

# The Episcopal Church of the Atonement



*Peace*

**Second Sunday of Advent | InGathering Sunday**

**December 7, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

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

Prelude

## Entrance Hymn 74

*Blessed Is the King Whose Coming*

### Second Sunday of Advent

*The person lighting the candle reads*

Today we light the first and second candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE.

*The candle is lit.*

*The person reads the scripture passage.*

Scripture: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."—*Colossians 3:15*

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to see peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.**

All of our waiting is a waiting for God.

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

*The Presider and People offer the Collect of Purity*

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

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

### Song of Praise

*Glory to God*

*Clifton Noble*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord, God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y  
God and fath-er, We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord, Je-sus Christ  
on-ly son of the fath-er Lord God, lamb of God, 4. You take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer-cy  
on us. 5. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the fath-er, re-ceive our prayer.  
6. For you a-lone are the ho-ly one; You a-lone are the Lord; You a-lone are the most high, Je-sus  
Christ with the ho-ly spi-rit In the glo-ry of God the fath-er. A-men.

## The Collect of the Day

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

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.. Amen.

## The First Reading

*Isaiah 11:1-10*

*Reader*    In this reading, the prophet Isaiah foresees a time when God will bring forth a righteous judge from the stump of Jesse—that is, from the line of King David, who was Jesse’s son. The arrival of this judge will usher in a new spirit of peace in the world.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

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

**Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19**



- 1 Give the King your justice, O **God**, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's **Son**;
- 2 That he may rule your people **righteously** \*  
and the poor with **justice**;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the **people**, \*  
and the little hills bring **righteousness**.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the **people**; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the **oppressor**.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon **endure**, \*  
from one generation to **another**.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown **field**, \*  
like showers that water the **earth**.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous **flourish**; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no **more**.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of **Israel**, \*  
who alone does wondrous **deeds**!
- (2<sup>nd</sup> half)
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for **ever**! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his **glory**. Amen. Amen.

**The Second Reading**

*Romans 15:4-13*

*Reader* In this reading Paul points to several passages from the Hebrew scriptures to show how God's promise that the Gentile peoples should come to praise God was being fulfilled. The new converts are urged to live in harmony and to recognize how Christ's ministry has brought these prophecies to fruition.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Sung at 10:am.

**Gospel Hymn 56, vss. 3-4**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

## **The Gospel**

*Matthew 3:1-12*

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of Christ according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, O Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*The Rev. Sandi Albom*

### **The Nicene Creed**

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

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

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

### **The Prayers of the People**

Father, we pray for your holy Church. We pray especially for St. Mark's Episcopal Church/Iglesia Episcopal San Marcos, Worcester; Non-parochial priests & deacons; Church Video & Film; and the Prayer Shawl Ministry; and The Church of Bangladesh.

**That we all may be one.**

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

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

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

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

Give the departed eternal rest. We pray especially in memory of David Calkins, for whom altar memorials have been given; and for Fred, Grace and “Butch” Burrell, for whom the sanctuary lamp burns, that they may all have a place in your eternal kingdom.  
You are invited to add your own prayers, silently or aloud, at this time.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

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

*The Presider may add a concluding Collect.*

### **The Confession**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept*

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

*The Presider says*

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

### **The Peace**

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

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Stewardship Message**

*Gary Cole*

Let us pray.

Gracious and generous God,  
source of all we have and all we hope to be,  
we give you thanks for the life you are growing in this parish.  
For the shoots of new hope,  
for the deep roots that hold us steady,  
and for every person you have gathered here.

Bless the pledges we offer today.  
Take our gifts of money, time, energy, and love  
and use them to strengthen this community,  
to widen our welcome,  
to deepen our compassion,  
and to serve all who seek a place of belonging.

Make us faithful stewards of what you have entrusted to us.  
Help us to give with joy,  
to share with courage,  
and to trust that you will bring forth more life  
than we can ask or imagine.

Guide us in the year ahead,  
that together we may nurture your kingdom  
in this place and beyond,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

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

*Sung at 10:00 am*

#### **Offertory Anthem**

*Will We Know Him?*

Don Besig & Nancy Price

Are we ready for the babe of Bethlehem  
To be born in a lowly stall?  
Are we ready to greet the tiny little King  
Who will come to save us all?

Are we ready for the star of Bethlehem  
To appear in the winter sky?  
Are we ready to follow anywhere it leads  
And let its light fill all our lives?

Prepare ye the way for the King of Glory,  
Once again proclaim the wondrous story.  
God will send His own true Son,  
But will we know Him when He comes?

Are we ready for the song of Bethlehem  
To declare our Savior’s birth?  
Are we ready to join the angels as they sing,  
And spread the news to all on earth?

Prepare ye the way for the King of Glory,  
Once again proclaim the wondrous story.  
God will send His own true Son,  
But will we know Him when He comes?

Are we ready for the babe of Bethlehem,  
God’s true and promised Son?  
Are we ready to greet the tiny little King  
And will we know Him when He comes?  
Will we know Him when He comes?

*Sung at 8:00 & 10:00 am*

#### **Presentation Hymn 67**

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

#### **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.**

*The Presider proceeds*

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

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

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

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

### **Sanctus S130**

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The musical score is written for a single voice part in 3/4 time, using a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The first staff begins with 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,\_\_\_\_'. The second staff continues with 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,\_\_\_\_'. The third staff begins with 'Heav - en and earth are full,\_\_\_\_ full\_\_\_\_ of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The fourth staff continues with 'san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The fifth staff begins with 'Blessed is the one who comes\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord,\_\_\_\_ Ho -'. The sixth staff continues with 'san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The score ends with a double bar line.

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



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

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

Therefore, according to his command O Father:

*The Presider and the People*

**We remember his death.**

**We proclaim his resurrection.**

**We await his coming in glory.**

*The Presider continues*

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

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

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

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

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

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Presider:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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

### **Fraction Anthem**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us**

**Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us**

**Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**



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

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

### **Spiritual Communion**

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

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

### **Communion Meditation**

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

Let us pray.

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

The Blessing

### **Concluding Hymn 76**

*On Jordan's Bank*

The Dismissal

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

### **Postlude**

#### **PERMISSIONS**

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

## THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

<b>Presider</b>	The Rev. Sandi Albom
<b>Opener</b>	Gail Meehan
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Linda Zielinski
<b>Linens</b>	Deb Bruno
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Tanya Kellogg
<b>Sunday School</b>	Judy Harvester, Deb Auclair
<b>Nursery</b>	Tammy Joseph, Margo Halton
<b>Counters</b>	Karen Newman, Sue Cole
<b>Office Angels</b>	Deb Bruno, Donna Tatlock-Calkins
<b>Greeter</b>	Rich Howitt
<b>Usher</b>	Steve Adams
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Sue Cole, Phil Siska
<b>Lectors</b>	Suzanna Adams, Steve Harvester
<b>Stream Team</b>	Margaret Hannigan
<b>Closer</b>	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](mailto:program@atonementwestfield.org) or call 562-5461.*

**Altar Memorials** are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of David Calkins.

**Sanctuary Lamp** burns to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Fred, Grace and “Butch” Burrell, for whom the sanctuary lamp burns, that they may all have a place in your eternal kingdom.

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

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

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

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

## THIS WEEK AT ATONEMENT

<b>Sunday, December 7</b>	The Second Sunday in Advent   InGathering Sunday 9:30 am Holy Eucharist ( <i>in person &amp; live-streamed</i> ) 10:30 am Potluck Coffee Hour/Breakfast 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15
<b>Monday, December 8</b>	5:00 pm <i>Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) (SMGR)</i> 5:30 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> 8:00 pm <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
<b>Tuesday, December 9</b>	6:00 pm <i>Music Together (SMGR)</i> 6:00 pm <i>Adult Children of Alcoholics (Little Chapel)</i> 7:00 pm <i>Bridge Fellowship (Sanctuary)</i>
<b>Wednesday, December 10</b>	12:15 pm <i>Healing Service &amp; Holy Eucharist</i> 1:00 pm <i>Brown Bag Bible Study</i> 6:00 pm <i>Overeaters Anonymous (SMGR)</i>
<b>Thursday, December 11</b>	5:30 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:15 pm <i>Handbell Rehearsal</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Rehearsal</i> 7:30 pm <i>Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
<b>Friday, December 12</b>	7:00 pm <i>Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (SMGR)</i>
<b>Saturday, December 13</b>	10:00 am <i>Prayer Shawl Ministry</i> 4:00 pm <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
<b>Sunday, December 14</b>	The Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist ( <i>in person</i> ) 10:00 am Holy Eucharist ( <i>in person &amp; live-streamed</i> ) 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

## December 7, 2025

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

December 7, 2025 is InGathering Sunday, when we come together to reflect on and celebrate the ways we have been blessed. We make a faithful commitment to care for our community and foster its growth and vitality. **On InGathering Sunday, we will have one service at 9:30 am**, followed by a celebratory Potluck Breakfast/Coffee Hour in the Narthex. There's also a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so you can let us know what you will bring.

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

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

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

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

### **Peer-Led Grief Support Group ~ Sunday, December 14 @ 12:00 pm**

A grief support group allows time and space to share our common, yet different journeys on this path of grief and bereavement towards healing and peace. This group is for all bereaved and grieving individuals who are looking for a welcoming, confidential, and non-judgmental conversational grief support group. We meet twice a month in the Chapel; our next two meetings are scheduled for Sunday, December 14 and Sunday, December 28. For more information, contact Tanya Kellogg, Bonnie Adams, or Lyn Casey.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pick up your angel in the Narthex!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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### **Bible Study Vacation**

Our Brown Bag Bible Study takes "vacation" during the holidays because everyone's schedule is already very busy. Bible Study meetings will resume on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 @ 1pm.

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