

# **The Episcopal Church of the Atonement**



**The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**The Christmas Story and Holy Eucharist**  
**Christmas Eve ~ December 24, 2025**  
**4:00 p.m.**

*The service will be live streamed on YouTube and Facebook.*

## ***Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Atonement***

We are delighted to worship with you this holy day. Today's service is taken from *The Book of Common Prayer* (some texts revised by General Convention in 2018), with additions from *The Book of Occasional Services*, *Liturgy for the Whole Church*, by Susan K. Bock, and *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, by Steven Shakespeare.

The hymns and other music for this service can be found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* found in the pews or in this leaflet.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make our worship service beautiful, including our sexton, custodian, and office administrator; the choir, handbell players, guest musicians, and our Music Director, Jerry Noble; the people who have arranged the flowers, prepared the linens and the altar, and decorated the church; the ushers and acolytes; our readers; the Sunday School teachers and children; the team live-streaming the service online; the Eucharistic Ministers; the members of our Vestry, and our Priest-in-Charge, The Rev. Sandi Albom. Thank you all for making today's service special and for keeping the spirit of Christmas alive the whole year through.

As we gather for worship, we encourage you to listen as you wait so you can enjoy the offering of beautiful music.

The schedule of our weekly worship services is listed below. We hope we have the opportunity to worship with you again soon.

### **Sunday Worship Services:**

- 8:00 a.m.**      Worship & Holy Eucharist (*in person*)
- 10:00 a.m.**      Worship & Holy Eucharist (*in person and live-streamed*)  
*Church School meets during the 10:00 a.m. service*

### **Tuesday Bridge Fellowship:**

- 7:00 p.m.**      Worship & Holy Eucharist (*first & third Tuesdays of the month*),  
Prayer Circle (*second & fourth Tuesdays*)  
Dinner Church (*when there is a fifth Tuesday in the month*)

### **Wednesday Healing Service:**

- 12:15 p.m.**      Worship & Holy Eucharist

Prelude

*All stand.*

**Entrance Hymn 83, vss. 1-3, & 6**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

- 1** O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come, and behold him,  
born the King of angels;

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

- 2** God from God,  
Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only-begotten  
Son of God the Father;

*Refrain*

- 3** Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God,  
glory in the highest;

*Refrain*

- 6** Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

*The Celebrant says*

Behold, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is the Christ the Lord.

**Come, let us adore him.**

*The Celebrant continues*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

**The Christmas Story**

*The People remain seated as the children and others tell the Christmas story in scripture and music. Please join them singing the carols.*

**Opening Carol: Hymn 79, vs. 1**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in the dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light...  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

**The First Reading:***Luke 2:2-5**Read by Chase Hart*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Young People's Pageant Song:** *How Far Is It to Bethlehem, vs. 1*

How far is it to Bethlehem?  
Not very far.  
How will we get to Bethlehem?  
Led by a star.  
Where will we stay in Bethlehem?  
Out in the barn.  
How far is it to Bethlehem?  
Not very far.

**Pageant Carol 2: Hymn 89, vs. 1:** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

**The Second Reading:***Luke 2:6-7**Read by Gabe Burke*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**Young People's Pageant Song:** *How Far Is It to Bethlehem, vs. 2*

How far is it to Bethlehem?  
We're getting near.  
The shepherds came to Bethlehem  
Trembling with fear.  
The angels sang in Bethlehem  
Bringing good cheer.  
How far is it to Bethlehem?  
We're getting near.

**Pageant Carol 3 : Hymn 109, vs. 1: *The First Nowell***

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

**The Third Reading:**

*Luke 2:8-14*

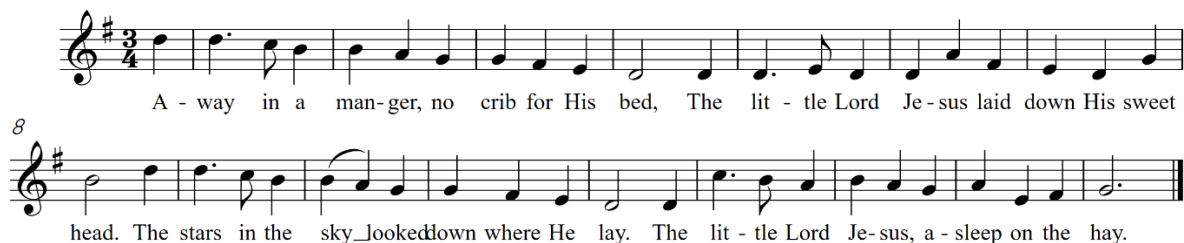
*Read by Joshua Burke & Emilia Hart*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Young People's Pageant Song: *How Far Is It to Bethlehem*, vs. 3**

How far is it to Bethlehem?  
We're almost there!  
The star is shining oh so bright  
Light everywhere.  
The baby Jesus will be born  
To mother Mary.  
How far is it to Bethlehem?  
We're almost there!

**Pageant Carol 4 : *Away in a Manger***



**The Prayers of the People for Christmas**

Wondrous God, whose love was made flesh on our most holy night, hear us, as we pray, and take to your heart all of our longings and thanks:

**Hear us and help us, O God.**

Wonderful Counselor, give wisdom to the leaders of the nations, that they might guide us to peace.  
Bring an end to war.

**Wonderful Counselor, may your justice and righteousness be established on the earth.**

Mighty God, make your church to be one, in spirit and truth, strong with courage and rich with grace.  
Help us to tell the sweet, good news of your love in all we say and do, and especially as we reach toward each other.

**Mighty God, may your church be united in serving the world.**

Everlasting Father, help all who suffer to remember your love. Bring relief, and strength to endure, to those who are lonely, dying, and in pain. Stay near to those who are oppressed and in prison.

**Everlasting Father, may the day come soon when our tears are wiped away by your own hand.**

Prince of Peace, help us to bring an end to all poverty and racism, which keep your children hungry and powerless. Grant that your peace would rule in our hearts and in our lives.

**Prince of Peace, may you come soon to reign among us.**

Child of David's throne, may all who live with you in glory help us, by their example and prayer, to find our way home. Give us, especially, the courage of Mary and of Joseph. Grant us the wonder of the shepherds and magi. Fill us with the songs of the angels.

**Son of David, make us one with all your saints who enjoy your presence day and night.**

Wondrous God, thank you for the miracle and grace of Christmas. May we be true, all the year long, to its call to believe the impossible and to make our humble humanity the place of your dwelling. Hear us we pray, and take to your heart all of our longing and thanks; through Jesus the Christ, through the Spirit. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <i>Presider</i> | The peace of Christ be always with you. |
| <i>People</i>   | <b>And also with you.</b>               |

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Story

### **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](https://tithe.ly) or scan the QR code located in your pew.*

### **Presentation Hymn 87**

*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

**Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3**

*Old Hundredth, Isaac Watts*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Presider continues*

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:

*The Presider and the People sing*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly,'. The second staff continues: 'ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,'. The third staff continues: 'heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the'. The fourth staff continues: 'high - est. Bless-ed is the one who'. The fifth staff concludes with: 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.'

*The Presider continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the call 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 all 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 the People*

**We remember Christ’s death,  
We proclaim Christ’s resurrection,  
We await Christ’s coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of 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 ever. Amen.**

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

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

*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

### Post Communion Hymn 111

*Silent Night*

**1** Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

**2** Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

*After Communion, 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

*The Presider may bless the people, who respond*

**Amen.**

### Concluding Hymn 100

*Joy to the World*

The Dismissal

*Presider* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

#### PERMISSIONS

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



Away in a Manger

## THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Presider</b>             | The Rev. Sandi Albom   |
| <b>Music</b>                | Clifton J. Noble   |
| <b>Opener</b>               | Kara Noble   |
| <b>Linens</b>               | Dianne Legalos   |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>          | Tanya Kellogg  |
| <b>Flower Guild</b>         | Tanya Kellogg, Holly Rodriguez,<br>Kara Noble, Donna Tatlock-Calkins               |
| <b>Sunday School</b>        | Judy Harvester, Debbie Auclair,<br>Mary Ann Woodbury, Claudia Turner<br>Jean Brown |
| <b>Eucharistic Minister</b> | Phil Siska   |
| <b>Stream Team</b>          | Kara Noble   |
| <b>Usher</b>                | Deb Curtis   |

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Pageant Director</b>       | Judy Harvester |
| <b>Music &amp; Script</b>     | Jerry Noble    |
| <b>The Holy Story Players</b> | The Children   |

## 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.*

**Christmas Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of everyone on our list of memorial flowers and all our loved ones.

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

**Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer** for Anglican churches and church communities around the world.

**Diocesan Prayer** for all of the Episcopal parishes in Massachusetts, for the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, and the Episcopal Church of the United States.

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

**For these families and individuals** Jenny, Mark, Sally, Fred, Sue, 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

## CHRISTMAS WEEK AT ATONEMENT

**Wednesday, December 24**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**

4:00 pm Worship Service & Pageant  
8:30 pm Musical Prelude  
9:00 pm Evening Worship Service

**Thursday, December 25**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**

9:30 am Christmas Morning Worship Service in person

**\*\*CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED.\*\***

**Friday, December 26**

5:30 pm *Girl Scouts (Sunday School Room)*  
7:30 pm *Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)*

**\*\*CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED.\*\***

**Saturday, December 27**

7:00 pm *Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (SMGR)*

**\*\*CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED.\*\***

**Sunday, December 28**

9:00 am *Adult Children of Alcoholics (Little Chapel)*  
4:00 pm *Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)*

**December 29 – January 2**

**\*\*CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED.\*\***

*\*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