymn 8

Morning Has Broken

Opening Sentence

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Philippians 1:2*)

Confession of Sin

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be 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.

Presider says

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

The Invitatory

Presider: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Venite

Psalms 95:1-7

**Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Jonah 3:14-4:11

In this reading, the Lord teaches Jonah a lesson after the prophet gets angry because God is merciful to the repentant pagan city Jonah has gone to great trouble to denounce.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;
 call upon him when he draws near.
 Let the wicked forsake their ways
 and the evil ones their thoughts;
 And let them turn to the Lord,
 and he will have compassion,
 and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways,
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.
 For as rain and snow fall from the heavens
 and return not again, but water the earth,
 Bringing forth life and giving growth,
 seed for sowing and bread for eating,
 So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
 it will not return to me empty;
 But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
 and prosper in that for which I sent it.

 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

In this reading, Paul tells the Philippians that he would prefer to be with Christ beyond death, but he recognizes that he still has good work to do in his earthly life.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

You are God: we praise you;
 You are the Lord; we acclaim you;
 You are the eternal Father:
 All creation worships you.
 To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
 Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 The glorious company of apostles praise you.
 The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
 The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
 Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;
 God, of majesty unbounded,
 your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
 and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
 You, Christ, are the king of glory,
 the eternal Son of God.
 When you became human to set us free
 you did not shun the Virgin's womb.
 You overcame the sting of death
 and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
 You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
 We believe that you will come and be our judge.
 Come then, Lord, and help your people,
 bought with the price of your own blood,
 and bring us with your saints
 to glory everlasting.

Gospel Hymn 411

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

The Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

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.

Presider Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People **And grant us your salvation.**

Presider Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People **Let your people sing with joy.**

Presider Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People **For only in you can we live in safety.**

Presider Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Presider Let your way be known upon earth;

People **Your saving health among all nations.**

Presider Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Presider Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

The Presider offers the Collects

The Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

Collect for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgiving

Presider: You are invited to add your personal intercessions and thanksgivings, silently or aloud.
Silence is kept.

Presider: Lord in your Mercy.

People: **Hear our prayers.**

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

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God."

Anthem

Laborers into the Harvest

Music by Clifton J. Noble

Jesus went out to the cities and towns
Teaching and preaching the gospel.
Healing all sickness and ev'ry disease,
Teaching and preaching the gospel.

He was moved with compassion
When He saw the multitudes
Weary and scattered and scared,
Weary and scattered and lonely and lost,
Like sheep having no shepherd.

Then Jesus said to His disciples.
The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.
Therefore pray the lord of the harvest
To send out laborers into His harvest.

Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
Tell them the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers,
Cast out demons and raise the dead.
Freely you have received; freely give.

Now we must be Jesus's disciples.
The harvest still is plentiful,
and the laborers still few.
Therefore we pray the lord of the harvest
Send us out as laborers into Your harvest.
We would be laborers in Your harvest.

The General Thanksgiving

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Almighty God, Lord of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Presider: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Dismissal & The Grace

Presider Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 551

Rise Up, Ye Saints of 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 | Sunday, September 20, 2026

September 27 Worship Schedule:

8:00am & 10am Worship & Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Jane Beebe

Prayer Chain Volunteers Needed

ECOTA's Prayer Chain offers prayer support to anyone who has an urgent need. You can activate the Prayer Chain by contacting the church office and requesting prayers. Prayer Chain volunteers contact each other to share the request and begin praying. If you believe in the power of prayer and you'd like to be a Prayer Chain volunteer, sign up in the Narthex and/or talk to Chris Davis or Dianne Legalos for more information.

Little Free Food Pantry Wish List Food of the Week

This week the Little Free Food Pantry is in need of **peanut butter**—12-16oz jars fit best in the Little Free Food Pantry. Please place your donations in the basket in the Narthex.

Women's Luncheon, Tuesday, September 22, 2026 | 12:00 pm

Our next Women's Lunch will be on Tuesday, September 22@ noon. Join us for an hour enjoying and pleasant lunch and a nice chat with friends. Theme TBA. Bring your own brown bag lunch; we'll provide beverages and treats. Sign up in the Narthex if you can join us.

Quilt Raffle ~ October 4-November 22

Chelsea Weir has generously donated a beautiful handmade quilt to be raffled in support of ECOTA's Pastoral Compassionate Care Ministry. All funds raised will help the Ministry support individuals in the church who are not able to attend church, but who want to stay connected to our healing and loving community. Tickets for the raffle are three for \$5 or ten tickets for \$20. They will go on sale on October 4 and they can be purchased after worship services. The winner will be drawn on November 22.

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! We are 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!

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group ~ Saturday, 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.

Westfield High School Community Closet Still Needs Clothing & Personal Hygiene Products

Students at Westfield High School are seeking donations of toiletries, T-shirts & other gently used clothing, new underwear & socks, and personal care & hygiene items for its Community Closet. Financial donations are also welcome. Place your donations in the tote just outside the sanctuary door.

Safe Church Training

The Diocese has 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 available. If you would like to obtain Safe Church training so you can help with activities like Sunday School or Compassionate Care, or if you need to be recertified for Safe Church (recertification is required every three years), please contact the church office for more information.

THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presiders	Kara Noble, Jerry Noble
Director of Music	Clifton J. Noble
Vestry Person of the Day	Gene Giacometti
Opener	Kara Noble
Lectors	Sandra Chamberlain
Usher/Greeter	Gail Meehan
Linens	Lisa Reinhausen
Flower Guild	Tanya Kellogg
Sunday School	Judy Harvester
Nursery	Tammy Joseph, coordinator
Counters	Lesley Frazar, Kathy DeJean
Office Angels	Karen Newman, Donna Tatlock
Closer	Jerry 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 or call 562-5461.*

Altar Memorials are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Eric David Moller.

Sanctuary Lamp burns to the Glory of God and in loving memory of all our friends and loved ones who have passed and all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer for the Anglican Church of Australia.

Diocesan Prayer for Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Sutton; the Massachusetts Council of Churches; and Construct Center for Affordable Housing, Berkshires.

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

For these families and individuals Ann, Anne, Nyla, Ginny, Victoria, Lucas, Aidan, Jesse, Siobhan, Ginger, Ed, Barbara, Mike, 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, September 20** Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
8:00 am Morning Prayer (*in person*)
10:00 am Worship with Confirmations (*live-streamed from St. Mark's*)
NO 10:00am Worship @ ECOTA on September 20.
6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15
- Monday, September 21** 8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)
4:30 pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)
5:30 pm Girl Scouts (Upstairs Classroom)
- Tuesday, September 22** 12:00 pm Women's Luncheon
- Wednesday, September 23** 6:00 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics (Little Chapel)
7:00 pm Overeaters Anonymous (SMGR)
- Thursday, September 24** 12:00-5:00 pm Farmers Market
5:00 pm Girl Scouts (Upstairs Classroom)
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)
- Friday, September 25** 7:00 pm Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (SMGR)
- Saturday, September 26** 9:00 am Adult Children of Alcoholics (Chapel)
4:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)
- Sunday, September 27** Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
8:00 am Worship & Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Jane Beebe
10:00 am Worship & Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Jane Beebe
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 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