

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement



The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

**July 5, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

*Please observe silence during the musical prelude.
The service is live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook.*

Prelude

Entrance Hymn 76

On Jordan's Bank

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

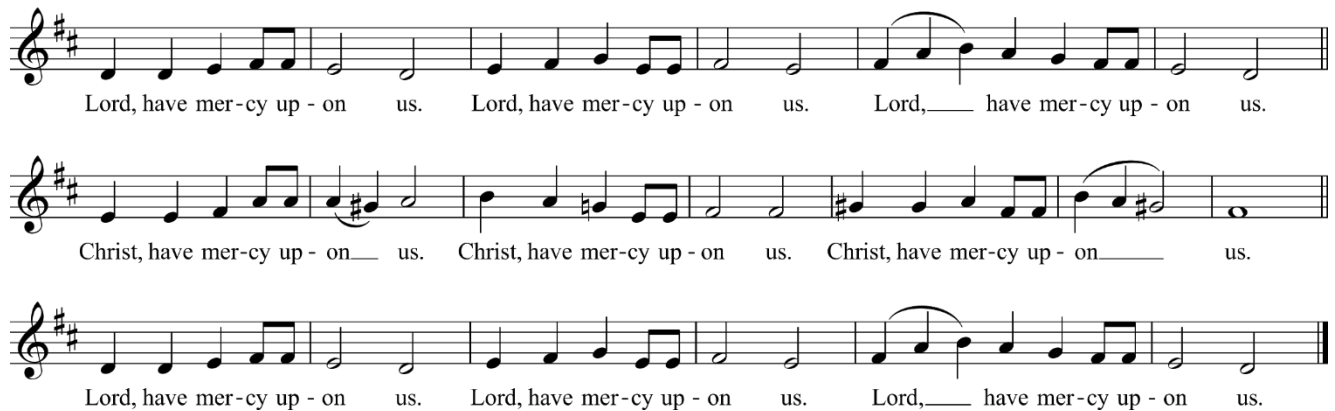
People **And blessed be God's kingdom now and for ever.**

The Presider and People offer the Collect of Purity

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

Song of Praise

Lord Have Mercy S91



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

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

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

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

Reader Our opening reading is a prophecy of great hope and salvation for Jerusalem: her triumphant but humble king comes to rule.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved!
Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.
My beloved speaks and says to me:
"Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away."

The Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

Reader In this reading, Paul continues to wrestle with the question of the role of the law. Although the law is good in principle, without God's saving act in Jesus, it only produces more sinfulness.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

Gospel Hymn 542

Christ Is the World's True Light

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

Jesus said to the crowd, “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

Sermon

The Rev. Sandra J. 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 was made truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

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

The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we may all be one.

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

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

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

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

That they may be delivered from their distress.

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

Give to the departed eternal rest. We especially remember Don Watson and Richard J. Johnson, for whom altar memorials have been given; and Bill Davis and Steve Davis, and all those who died enslaved, for whom the sanctuary lamp burns.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our needs and those of others.

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

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.**

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.

Offertory Anthem

Come to Me

Clifton J. Noble

Come to me
All ye that labor
And are heavy laden
And I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you
And learn of me
For I am meek
And lowly of heart
And ye shall find rest
Unto your souls.

Come to me
All ye that labor
And are heavy laden
And I will give you rest.

For my yoke is easy
And my burden is light
Yes, I am meek
And lowly of heart
And ye shall find rest
Unto your souls.

Presentation Hymn 699

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3

Old Hundredth, Isaac Watts

Sursum Corda

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:

**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.**

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.

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.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing

Concluding Hymn 719

O Beautiful, for Spacious Skies

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

July 5, 2026

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday: 9:00am Worship & Holy Eucharist (in person & live-streamed)

Tuesday: 7:00pm Bridge Fellowship | Wednesday: 12:15pm Healing Service & Holy Eucharist

Special Bible Study Session on the Book of Ruth ~ Wednesday, July 8, 2026 @ 1:00pm

Ruth is a short and beautiful story from the Hebrew Bible, and everyone is encouraged to take some time to read it before July 12. To help us prepare, **a special Bible study on Ruth will be held on Wednesday, July 8, @ 1:00, following the 12:15 healing service.** All are welcome.

Book Group Discussion: *Theo of Golden* ~ June 8 @ 2:00 pm

Theo of Golden is a story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen. It's an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder. We have been reading independently and we will meet on **June 8 @ 2:00 pm** to discuss it.

Boston Zimbabwe Anglicans Visit ~ Sunday, July 12, 2026 @ 10:00am – 2:00pm

On Sunday, July 12, we will have the joy of welcoming The Rev. Tobias Nyatsambo and members of the Boston Zimbabwe Anglicans to worship with us while they are on retreat at Genesis House. Our new friends will also share their gifts of music during the service, making this a wonderful opportunity for worship and fellowship together. Fr. Tobias, Rev. Sandi's friend and colleague from New Hampshire, will preach that morning, with a focus on the Book of Ruth. Our new friends will also share their gifts of music during the service, making this a wonderful opportunity for worship and fellowship together.

Thanks from our Sexton, Mike Cassanelli

Thank you all so much for your generosity in helping with Ruger's medical expenses. Sadly, he had to be put down after a long fight, but it was time. He was a great dog and I miss him very much, but because of the money you gave, we were able to pay the vet bills and have him cremated. I got imprints of his paw print and nose print to remember him by. I am so thankful to all of you for all your help. Mike.

Support Those Affected by the Earthquake in Venezuela

Episcopal Relief & Development is working closely with its regional partners to support people affected by the Venezuela earthquakes on June 24. Its International Disaster Fund helps in responding to immediate needs and supporting long-term recovery. Use this link to learn more or to contribute to their earthquake relief efforts. <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/press-releases/earthquakes-in-venezuela/>

THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider	The Rev. Sandi Albom
Vestry Person of the Day	Deb Bruno
Eucharistic Ministers	Sue Cole
Lectors	Sandra Chamberlain
Usher/Greeter	Samantha Hemmingsen
Stream Team	Kara Noble
Altar Guild	Tanya Kellogg
Linens	Deb Bruno
Flower Guild	Chris Davis
Counters	Lesley Frazar, Kathy DeJean
Office Angels	Kathy DeJean, Alice Ehresman
Opener	Kara Noble
Closer	Sue Cole

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 memory of Don Watson and Richard J. Johnson.

Sanctuary Lamp burns to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Davis and Steve Davis. Also for all those who died enslaved.

Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer for The Anglican Church of South America.

Diocesan Prayer for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Pittsfield; the Worcester North Region & Dean of Clericus; the Girls' Friendly Society; and Bishops United Against Gun Violence.

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

For these families and individuals Ginger, Ed, Barbara, Mike, Ann, Anne, Danny, Janet, Caroline, Liz, Chris, Caryl, Frank, Jenny, Mark, Sally, Fred, Sue, Hala, Tom, Michael, Mark, Jessica, John, Mark P., Jim L., Kate, Rick, Lee, Teresa, Candi, John, Coralee & Gemariah; Nancy, Tracy Davis; Lily and her parents, Leianne, Fran, Madeline, Debra, Brad, Colin, Bill, Jimmy, Billy, Les, Sally, Denise, Heather, Pearl, Lily, Bill, Jim, Kathy, Fred, Tom, Shannon, Joan, Deborah, Matt, Darlene, Rick & family, Anne, Ann, Jean, Ruth, Thelma, Connie, Candy, Jeff, David, Christina, Sharon, Marcia, Jan, John, Addison, Hannah, Donna, Jack, Mickie, Chris, Josh, Tim, Mike, Juan, John, Sheila, Ann, Gary, David, Sabrina, Wendy, Bernie, John, James, Jeffrey, Brittany, Rick

THIS WEEK AT ATONEMENT

Sunday July 5	Sixth Sunday After Pentecost 9:00 am Holy Eucharist (in person live-streamed) 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15
Monday, July 6	5:00 pm <i>Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) (SMGR)</i> 5:30 pm <i>Girl Scouts (Sunday School Room)</i> 8:00 pm <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Tuesday, July 7	6:30 pm <i>Music Together (SMGR)</i> 7:00 pm <i>Bridge Fellowship</i>
Wednesday, July 8	12:15 pm <i>Healing Service & Holy Eucharist</i> 1:00 pm <i>Bible Study: Book of Ruth</i> 2:00 pm <i>Book Discussion: Theo of Golden</i> 6:00 pm <i>Adult Children of Alcoholics (Chapel)</i> 7:00 pm <i>Overeaters Anonymous (SMGR)</i>
Thursday, July 9	12:00-5:00 pm <i>Farmers Market</i> 5:30 pm <i>Girl Scouts (Upstairs)</i> 7:30 pm <i>Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Friday, July 10	7:00 pm <i>Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (SMGR)</i>
Saturday, July 11	9:00 am <i>Adult Children of Alcoholics (Chapel)</i> 4:00 pm <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Sunday, July 12	Seventh Sunday After Pentecost Boston Zimbabwe Anglicans Visit 9:00 am Holy Eucharist (in person live-streamed) 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15

SMGR= Saint Margaret's Guild Room (Parlor)

“Drawn in by Grace; Reaching out in Love”

God calls people of any age, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexuality to join us in worship and work in the world. God's grace draws us in—all of us. And together all of us reach out with God's love.



The Episcopal Church of the Atonement

36 Court Street · Westfield, MA · 01085 · (413) 562-5461 · www.atonementwestfield.org

Drawn in by Grace · Reaching out in Love

The Rev. Sandi Albom, *Priest in Charge*

Jerry Noble, *Music Director*

The Rt. Rev. Miguelina Howell, *Bishop, The Episcopal Church of Western MA*

The Rt. Rev. Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop and Primate*

The Vestry

Holly Rodriguez, *Sr. Warden* ~ Robert Frazar, *Jr. Warden* ~ Steve Adams, *Treasurer* ~ Deborah Bruno, *Clerk*
Mike Ehresman, *Asst. Jr. Warden* ~ Sue Cole ~ Gene Giacometti ~ Phil Siska ~ Gail Meehan