The Episcopal Church of the Atonement



Worship and Holy Eucharist

The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 8, 2026
8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

The 10:00 a.m. service is live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook.

Prelude

Entrance Hymn 574 *Before Thy Throne, O God We Kneel*

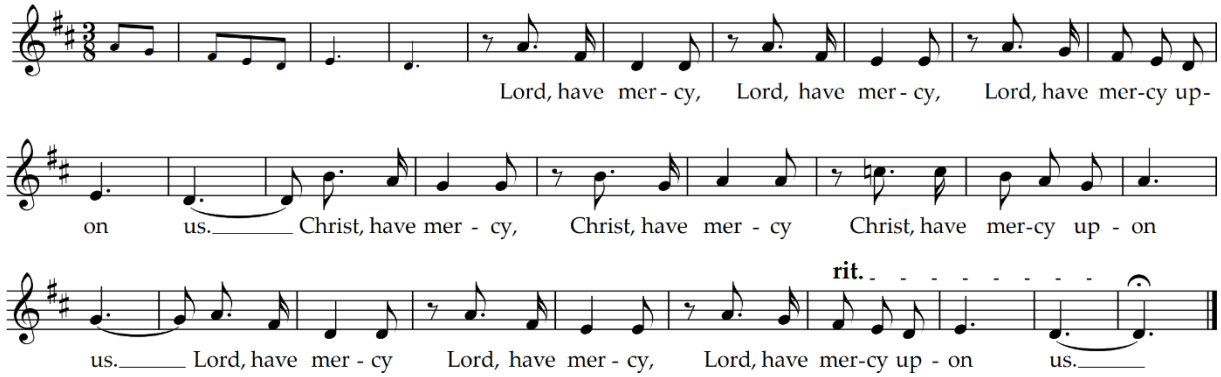
Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom now and for ever. Amen.**

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 8am and 10am

Song of Praise *Lord Have Mercy, Music by Noble*



Collect of the Day

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

Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

The First Reading *Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16*

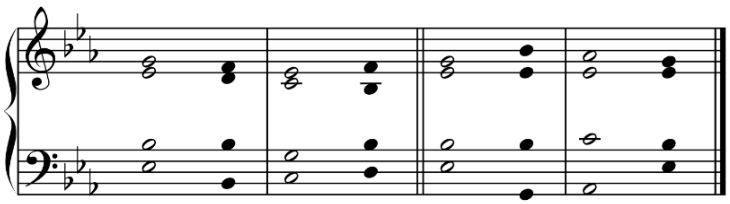
Reader In this reading, Wisdom portrayed as a glorious and enduring treasure, one that is not hard to find for those who actively seek it and truly desire to find understanding as they strive to be faithful to God.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

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

Spoken at 8am. Chanted at 10am.

Psalm 70



1 Be pleased, O God, to de**liver me; ***
O Lord, make haste to **help me.**
2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed
and altogether dis**mayed; ***
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be dis**graced.**

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn **back, ***
because they are a**shamed.**
4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be **glad in you; ***
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
"Great is the **Lord!"**

5 But as for me, I am poor and **needy; ***
come to me speedily, O **God.**
6 You are my helper and my de**liverer; ***
O Lord, do not **tarry.**

The Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Reader In this lesson, members of the Thessalonian church had apparently died and others were afraid those who had would miss the Lord's coming. Paul reminds them that Christian hope is rooted in God, who raised Jesus. He offers them a vision of the day when the Lord will raise the living and the dead.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Sung at 8am and 10am

Gospel Hymn 57 *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

The Gospel *Matthew 25:1-13*

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Sermon *The Rev. Rick Bellows*

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
In peace we pray to you, Lord God. (*Silence is kept.*)

Creating and sustaining God, in faith we lift our voices to you that we might be transformed by your love saying, "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

We pray for the church, that it may manifest your grace and mercy in the world.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our nation, that it might fulfill its promise and be a nation where people know justice, peace, and the opportunity to thrive.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, that we might be a place where each of us can discover our call and find ways to minister together as the body of Christ.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the natural order, that the abundance and diversity of creation might be preserved through our choices and advocacy.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray in gratitude for the great joys and many blessings we have received.
You are invited to add your own petitions and thanksgivings, silently or aloud, at this time.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the dead and the dying, that they might fulfill your will for them and rest in the glory of your eternal love. We pray in loving memory of everyone on our Necrology, for whom altar memorials have been given; and in memory of Jacques DeJean, Pasquale Cassetta, Mary Heilner, Marion "Amy" McGilpin, and Russell W. McGilpin, for whom the sanctuary lamp burns. May they find their place in your eternal kingdom.
You are invited to add your own prayers, silently or aloud, at this time.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our needs and those of others.
The congregation is invited to add their personal intercessions silently or aloud.

The Presider may add a closing collect.

The Confession

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

Welcome and Announcements

The Great Thanksgiving

When we gather, we are happy to receive an offering of "our life and labor," which we present to God. The ushers will pass the offering plate to receive your donations in person. You may also give online at Tithe.ly or scan the QR code located in the pew.

The Presider says

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

Sung 10am

Offertory Anthem *My Lord, What a Morning* *arr. Noble*

(Sing twice)
My Lord, what a mornin',
My Lord, what a mornin',
My Lord, what a mornin',
When the stars begin to fall,
When the stars begin to fall.

On my way to the promised land,
I heard from heaven today
God's gonna give me His right hand
I heard from heaven today, Oh,

My Lord, what a mornin',
My Lord, what a mornin',
My Lord, what a mornin',
When the stars begin to fall,
When the stars begin to fall.

Sung at 8am and 10am

Presentation Hymn 324 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

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.

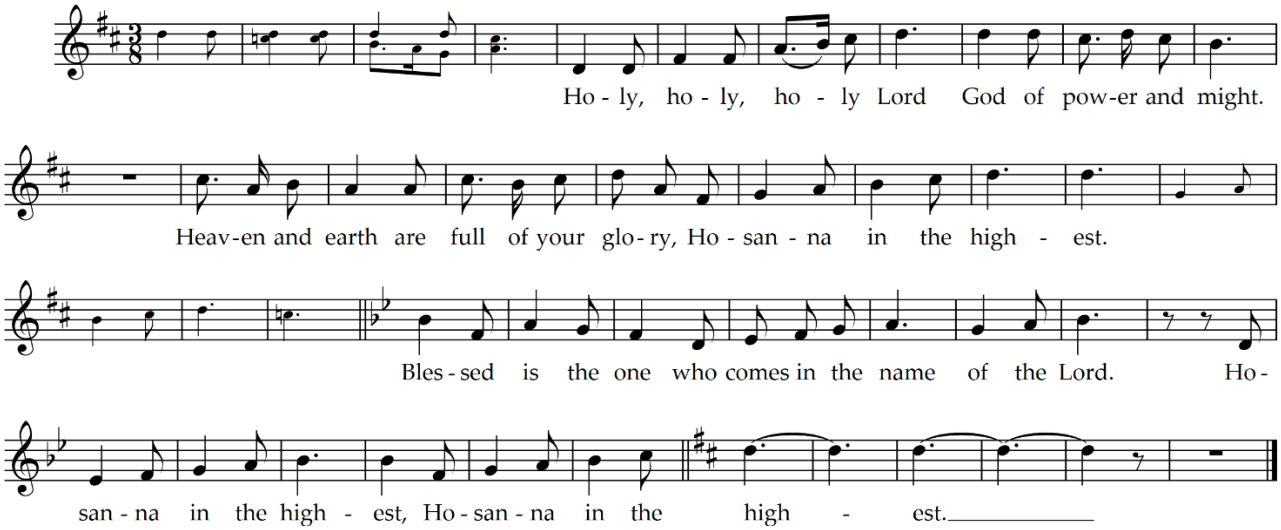
For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Sung at 10:00 am



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,

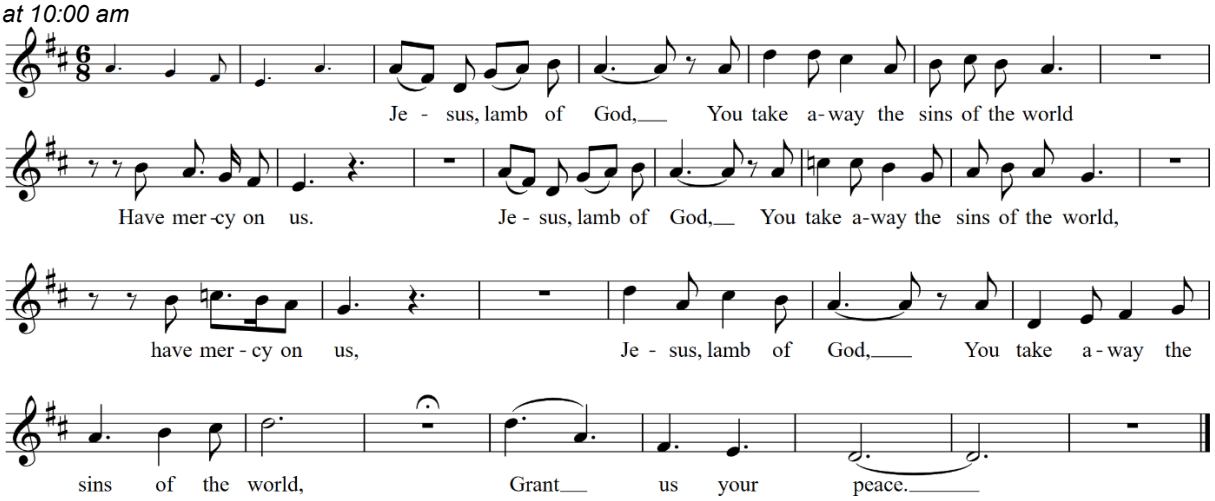
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Sung at 10:00 am



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. 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. Thank you.*

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

Sung at 8am and 10am

Concluding Hymn 436 *Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates*

The Dismissal

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

ECOTA Happenings | November 8, 2026

Next Week's Worship Schedule: November 15

Sunday, November 15: 8am & 10am Morning Prayer | Jerry & Kara Noble & Lay Leaders | Sunday School @ 10am

It's Stewardship Season!
In this Stewardship season, we are mindful of both connections and contributions. We are focused on our relationships with God, with each other, and with our community. We are grateful for the contributions of time, talent—and yes, money—that so many members of the church give with open hearts to support our diverse missions. Your faithful giving is vital to keeping us connected and enabling us to follow Christ's example of love and service. Pledge cards are included this week's leaflet and will be available through November. Please complete and return yours as soon as possible.

Quilt Raffle to Benefit ECOTA's Pastoral Compassionate Care Ministry
Get your tickets now! This is the last week to purchase raffle tickets to win the beautiful quilt made by Chelsea Weir. Support ECOTA's Pastoral Compassionate Care Ministry! Tickets will be on sale after each Sunday service; they are 3 for $5 or 10 for $20. The winner will be drawn after our Saturday service on November 21.

Comfort Basket Raffle to Support ECOTA's Ministries
Our talented Raffle Basket Design team has put together a beautiful Comfort Basket and they'll be raffling it in November to raise money to support ECOTA's ministries. Tickets are $5 each and they will be on sale before and after Sunday services. The winner will be drawn at our InGathering Breakfast/Coffee Hour on Sunday, November.

ECOTA Coffeehouse ~ Wednesday, November 11 @ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Good coffee (or tea). Good friends. Good music. Join Jerry & Kara Noble for all three at our next ECOTA Coffeehouse!

Fall Harvest Market ~ Saturday, November 21 | 11:00am-3:00pm
Join us for a warm and wonderful Harvest Market, put on by the organizers of the Westfield Farmers Market! It will take place indoors in the Great Hall, the Saint Margaret's Guild Room, and the Narthex @ ECOTA, and it will be loaded with handmade craft and artisanal items from a wide variety of talented local vendors. While you're there, congratulate Lisa Zlody, the Farmers Market Manager, who was honored by the City of Westfield as a 2026 Volunteer of the Year and Extra Mile Hero!

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group ~ Saturday, October 24 @ 10:00 am
Our Knitting Group gathers to knit/crochet prayer shawls to donate to local elder and wellness care facilities on October 24. Don't know how to knit or crochet? 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.

InGathering Sunday & Potluck Breakfast/Coffee Hour ~ November 29 after 9:30 am Worship
On 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.
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.

Bishop Miguelina Howell Visit ~ Sunday, January 17, 2027 | 8:00am & 10am Worship Services
The Rt. Reverend Miguelina Howell, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, has accepted our invitation to preach and preside at both of our Worship Services us on Sunday, January 17. 2027. If you can help put together a coffee hour after the service, let the office know.

THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider	The Rev. Rick Bellows
Music Director	Clifton Noble
Vestry Person of the Day	Gail Meehan
Opener	Kara Noble
Linens	Dianne Legalos
Flower Guild	Karen Newman
Sunday School	Judy Harvester, Mary Ann Woodbury
Nursery	Tammy Joseph, coordinator
Counters	Gail Meehan, Debbie Bruno
Office Angels	Kathy DeJean, Alice Ehresman
Closer	Sue Cole

	8:00 am	**10:00 am**
Altar Guild	Linda Zielinski	Switch: Josh Vélez Cleanup: Kara Noble
Greeter(s)	Linda Zielinski	Rich Howitt
Eucharistic Minister(s)	Josh Vélez	Phil Siska, Sue Cole
Lector(s)	Sandra Chamberlain	Steve Harvester, Raymond Brown
Usher(s)	Linda Zielinski	Jody Brown
Stream Team	NA	Deb Curtis

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 Richard and Doris Tierney.

Sanctuary Lamp burns to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jacques, DeJean, Pasquale Cassetta, Mary Heilner, Marion "Amy" McGilpin, and Russell W. McGilpin.

Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer for the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Diocesan Prayer for Christ the King – Epiphany, Wilbraham; the Secretary of Convention, Wende Wheeler; North Berkshire Community Action; and Pioneer Valley Project

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

For these families and individuals Shirley, Curt, John, Jim, Mary, Pam, Sara, Ann, Anne, Nyla, Ginny, Victoria, Lucas, Aidan, Jesse, Siobhan, Ginger, Ed, Barbara, Mike, Danny, Caroline, Liz, Chris, Caryl, Frank, Jenny, Mark, Sally, Fred, Sue, Hala, Tom, Michael, Mark, Jessica, 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, James, Jeffrey

THIS WEEK AT ATONEMENT

Sunday November 8	Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Worship & Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Rick Bellows 10:00 am Worship & Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Rick Bellows 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15
Monday, November 9	*4:30 pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly (SMGR)* *8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)* *5:30 pm Girl Scouts (Upstairs Classroom)*
Tuesday, November 10	12:00 pm Women's Lunch (*SMGR*) *6:00 pm Music Together (SMGR)*
Wednesday, November 11	10:30 pm ECOTA Coffeehouse (*SMGR*) 12:15pm Midweek Healing Service *6:00 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics (Chapel)* *7:00 pm Overeaters Anonymous (SMGR)*
Thursday, November 12	*5:30 pm Girl Scouts (Upstairs Classroom)* 6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal *7:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)*
Friday, November 13	*7:00 pm Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (SMGR)*
Saturday, November 14	*9:00 am Adult Children of Alcoholics (Chapel)* 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (SMGR) *4:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)*
Sunday, November 15	Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Morning Prayer 10:00 am Morning Prayer | Youth Sunday! 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