

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement



Peace

**The Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
8am and 10am**

The 10am service is video live streamed each week on YouTube and Facebook.

Voluntary

All stand

Entrance Hymn 76

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Second Sunday of Advent

The person lighting the candle reads

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

The candle is lit.

The person reads the scripture passage.

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

The Celebrant says

Let us pray together.

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

All of our waiting is a waiting for God.

God of our hearts, we wait for you alone.

The Priest and People offer the Collect for 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, Hymn LEVAS 245

We Have Come into His House

We have come in - to His house and gath-ered in His name to wor - ship Him,
Let us lift up ho - ly hands and mag - ni - fy His name and wor - ship Him,
— We have come in - to His house and gath-ered in His name to wor - ship Him,
— Let us lift up ho - ly hands and mag - ni - fy His name and wor - ship Him,
— We have come in - to His house and gath-ered in His name to
— Let us lift up ho - ly hands and mag - ni - fy His name and
wor - ship Christ, the Lord, wor - ship Him, Christ, the Lord.

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The Celebrant then says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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

The First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader: A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

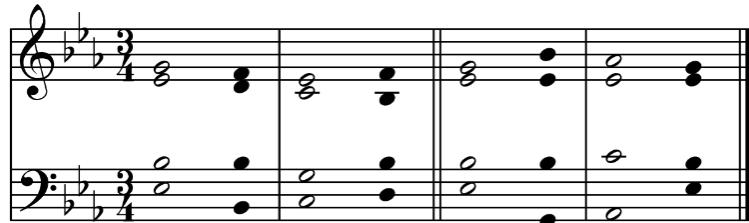
See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13



1 You have been gracious to your land, O **Lord**, *
you have restored the good fortune of **Jacob**.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your **people** *
and blotted out all their **sins**.

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is **saying**, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to
him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who **fear him**, *
that his glory may dwell in our **land**.

10 Mercy and truth have met to/**gether**; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each **other**.

11 Truth shall spring up from the **earth**, *
and righteousness shall look down from **heaven**.

12 The Lord will indeed grant pros/**perity**, *
and our land will yield its **increase**.

13 Righteousness shall go before **him**, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his **feet**

The Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Reader: A reading from second Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand

Gospel Hymn 59

Hark, A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Rev. Sandi Albom

The people stand

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 fully 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

The Leader and People pray responsively

God of the prophets, give us courage to speak the truth, and to tell of your love.

God of the prophets, hear us and help us!

God of the angels, give us a voice to sing your presence into the world. Give the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace throughout the earth.

God of the angels, hear us and help us!

God of Mary and Elizabeth, give us grace to be pregnant with hope and to bring forth new life for a barren world.

God of our mothers, hear us and help us!

God of Zechariah and Joseph, give us dreams and visions, and the courage to follow them.

God of our fathers, hear us and help us!

God of the shepherds, give us humility, and to all who sit in darkness, alone and afraid, a light from heaven proclaiming peace.

God of the shepherds, hear us and help us!

God of the magi, send your blessing on Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our bishop; Sandi, our interim rector; and Silas, our seminarian. Give to all your church the will to leave home to find you among the poor.

God of the magi, hear us and help us!

God of the Holy Innocents, send your blessing on Joseph our President, Maura our Governor, Michael our Mayor, and all in authority in our nation. Give us all power to stand against violence and to protect the powerless.

God of the victim, hear us and help us!

God of all of us here today, remember those people and circumstances that are so important to us, which we name now silently or aloud.

Silence so the people may add their own petitions.

God of the present,

Hear us and help us!

God of all who went before us, we remember before you all who have died, and all those we call before you now.

Silence so the people may add their own petitions.

God of the past,

Hear us and help us!

The celebrant offers a concluding Collect

A Confession for Advent

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Liturgy for the Whole Church

Emmanuel, we want to believe you are with us dwelling in this and every moment,
But we pine for the past and rush toward the future.

We want to be found wide awake, alert with love, as you appear in this and every moment,
But we slumber through and laze away the miracle of ordinary days.

We want to wait for you alone, with desire and hope,
But our trust fails, our longing grows cold, and our hope dims.

We want to make room in our hearts, a safe and warm place, for you to be born,
But we close our hearts, and harden them to you and your people.

We confess our failures at love.
We are sorry; we ask your forgiveness.

Celebrant

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 People stand

The Peace

The peace of the 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 or you may give online at Tithe.ly.

Offertory Anthem

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for
God to come.
See the valleys lifted high,
All the mountains and hills made low.
See uneven ground made level,
All the rough places plain.

Hear the voice of him who cries,
Make a highway in the desert for the Lord.
All the earth shall see it together.
Hear, for God has spoken it.

Prepare the way, the Savior comes.

Presentation Hymn 67

Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

Offertory Hymn 380, vs. 3

Old Hundredth, Isaac Watts

Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low, Praise God a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fath-er, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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 Celebrant 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 8am

Celebrant and People

Sanctus: WLP 858

**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 10am

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bles - sed 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.

Setting: American folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner; harm. Anna Morris Buchanan (1889-1983) © Church Pension Fund

The Celebrant continues

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,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

And we offer this 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 children; 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 now pray,

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

Spoken at 8am

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Celebrant 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. **Please do not dip your bread into the cup.** However you receive, know that Christ is with you.

Spiritual Communion

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

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 Voluntary

Please stand to pray

Let us pray.

God of new beginnings, you draw near to us in word and sacrament to strengthen and renew us; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit, may your light so shine through us that all may welcome your Son at his coming. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Emmanuel. Amen.

Prayer during Transition

God of love, in this interim time, we pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, and patient in our discernment. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. All this we pray, empowered by the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Blessing
The Priest may bless the people, who respond
Amen.

Concluding Hymn 65

Prepare the Way, O Zion

The Dismissal
Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Voluntary

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 (all by Church Publishing). 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.

THIS WEEK AT ATONEMENT

Sunday, December 10	The Second Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist in person 10:00 am Holy Eucharist in person and live-streamed 10:00 am Nursery Care and Church School 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15
Monday, December 11	OFFICE IS CLOSED 6:30 pm Surviving the Holidays: Grief Support Group <i>8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Tuesday, December 12	<i>6:00 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics (Great Hall)</i> <i>6:30 pm Music Together (*SMGR)</i>
Wednesday, December 13	12:15 pm Healing and Holy Eucharist (Little Chapel) 1:00 pm Brown Bag Bible Study (Little Chapel) <i>7:00 pm Overeaters Anonymous (*SMGR)</i>
Thursday, December 14	<i>5:30 pm Girl Scouts (Sunday School Room)</i> 6:15 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal <i>7:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i>
Friday, December 15	<i>7:00 pm Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (*SMGR)</i>
Saturday, December 16	<i>9:00 am Adult Children of Alcoholics (Great Hall)</i>
Sunday, December 17	The Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist in person 10:00 am Holy Eucharist in person and live-streamed 10:00 am Nursery Care and Church School 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15

**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 Rev. Sandi Albom, *Interim Rector*

Jerry Noble, *Music Director*

The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, *Bishop, The Episcopal Church of Western MA*

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, *Presiding Bishop and Primate*

THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Celebrant	Rev. Sandi Albom
Altar Guild	Richard Hasko, Kathy DeJean
Linens	Dianne Legalos
Flowers	Holly Rodriguez
Counters	Karen Newman, Sue Cole
Nursery Care	Tanya Kellogg, Mary Padilla
Sunday School	Kara Noble, Judy Harvester
Office Angels	Debbie Bruno, Chris Davis

8am

Opener	Phil Siska
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Eucharistic Minister	Phil Siska
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Lector	Phil Siska
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Ushers	Irene Ring
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10am

Closer	Janet Parks
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Stream Team	Margaret Hannigan
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Eucharistic Ministers	Kathy DeJean
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	Janet Parks
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Lector	Steve Harvester
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Ushers	Raymond Brown
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Jr. Ushers	Al Randzio
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	Joseph Woodbury
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	Sean Hall
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PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please use this list in your daily prayers. We are happy to add your concerns.

Contact office administrator Tanya Woodbury at program@atonementwestfield.org or call 562-5461 ext. 100.

Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer The Church of Pakistan (United)

Diocesan Prayer Cycle Ministerio Hispano en Worcester; Ministry Development Grant Committee; Episcopal Service Corps (ESC); Episcopal City Mission, Boston

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

For these families and individuals Anne, Alice, Jean, Ruth, Virginia, Ruby, Thelma, Connie, Candy, Betty, Jeff, Kris, David, Christina, Mark, Iris, Brad, Sharon, Marcia, Jennie, Mark, Derek, Jan, Toni, Rich, Lyn, John, Addison, Hannah, Donna, Nan, Jack, Mickie, Chris, Rita, Josh, Tim, Mike, Juan, John, Shelia, Joey, Ann, Gary, David, Sabrina, Wendy, Bernie, John, James, Jeffrey, Casey, Arthur, Brittany, Rick, Jeff B, Bill, Katie, Sherry, Cassandra, Niko, Mervin, Frances

ECOTA Happenings

Salvation Army Angel Tree

All gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree must be dropped off TODAY December 10th. Please make sure your Angel Tree tag is with your gift when dropping them off please!

God's Love Grows Here ~ Stewardship 2024

We are so **grateful** for all who have pledged their support for the ministry and mission of ECOTA 2024! To date, we have received 44 pledges for a total of \$90,545. We have a way to go toward reaching our goal of \$130,000. If you have not sent in your 2024 pledge, please do so this week for our Stewardship Ingathering with the Bishop. Rev. Sandi+ and Your ECOTA Vestry.

Christmas Flower and Music Thanksgiving & Memorials

Please contribute to the beauty of our Christmas flowers and special music. Fill out the form on the blue table in the Narthex or through our weekly emailing and return it with your donation (in any amount) to the office. Checks made out to ECOTA with Christmas Flowers/Music in the memo line. **Please return by December 17th.**

Aging Grace-fully Series ~ Preparing for End-of-Life Decisions

Join us as we investigate information, options, support, and resources to better prepare for the expected and unexpected life decisions that we, or other family members face as we get older. All sessions will be offered on Sundays from 11:15am – 12:15pm. **Join us December 10 at 11:15 am when Rev. Sandi will discuss Healthcare Advance Directives and Communicating Your Desires.**

Cookie Sale is happening again! ~ December 17th after the 8am and 10am Services

Our cookie sale is happening again this year on December 17. Please make sure that your cookies are delivered before 9am on December 17th. Any questions, please contact Dianne Legalos or Debbie Bruno.



The Christmas Story Pageant ~ December 24th @ 4:00pm

Calling all sheep and shepherds, angels, wise people, Mary(s), and Joseph(s), and all manner of creatures in-between! O come, all ye faithful to the 4:00pm Christmas Eve service, Saturday, December 24th! We will have a “no-rehearsal” pageant where everyone can take part - young and young-at-heart. Costumes will be available or wear your own creation. We will gather at 3:15pm in the Narthex.

Blue Christmas Service ~ At the Second Congregational Church December 20th @ 7pm

Our Annual Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service will take place on December 20th at 7:00pm at The Second Congregational Church, 487 Western Ave, Westfield. ECOTA will join with our neighbors from Second Congregational, First United Methodist, First Congregational, and Central Baptist Church for a Blue Christmas Service on Tuesday evening.