

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist

March 26, 2023

8:00 am and 10:00 am

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

We ask that you observe quiet during the musical offerings before and after the service during Lent. This discipline allows us to enter into our worship and to conclude it with thoughtful prayer and gratitude for this community and the gift of our musicians.

On Sundays in Lent, we acknowledge this season of penitence and preparation by beginning the service with the Penitential Order. Our corporate confession of sin is moved to the beginning of the service, and the forgiveness we receive in Christ is the context through which our worship proceeds.

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

The Decalogue

The people may stand or kneel

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**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 Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy upon 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 people stand.

Song of Praise

At 8am

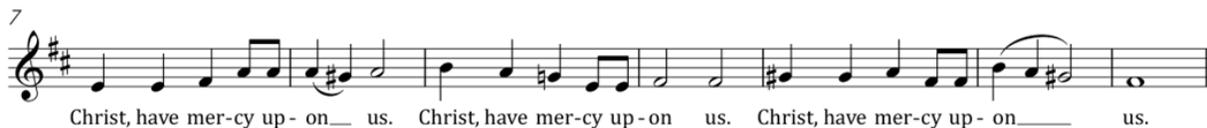
**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy: Kyrie, S91

At 10am

S 91

Lord, have mercy upon us



Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130

At 8 am

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

At 10 am



1. Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord...Lord, hear my / **voice**; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my suppli - / **cation**.
2. If you, Lord, were to note what is done a - / **miss**, *
O Lord...who could / **stand**?
3. For there is forgiveness with / **you**; *
therefore you shall be / **feared**.
4. I wait for the Lord...my soul / **waits for him**; *
in his word is my / **hope**.
5. My soul waits for the Lord...more than watchmen for the / **morning**, *
more than watchmen for the / **morning**.
6. O Israel...wait for the / **Lord**, *
for with the Lord there is / **mercy**;
- [second half]
7. With him there is plenteous re - / **demption**, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their / **sins**.

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

At 10 am

Gospel Hymn 465

Eternal Light, Shine In My Heart

The Gospel

John 11:1-45

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

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

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they

thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. George Porter

Celebrant Let us stand to proclaim the tenets of our faith.

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 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

Form VI, Pg 392 Book of Common Prayer

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; especially Joseph, our president, Maura, our governor, and Michael, our mayor.

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; especially for The Anglican Church of South America; St. Francis', Holden; Lay Employees of our diocese; Clergy spouses and families; Episcopal Church Missionary Community; Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE)

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Douglas, our Bishop, Sandi, our interim Rector, Pat, our Deacon, Silas, our seminarian, George, our presider today; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The presider may add a concluding collect.

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. The ushers will pass the offering plate to receive your donations or, in-person or online, you may give at [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) or scan the QR code that you will find in the pew.

Offertory Anthem

Let It Breathe On Me

Magnolia Lewis-Butts

Presentation Hymn 510

Come Holy Spirits, Heav'nly Dove

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 continues

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus WLP 858

At 8am

**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.**

At 10am

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,—
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed 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.

The people stand or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Spoken at 8am

Jesus, Lamb of God: Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace.

Sung at 10am

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

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.** If you are immunocompromised or simply don't feel ready to share a sip from the cup, simply walk past the Eucharistic Minister. **However you receive, know that Christ is with you.***

Spiritual Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotion that anyone may pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from receiving the Sacrament.

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)

Post Communion Prayer

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.

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, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, imaginative about our future, and daring in our faith. Be with us as we continue our time in discernment, as we experience excitement, and even some anxiety, and let us trust in your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. 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.

Prayer over the People

Deacon Bow down before the Lord

Celebrant Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; though Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Concluding Hymn 493*O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Dismissal

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

****Please remain quietly seated during the musical offering. Thank you****

We ask that you observe quiet during the musical offerings before and after the service during Lent. This discipline allows us to enter into our worship and to conclude it with thoughtful prayer and gratitude for this community and the gift of our musicians.

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, Enriching Our Worship, The Book of Occasional Services, 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, March 26 | The Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist in person 10:00 am Holy Eucharist in person and live-streamed 10:00 am Church School in our Sunday School Room 10:00 am Nursery Care in the Little Chapel 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15 |
| Monday, March 27 | 8:00 pm <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i> |
| Tuesday, March 28 | 5:00 pm <i>Canine Learning Center (Great Hall)</i> 6:00 pm <i>Adult Children of Alcoholics (Little Chapel)</i> 6:30 pm <i>Music Together (*SMGR)</i> |
| Wednesday, March 29 | 12:15 pm Healing Service with Deacon Pat (<i>Little Chapel</i>) 1:00 pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:30 pm <i>Book Discussion (*SMGR)</i> 7:00 pm <i>Overeaters Anonymous (*SMGR)</i> |
| Thursday, March 30 | 5:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Sanctuary) 5:30 pm <i>Girl Scouts (Sunday School Room)</i> 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm <i>Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)</i> |
| Friday, March 31 | 7:00 pm <i>Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (*SMGR)</i> |
| Sunday, April 2 | Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday 8:00 am Holy Eucharist in person 10:00 am Holy Eucharist in person and live-streamed 10:00 am Church School in our Sunday School Room 10:00 am Nursery Care in the Little Chapel 6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15 |

**Saint Margaret 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, *Interim Rector*

The Rev. Patricia O'Connell, *Deacon*

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 Vestry

Kathryn DeJean, *Sr. Warden* Philip Siska, *Jr. Warden* Vacant, *Treasurer* Deborah Bruno, *Clerk/Asst. Treasurer*

Bonnie Adams Josh Vélez Karen Newman Hope Button Gail Meehan

THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Celebrant | Rev. George Porter |
| Deacon | Rev. Deacon Pat O'Connell |
| Altar Guild | Lesley Frazar, Kathy DeJean |
| Linens | Debbie Randzio |
| Choir | Sue Cole; Gary Cole; Raymond Brown Jim Barnes; Janet Parks; Sherrie Denison Donna Tatlock-Calkins; JoAnn Florek; Debbie Randzio Rev. Sandi Albom; Steve Harvester; Karen Newman |
| Handbell | Jim Barnes; Janet Parks; Curt Hahn; Chris Davis Sherrie Denison, Gary Cole |

8am:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Vestry Member | Richard Hasko |
| Eucharistic Minister | Richard Hasko |
| Lector | Irene Ring |
| Usher | Chris Steger |

10am:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Vestry Member | Kathy DeJean |
| Stream Team | Curt Hahn |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Kathy DeJean Phil Siska |
| Lector | Kathy DeJean Sherrie Denison |
| Usher | Howard Carney |

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 Anglican Church of South America

Diocesan Prayer St. Francis', Holden; Lay Employees of our diocese; Clergy spouses and families
Episcopal Church Missionary Community; Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE)

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

For these families and individuals Anne, Alice, Jean, Ruth, Virginia, Ruby, Thelma, Connie, Candy, Betty, Jeff, Kris, David, Ciro, Christina, Mark, Iris, Brad, Sharon, Marcia, Jennie, Mark, Derek, Jan, Hedley, Toni, Rich, Lyn, John, Addison, Hannah, Donna, Nan, Jack, Mickie, Rita, Chris, Rita, Josh, Tim, Alfred, Mike, Sandra, Juan, John, Bob, Lynette, Shelia, Joey, Ann, Gary, David, Sabrina, Wendy, Sandi and Bob, Beth

ECOTA Lent/Easter happenings

We ask that you observe quiet during the musical offerings before and after the service during the season of Lent. This discipline allows us to enter into our worship and to conclude it with thoughtful prayer and gratitude for this community and the gift of our musicians.

***The Stations of the Cross (SoTC)** – In ancient times, Christians made pilgrimages to Jerusalem, usually during Holy Week. As part of their pilgrim journey, they would walk the route Jesus took with his cross to Calvary, stopping along the way for devotions to commemorate certain events that took place. The service known as Stations of the Cross allows us to trace the last steps of Jesus. As we come to each “Station” we will stop, pray, read scripture, and contemplate the walk of Jesus to the cross.*

In person on Thursdays @ 5:00pm in the Sanctuary – Mar. 2nd – Mar. 30th

- Virtual Stations of the Cross – The links below offer virtual devotions for your personal or family use.
 - <https://bustedhalo.com/video/virtual-stations-of-the-cross> (with music and reflections)
 - <https://lessonplans.episcopalchurch.org/online-stations-of-the-cross/> (multiple versions)
 - <https://www.diomass.org/news/diocesan-news/way-cross-video-walk-across-ma-invites-prayer-action-end-gun-violence> (WMA/MA diocese 2022)
 - <https://www.emmanuelgreenwood.org/stations-of-the-cross.html> (SotC in nature – for families/children)

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8th. Please arrive between 10:30-10:45. Easter Egg Hunt begins at 11:00 on the front lawn. This event will take place rain or shine. We are looking for donations of wrapped candy to stuff in our Easter eggs this year. If you are interested in donating, please feel free to swing by the office during office hours or put it in the basket labeled Easter Egg Hunt on any Sunday. **Donations will be collected until March 26th.** We will be looking for **volunteers to stuff the eggs the week of March 27th to March 31st.** If you are available to volunteer, please contact Tanya Woodbury.

Easter Memorials

Easter Memorial forms are available in the narthex and in our weekly email. Please fill one out if you would like for us to honor loved ones during our Easter Sunday service on April 9th. If you have any questions, please call the office 413-562-5461.

Rummage Sale April 14th & 15th

Rummage and bake sale will be taking place on April 14th (4pm-7pm) and 15th (9am-3pm). We are starting to collect items for the rummage sale. Volunteers are needed to help set up, break down and lend a hand on the day of the rummage sale. If you are interested in helping or donating to the bake sale, please contact Donna Tatlock-Calkins at 413-563-0143.

Safe Church Training for Vestry, Clergy and Lay Leaders

The Rev. Tanya Wallace, our Diocesan Safe Church Officer, will be leading Safe Church training. If you are new to the **Vestry, or are a Clergy member or Lay Leader**, the next two dates available are: **Tues/Thursday, March 28 & 30 @ 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm** and **Thursday, April 27-9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** If you are looking to **volunteer** at one of our Kid’s Night Out, Sunday School/Nursery volunteers or any future events, there are sessions being offered: **Sunday, April 16-1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m** and **Thursday,**

May 18-5 p.m. to 8 p.m. These sessions will be done on Zoom, so in the comfort of your own home. Space is limited so if you need to be safe church trained, please contact our Office Administrator to get signed up today! Not sure if your Safe Church Certificate is up, no worries, Tanya in the office can help with that! Just call her Tuesday -Friday during normal office hours.

Holy Week Service Schedule

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 2nd- 8:00/10:00 - Holy Communion

This Sunday before Easter is the last Sunday in Lent. The day commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a blessing of palms and a procession in which the whole congregation carries palms. The day is also marked by reading the story of Jesus' passion (the word used to describe Jesus' death comes from "suffering," which is one older meaning of passion). Some of the Palm Sunday palms are kept and used to make the Ash Wednesday ashes for the next year.

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 6th, 7:00pm - Holy Communion, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar

"Love one another, as I have loved you." This is the new mandate (commandment) Jesus gave to his disciples this night. He washed their feet as a servant, and gave to them, and to us, the Holy Meal of The Eucharist (Communion). Jesus was shaping his disciples in servanthood to one another, the least and the outcast. And this servanthood is grounded on holy fellowship, with God and all humanity at the table he set for us. Maundy Thursday was only the beginning! We are called to be servants, Maundy Christians, every day.

Good Friday – Friday, April 7th, 12 noon, Good Friday Liturgy

What's good about a Friday when Christ dies? The goodness is found in the Passion story in the Gospel according to John we always read on Good Friday, where the cross is not a defeat, but a victory over the powers of death, sin, and darkness. We leave the church this day in silence. It is an opportunity for each of us to meditate on Jesus' Passion and his great love and sacrifice for each of us.

"Love is at the heart of the meaning of the cross. Love is at the heart of the life Christ calls us to live. Love is at the heart of the movement Jesus began and which we live in our own time." Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Right Rev. Michael Curry.

Holy Saturday – Saturday, April 8th, The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:00pm

The Great Vigil of Easter is one of the oldest known rites of the Christian church, dating back to the second century. It brings worshippers, literally and symbolically, from darkness into light. Beginning in darkness after sunset on Holy Saturday, the vigil starts with the lighting of a fire, illuminating the darkness. The service is comprised of four parts: The Service of Light; The Service of Lessons; Christian Initiation (Holy Baptism) or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows; and the Eucharist (Holy Communion).

It has been observed that the four sections of the service can be compared with fire, air, water, and earth, the four primal elements of the cosmos. The vigil's history evokes that sense of the primal, of foundational beginning. The drama and ancient beauty of the Great Vigil of Easter opens for us the mystery and wonder of God in the Risen Christ. Alleluia!

Easter, Day of the Resurrection – Sunday, April 9th, Celebration Eucharist (Communion) 8 & 10am

Easter Day is the annual feast of the resurrection. Faith in Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday or third day following his crucifixion is at the heart of Christian belief. This is the day when we mark that Christ is alive, and through his resurrection, we, too, are given the gift of life. Jesus breaks the bonds of death, breaking them on our behalf. Let the joy of our Alleluias ring!!