

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement



Joy

Youth Sunday
Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 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 66

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Third Sunday of Advent

The person lighting the candle reads

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

The candle is lit.

The person reads the scripture passage.

Scripture: "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. —*Isaiah 55:12*

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. 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 S280

Glory to God

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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader In this reading, the prophet envisions a time of abundance and healing for Israel. In words that are later used by Jesus to describe what is taking place in his ministry, the prophet foretells an age when the blind and deaf, the lame and dumb will be healed.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Spoken at 8:00 am. Chanted by the Choir at 10:00 am.

Canticle 15

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God my savior
For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant
From this day all generations will call me blessed
The almighty has done great things for me
And holy is His name.
He has mercy on those who fear Him
In every generation
He has shown the strength of his arm,
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
And has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things
And the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant, Israel
For He has remembered His promise of mercy.
The promise he made to our fathers,
To Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen.

The Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Reader This lesson is an exhortation to patient expectation in preparation for the coming of the Lord. We can learn from the farmer, who must wait for the crop to ripen, or from the prophets who bore suffering with patience. The Lord will come soon.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Sung at 10:am.

Gospel Hymn 56, vss. 5-6

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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 the Episcopal City Mission, Boston; The Ministry Development Grant Committee; the Episcopal Service Corps; and Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil;

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 William Ring, 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

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://tithe.ly) or scan the QR code in the pews.

Sung at 10:00 am
Youth Song

Somebody's Knockin'

Somebody's knockin' at your door
Somebody's knockin' at your door
Oh, sinner, why don't you answer
Somebody's knockin' at your door

1. Knocks like Jesus
Somebody's knockin' at your door
Knocks like Jesus
Somebody's knockin' at your door
Oh, sinner, why don't you answer
Somebody's knockin' at your door
2. Can't you hear Him?...
3. Jesus calls you...
4. Can't you trust Him?...

Sung at 10:00 am
Offertory Anthem

People Look East
(Traditional French Carol)

arr. Tom Mitchell

People look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year
Make your house fair as you are able.
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People look east and sing today,
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Stars keep the watch, when night is dim.
One more light the bowl shall brim.
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together
People look east and sing today,
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth
Him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
With the word the Lord is coming
People look east and sing today,
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Sung at 8:00 & 10:00 am
Presentation Hymn 429

I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath

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.

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 G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,____

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,____

Heav - en and earth are full,____ full____ of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is the one who comes____ in the name of the Lord,____ Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

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

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

**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)

Sung at 10:00 am

Communion Meditation

*Mary, Did You Know?
Josh Vélez, soloist*

Lowry/Greene

*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 72

Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes

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

Presider	The Rev. Sandi Albom
Opener	Josh Vélez
Linens	Deb Bruno
Torch Bearers	Chase Hart, Gabe Burke
Flower Guild	Kara Noble
Sunday School	Judy Harvester, Mary Ann Woodbury, Jean Brown
Nursery	Tammy Joseph
Counters	Lesley Frazar, Sue Cole
Office Angels	Gail Meehan, Jan Parks
Closer	Holly Rodriguez

	8:00 am	10:00 am
Altar Guild	Linda Zielinski	Tanya Kellogg
Greeter(s)	Chris Steger	Jean Brown
Eucharistic Minister(s)	Josh Vélez	Jan Parks Karen Newman
Lector(s)	Sandra Chamberlain	Chase Hart Gabe Burke
Usher(s)	Chris Steger	Jody Brown
Stream Team	NA	Holly Rodriguez

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 in loving memory of William Ring.

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

Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.

Diocesan Prayer for the Episcopal City Mission, Boston; The Ministry Development Grant Committee; Episcopal Service Corps.

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; 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

Sunday, December 14	Third Sunday in Advent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (<i>in person</i>) 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (<i>in person & live-streamed</i>) 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15
Monday, December 15	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>
Tuesday, December 16	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>
Wednesday, December 17	12:15 pm <i>Healing Service & Holy Eucharist</i> 1:00 pm <i>Brown Bag Bible Study</i> 6:00 pm <i>Overeaters Anonymous (SMGR)</i>
Thursday, December 18	6:15 pm <i>Handbell Rehearsal</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Rehearsal</i> 7:30 pm <i>Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Friday, December 19	7:00 pm <i>Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (SMGR)</i>
Saturday, December 20	4:00 pm <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Sunday, December 21	The Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (<i>in person</i>) 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (<i>in person & 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

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 14, 2025



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.

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.

Food Pantry Lunch Help Needed

During January, February, and March, the **First Congregational Church, 18 Broad St.**, will be hosting the **Westfield Food Pantry's Lunches on Mondays and Thursdays**. They start hosting on **Monday, January 12**. This is a huge job, and they have asked ECOTA and other area churches if a couple of our parishioners would be willing to help each day to make sure no one goes hungry—and no one gets burned out! They could use 1-2 people each Monday and Thursday from 11:45am to 1:00pm. Lunch will be served from 12:15pm to 12:45pm (or until they run out of lunch). If Westfield schools are closed due to weather, First Church will also be closed and lunch will be cancelled that day. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

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.

Here We Go A-Caroling @ The Arbors ~ Sunday, December 21 @ 1:30 pm

Join us and our neighbors from the First Congregational Church to enjoy each other's company, bring some joy to others, and have a lot of fun! We'll gather at 1:00 pm at ECOTA to warm up for caroling, then we will head over to The Arbors (next door to the church) to sing for the residents at 1:30pm. Adults & children welcome! Come one, come all—and bring your friends! Sign up in the Narthex so we know how many people to expect.

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.

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.

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.

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.
