



*Ask the Lord of the harvest to
send laborers to the
harvest.*

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2021

8:00 am & 10:00 am

The Word of God

All stand.

The Hymnal 546

Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve

Priest Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

The Priest 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.

At 8 am

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

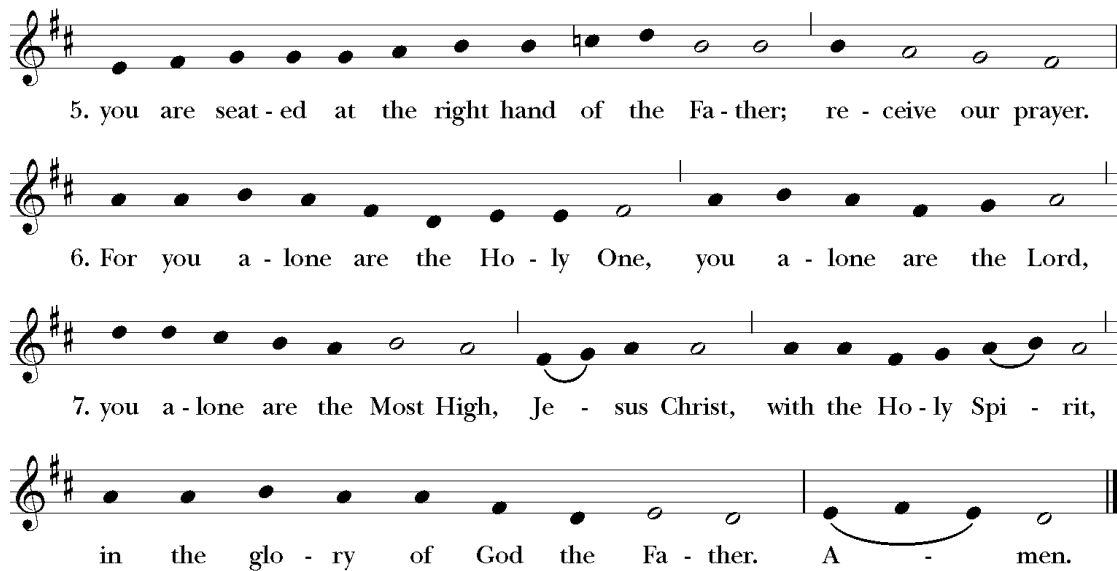
At 10 am

Hurd

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

2. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, 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 Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

4. you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;



The Celebrant then says

God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 124

Nisi quia Dominus

1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
2 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
6 Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Second Reading

James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand

At 10 am **The Hymnal 609**

Where cross the crowded ways of life

The Gospel

Mark 9:38-50

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Jess Lee Kotnour, Seminarian

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and 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, 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

Book of Common Prayer, pp. 387

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

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 Michael our Presiding Bishop, Douglas our Bishop, Nancy our Priest, Jess our Seminarian, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Joseph, our President, Charlie, our Governor, and Donald, our Mayor, and 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.

We remember Albert and Charlotte LeBlanc, in whose memory the Sanctuary Lamp burns. Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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 own needs and those of others.
The people may offer names or concerns either silently or aloud.

The celebrant concludes the prayers with this collect for the season of Creation

Almighty God, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all. **Amen.**

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 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. If you are in person, you may offer your gift in the plate at the door of the worship space. In-person or online, you may give at Tithe.ly.

At 10 am **Offertory Anthem**

It is well with my soul, Philip Bliss
Laura Hayes, Cello

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Celebrant proceeds

Enriching Our Worship I

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Celebrant and People (spoken at 8 am, sung at 10 am)

Sanctus: S124

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.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope,

justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you 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.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

*At 8 am
Celebrant
People*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

At 10 am is sung

Fraction: S154

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive the presence of God in the Holy Eucharist. During times of pandemic (including this time) the church has adopted habits to mitigate the spread of disease and still share in the bread of heaven and cup of salvation. Those sitting in the choir area will receive first. Then the priest will bring the bread down the stairs to the floor of the nave. Please come forward, one person at a time. Receive the

bread in your hand and know that both the body and blood of Jesus are present in the wafer. While we cannot safely share the common Cup, a member of the Altar party will receive the Wine on behalf of all.

Spiritual Communion

Those who are unable to receive communion in person are invited to offer this prayer of Spiritual Communion:

In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing separate me from you; let me live and die in your love. Amen.

At 10 am **Voluntary**

Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Bradbury

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People stand to pray.

from Enriching Our Worship I

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

The priest may bless the people, who respond **Amen.**

The Dismissal

The priest dismisses the people, who respond **Thanks be to God.**

The Hymnal 344

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

Voluntary

Toccata-Sortie

Auguste Larriu

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*, *Enriching Our Worship*, and *The Book of Occasional Services* (all by Church Publishing). During the Season of Creation, we are using resources from *Seasonofcreation.org*. 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

Altar Guild:	Lesley Frazer, Rebecca Kreke
Linens:	Debbie Randzio
Flower Guild:	Sally Angers
Counters:	Sally Angers, Chris Davis
Stream Team:	Margaret Hannigan, Rob Hayes

8:00 am

Lector:	Kathy DeJean
Usher:	Irene Ring
Eucharistic Minister:	Debbie Bruno

10:00 am

Eucharistic Minister:	Debbie Randzio
Lectors:	Debbie Randzio, Robert Duval
Ushers:	Al Randzio, Chris Steger

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.

Altar Memorials are given to the Glory of God.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Albert and Charlotte LeBlanc, given by Mother Nancy Stroud.

Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Diocesan Prayer Cycle Southwick Community Episcopal Church, Southwick; Admin. Assistant to canons and Trustees, Karen Warren; Seminaries of the Episcopal Church; Multicultural Bridge, Berkshires

At this time of pandemic we remember before God all who died and all who are suffering due to the COVID 19 virus and we thank God for all doctors, nurses, medical technicians, hospital workers, essential workers, research scientists, those working to distribute vaccines, and those developing new treatments.

For these families and individuals Art, Anne, Jean, Ruth, Virginia, Ruby, Thelma, Vivian, Connie, Seth, Candy, Betty, Jeff, Bonnie, Edward, Irida, Bryan, Jayden, Jillian, Jasmin, Steve, Mary, Kris, Florence, David, Lesley, Ciro, Christina, Andrea, Ted, Ginni, Rebecca, Scott, Bill, Becky, Mark, Iris, Jenny, Theodore, Hilda, Cheryl, Brad, Sarah, Skip, Marcia, Ruth, Chris, Paul, Dick, Lyla, Scott, Jeff, Michelle, Jennie, Marcel, Lyn, Susan, Tom, Maria, Mark, Derrick, Nancy, Matthew, Ellie, Laura, Jan, Megan, Sarah, Hadley, Gordon, Hedley, Gary, Sally, Asher, Loretta, Bob, Anne, Dick

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUEST PREACHER JESS KOTNOUR joins us today! Last year, Jess Lee served here as our Program Minister. This year, Jess has embarked on their journey toward ordination to the priesthood as a student at Episcopal Divinity School/Union Theological Seminary in New York.

OFFICE HOURS Our office is open 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Tuesdays through Fridays, staffed by our new Office Administrator, Tanya Woodbury. Please wear a mask when visiting the office. Contact Tanya by email at program@atonementwestfield.org or by phone at 413-562-5461, ext. 100.

COVID POLICY Because our first protocol is always *love for one another*, we must wear masks when indoors, and practice social distancing as much as possible. We ask you to observe this during our church services, when visiting the building for any reason, and when attending meetings of our Community Partners. We are happy to help anyone get a vaccine or booster who is eligible to do so. We also recognize that a small number of folks cannot receive the vaccine for medical reasons. And of course, children are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. Until the time that vaccinations protect more of us, mask-wearing, social distance, and hand hygiene are as important as ever!

EVENSONG AND CHOIR

On Thursdays beginning at 6:30 pm, we are in person! We will do our best to also stream the service on Facebook—but we will not be on Zoom! Following Evensong is choir rehearsal. On Sunday mornings, choir members are encouraged to come to the 10 am service and lead the congregational singing (in masks when indoors). We will continue to make adjustments to our plans as the pandemic conditions warrant.

BOOK DISCUSSION ON TUESDAY EVENINGS All are welcome to join in reading and discussing *Love is the Way*, the new book written by our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry. Books are available on Amazon or on Audible. We will meet on Zoom at 7 pm on Tuesday evenings. For our next session on September 29, please finish reading the book. The Zoom link is found in *Enote*. Questions? Contact Mother Nancy at nwstroud@atonementwestfield.org.

OFFERING AND MEMORIALS As we get used to worshipping together again, it would be lovely to have fresh flowers on the Altar again! Would you like to help arrange them? If you are interested in being on the Flower Guild, please be in touch with Mother Nancy. One of the safety protocols we are following is not handing things to one another. That is why you will find the offering plate at the door of the church. On the floor near the offering table are baskets for non-perishable food that we will distribute through our Little Free Food Pantry. We invite you to be generous! It is our custom to offer Altar Memorials every week which helps us to pay for fresh flowers on the Altar. Any offering received that does not go to flowers will be added to our livestream equipment budget.

COFFEE HOUR We have all missed the opportunity to gather for casual conversation! You are invited to gather following the service, on the lawn between the church and the parking lot, as weather permits. If you wish to offer refreshments, please sign up on the board in the Narthex.

PRAYERS ON THE PLAYGROUND/FRONT LAWN

NEXT WEEK, October 3, we will celebrate St. Francis Day! Bring your beloved (well-behaved) pets to church! If your friend might not enjoy being in the company of other pets and their humans, bring a photo! We will say prayers of blessing for our dear companions. This service will last from 9:15 am to 9:40 am, and will take the place of our usual Prayers on the Playground

ROTAS are available today to be picked up. You will also find the Rota (schedule of lay ministries) on the website. If you wish to serve in a lay ministry and have not been listed on the Rota, please contact the Rector at nwstroud@atonementwestfield.org or 413-562-5461, ext. 102. We will be happy to help you service in any lay ministry.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS are invited to use our big building and spacious grounds for activities that support community life. At this time, we host five 12-step recovery groups, two music classes for little children, and a dog training class, as well as offering storage space for Hampden County Emergency services. **WE HAVE MORE SPACE TO OFFER!** If you know of a group that needs a place to be, please be in touch with Office Administrator Tanya Woodbury.

THIS WEEK AT ATONEMENT

Sunday, September 26	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist in person 9:15 am Prayers on the Playground 10:00 am Holy Eucharist in person and livestreamed 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15
Monday, September 27	8:00 pm AA
Tuesday, September 28	4:00 pm Canine Learning Center 6:30 pm Music Together Reminder that office hours are now 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Tuesdays through Fridays
Wednesday, September 29	12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm OA
Thursday, September 30	10:00 am Music Together 12-5 pm Farmers' Market 6:30 pm Evensong and Choir Rehearsal in person 7:30 pm NA
Sunday, October 3	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist in person 9:15 am Blessing of the Animals on the Front Lawn 10:00 am Holy Eucharist in person and livestreamed 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15

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: straight, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer—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. Nancy Webb Stroud, Rector

Scott A. Bailey, Music Director

A parish of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, Bishop

The Episcopal Church

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