



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINTS JAMES AND ANDREW

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion

In-Person and Live-streamed

Welcome to Worship

We are blessed by your presence with us today. For the Church it is Ordinary Time, so-called not because it is commonplace but because we order the Sundays after Pentecost sequentially, with numbers. While we follow the events of Jesus' life during the seasons from Advent through Pentecost, during Ordinary Time we settle in to hear Jesus' teachings and listen to stories of his interactions with the everyday people he taught and to whom he ministered.

From June 22 - August 31 we simplify our worship. We recognize that in the summer folks are looking for a simpler rhythm and that our sanctuary can get quite warm. During this time we will generally speak the song of praise (Kyrie or Trisagion) and psalm; use the Apostles' Creed (typically used in Morning and Evening Prayer); and simplified versions of Prayers of the People. Those serving on the altar will not wear robes. In September, we'll resume our regular worship patterns as we transition into the Season of Creation.

Our liturgy is drawn primarily from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship 1 & 2*; other approved worship resources from elsewhere within the Anglican Communion; as well as Eucharistic Prayers and Prayers of the People which correlate to the Revised Common Lectionary. We believe that the use of fresh language provides us the opportunity to broaden and deepen our relationship with God. Our music is drawn primarily from the *Hymnal 1982; Wonder, Love, and Praise; Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, and other approved hymnals. All materials are printed with permission using RiteSeries. Please note that our worship is live-streamed to YouTube.

Our Mission

We believe God is calling us to cultivate a community of love, joy, hope, and healing. Jesus is our model for a life of faith, compassion, hospitality and service. We strive to be affirming and accessible, welcoming and inclusive; we seek to promote reconciliation, exercise responsible stewardship, and embrace ancient traditions for modern lives.

Prelude

Voluntary in F major

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Welcome

The Rev. Heather J. Blais

The Hymnal 1982 - #304

I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord

Land of Rest

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
 2 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
 3 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
 4 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
 2 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
 3 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
 4 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
 2 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
 3 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
 4 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt. Copyright © 1971 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983).

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

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

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

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

Song of Praise

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

Collects

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

God of the Sabbath, this is the day and this is the hour when women long oppressed learn to stand with dignity, when your healing escapes our desire for control: may your joy stretch the fabric of our hearts and inspire us to loose each other's bonds; through Jesus Christ, the shamer of the powerful and the raiser of the dead. **Amen.** *(Source: Prayers for an Inclusive Church by Steven Shakespeare)*

First Reading

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Patty Appelbaum

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;

then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-8

Jeanne Canteen

- 1 Bless the Holy One, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless God's holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Holy One, O my soul, *
and forget not all the gifts of God.**
- 3 O God, you forgive all our sins *
and you heal all our infirmities;
- 4 You redeem our life from the grave *
and crown us with mercy and loving-kindness;**
- 5 You satisfy us with good things, *
and our youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 O God, you execute righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.**
- 7 You made your ways known to Moses *
and your works to the children of Israel.
- 8 You are full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

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Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18-29

Reynolds Whalen

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken-- that is, created things-- so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give

thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Luke 13:10-17

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Dan Carew

Silence for Reflection

The Apostles' Creed

Jeanne

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Jeanne

Let us pray for the Church and for the world:

That this day may be holy, good and joyful:
we pray to you, O God.

That we may offer to you our worship and our work:
we pray to you, O God.

That we may strive for the well-being of all creation:
we pray to you, O God.

That we may labor for racial reconciliation in our nation:
we pray to you, O God.

That in the pleasures and pains of life,
we may know the love of Christ and be thankful:
we pray to you, O God.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit, in communion with James, Andrew, and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ:
we pray to you, O God.

We pray especially for Ann, John, Bill, Elizabeth, Gerda, Jack, Karis, Mary, Mickey, Nancy, Bobby, Kristina, James, Susan, Katherine, Diane, Caitlin, Carole, Grey, and Reeves. We pray for all candidates and our diocese as we discern our next bishop. We pray for all students, teachers, and school employees as they return to school this fall. We give thanks for the ministry of the Vestry. At this time, I invite your prayers of thanksgiving or intercession either silently, aloud, or in the comment section of our virtual worship.

Silence - the People are invited to add their own petitions, thanksgivings, and remembrances silently or aloud.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. **Amen.**

Confession

Heather

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you**

in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Backpacks

We invite all students, teachers, and staff to come forward for a blessing. If you have a backpack, bag or lunch box please bring it with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious and loving God, pour out your blessing on the schools represented here today, that they may be lively centers for learning and joy filled discovery. Bless and guide each of these students, teachers, and staff members in their learning, teaching, and growing; keep them healthy and safe. May Jesus, who calls us each by name to follow him, give you the courage and confidence to be disciples wherever you may be; and may the gifts God has given you be a source of blessing for you and for others. **Amen.**

(Source: Liturgy created by Rev. Tnyla Zittle, and adapted for use at SsJA.)

Exchange of Peace

Having received God's word of hope and new life, we share a sign of God's peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

The Collection of Gifts and Offerings

Your financial gift makes a difference. It supports our mission and ministry; our outreach programs; and provides the necessary resources to care for our church campus, enabling us to share our sacred space with the wider community. To give electronically use this QR code or text "Give" (978) 525-0712. Your gifts of non-perishable food items and large paper bags support our contribution to the Survival Center and our feeding ministries. These items may be placed in the baskets in the Narthex (church entry).



1 From thee all skill and sci-ence flow, all pi - ty, care, and love,
 2 And has-ten, Lord, that per-fect day when pain and death shall cease,

all calm and cour-age, faith and hope: O pour them from a - bove!
 and thy just rule shall fill the earth with health and light and peace;

Im - part them, Lord, to each and all, as each and all shall need,
 when ev - er - blue the sky shall gleam, and ev - er-green the sod,

to rise, like in - cense, each to thee, in no - ble thought and deed.
 and our rude work de - face no more the hand - i - work of God.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the treble staff of each system.

Words: Charles Kingsley (1819-1875), alt. Music: *The Church's Desolation*, traditional melody; harm. J. T. White (19th cent.); adapt. C. H. Cayce (19th-20th cent.).

The Preparation of the Gifts

All things come of thee, O Lord,
and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

*Expansive Language version of Eucharistic Prayer A from the Book of Common Prayer,
 approved for use in the Episcopal Church by General Convention in 2018.*

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.

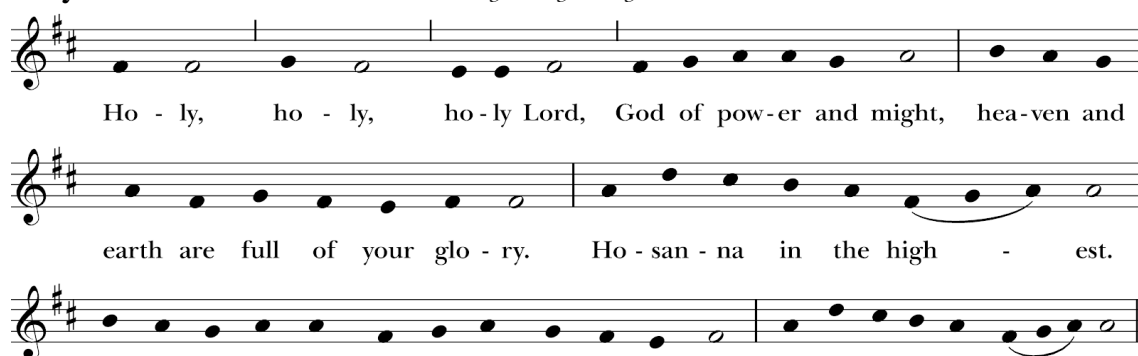
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth....

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 Hymnal 1982 - S124

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord: Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Then the Celebrant continues...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues...

...All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.
AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Please pray the version of the Lord's Prayer you hold dear, whether that be this version, the traditional version, another language, etc.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

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

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

Spiritual Communion

Please join us for a moment of quiet, and then we invite those worshipping at home and any moved to pray with them in solidarity to join in the prayer for spiritual communion.

Silence

Let us pray:

Living God, holy Christ, we offer you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim your resurrection. We who do not receive the sacrament of bread and wine today long for your spiritual presence, that we may be strengthened by your grace, and that we may draw ever-closer to you and to one another. We pray you, come into our hearts, that we may live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Invitation & Distribution of Communion

We believe all are welcome at God's table, no exceptions. If you would like to receive communion please come forward with outstretched hands, and the clergy will place the bread into the palm of your hand. If you choose, you may also take a sip from the cup (wine). If you wish to abstain from receiving the cup, know that the Church has always taught the fullness of the sacrament is received even when only one form is received. It is customary to respond "Amen" when given the bread, and again when receiving the cup. If you need a gluten free wafer, please tell the clergy. If you would prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest and the clergy will offer a blessing.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us give thanks for this meal:

**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.**

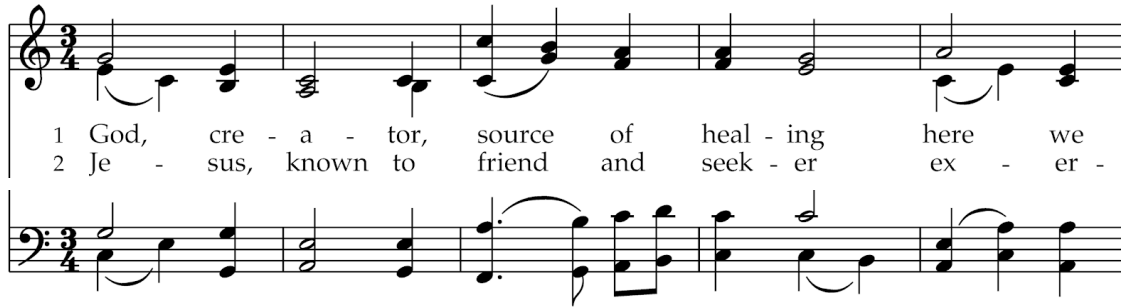
The Blessing

Announcements *(see back pages)*

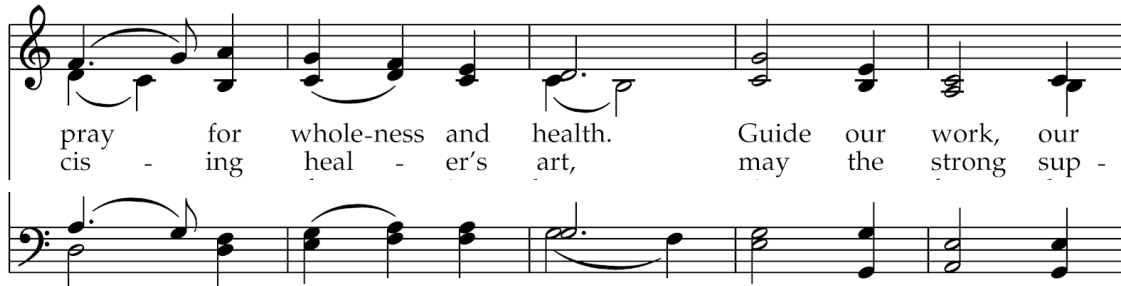
Voices Found - #93

God, creator, source of healing

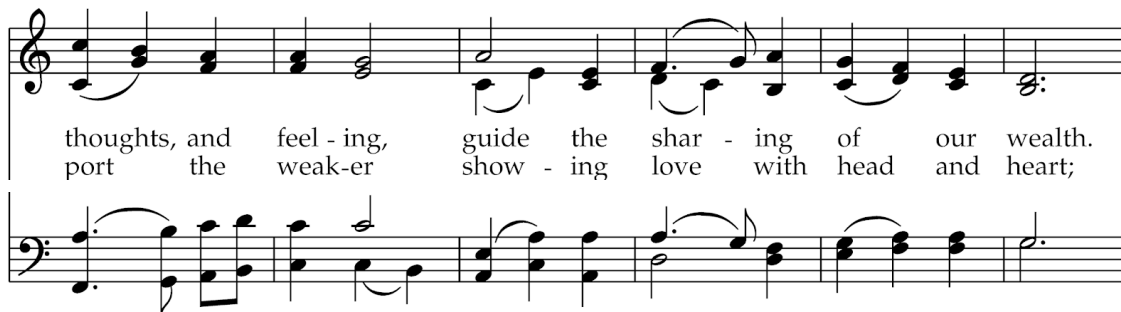
Abbot's Leigh




1 God, cre - a - tor, source of heal - ing here we
2 Je - sus, known to friend and seek - er ex - er -



pray for whole-ness and health. Guide our work, our
cis - ing heal - er's art, may the strong sup -



thoughts, and feel - ing, guide the shar - ing of our wealth.
port the weak-er show - ing love with head and heart;



Give dis - cern - ment in our de - ci - sions give com -
give fresh en - er - gy and pur - pose when un -



pas - sion in our care; rec - on - cile our
rea - son - ing blocks your grace, spare us harm, in

strife and di - vi - sions as we search for means to share.
dan - ger a - lert us, show the ra - diance of your face.

Words: Brigid Pailthorp © Brigid Pailthorp. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Dismissal

Children are invited to join the clergy in the back of the sanctuary to lead the People in boldly responding 'Thanks be to God.'

This service has ended. Now let ours begin.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

"Faith", Opus 102, No. 6

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Prayer List

Names are on the list for 6 weeks, then removed. Feel free to add a name again.

Ann, John, Bill, Elizabeth, Gerda, Jack, Karis, Mary, Mickey, Nancy, Bobby, Kristina, James, Susan,
Katherine, Diane, Caitlin, Carole, Grey, and Reeves

Announcements

Today - Blessing of the Backpacks

During worship, all students, teachers, and school staff are invited to come forward for a special blessing before the 2025-2026 school year begins.

August 25 - Construction Begins on Roof

A friendly reminder construction on our roof will begin this coming week, and soon it will be a bit louder on campus. The sidewalk and some parking along the building on Church St. will be closed. We anticipate construction lasting 4-6 weeks.

August 31 at 10 a.m. - Worship Notes

We will be welcoming the Ven. Jane Griesbach, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts as our preacher and a deacon in our liturgy. Please note on this Sunday there will not be music while our Parish Musician is away (this is our practice in the summer months).

September 1 - Return to Regular Office Hours

Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Closed Holidays)

September 1 - October 5 - Season of Creation

During the Season of Creation, which runs this year from September 1 - October 5 we join with Christians around the world to celebrate in prayer and action our Gospel calling to protect the Earth that God entrusted to our care. This year's theme is *Peace with Creation*.

September 6 - Creation Season Retreat: Cultivating Eco- Spiritual Resilience

On Saturday, September 6 as part of the church's Season of Creation The Rev. Jimmy Pickett and the Saints James and Andrew Green Team will be offering a retreat: Cultivating Eco-Spiritual Resilience. The retreat will be in the Church. The work of Creation Care often feels like an overwhelming, never-ending, list of moral tasks that can lead to frustration, disengagement and spiritual exhaustion. Cultivating spiritual practices is essential for long-term resilience in the face of a changing environment.

- Gathering will begin between 9:15-9:45 a.m. with beverages, light offerings and fellowship, and welcoming will begin at 9:45 a.m.. Please bring your lunch; we will provide beverages and desserts. A period of reflection and blessing will end the retreat by 3 p.m.
- This retreat is being offered in coordination with Creation Care@Grace's Sunday, September 7 afternoon presentation from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. at Grace Church in Amherst. These presentations/discussion will focus on sustainable coordinated choices for aging. We are offering these events in both parishes and you may choose both, either, or none.
- Sign up for September 6 in the narthex at SsJA or email Ella Ingraham at ejmai127@gmail.com telling me how many people plan to attend.

September 7 at 10 a.m. - Coffee & Conversation

Join us after worship for coffee and conversation in the cloisters. Future Dates coming soon. To volunteer or learn more about this ministry contact Allyson Michal at allysonmichal@gmail.com.

Prayers for Bishop Search Process

The Bishop's Search Committee for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts invites your daily prayers for the candidates, their families and ministry contexts, the committee and our diocese as candidates and the committee gather for a discernment retreat September 11-14, and then present the slate of candidates to the Standing Committee on September 20. Learn more about the search process [here](#).

Friendly Pledge Reminder:

Often in the summer folks have different routines, and as a result pledge donations are not always sent into the church in the same timely manner. We encourage folks to please continue sending their pledge donations so we can stay on target with our budget. Thank you to everyone who has pledged to support this parish with donations of time, talent, and treasure. Your generosity is what makes the mission and ministry of this parish possible.

Regular Events

To learn more about these ministries and events, click the link or contact the office.

Bell Choir, Children's Chapel, Choir, Coffee & Conversation, & St. Andrew's Guild resumes in the fall.

Mondays

4:30 p.m. - [Second Helpings Community Meal](#)

4:30 p.m. - [Whitney's Pantry](#) (8/25, 9/29, 10/27)

6:30 p.m. - [Zoom Bible Study](#)

Tuesdays

9:30 a.m. - [Office Hours](#) (closed from 12-1 for staff meeting)

Wednesdays

6:15 a.m. - [Morning Prayer](#) (live streamed)

10:00 a.m. - [Midweek Eucharist & Coffee Hour](#)

Thursdays

9:30 a.m. - [Office Hours](#)

Fridays

9:30 a.m. - [Office Hours](#) (resumes 9/5)

6:30 p.m. - [Zoom Reflection Group](#)

Sundays

10:00 a.m. - [Holy Eucharist](#) (live streamed)

11:30 a.m. - [Sunday Soup & Sandwiches To Go Meal](#) (concludes end of October)

Daily - During Daylight

Walk our [Community Labyrinth](#)

Enjoy our gardens and grounds to pray, rest, be

Donate

Your financial gift makes a difference. It supports our mission and ministry; our outreach programs; and provides the necessary resources to care for our church campus, enabling us to share our sacred space with the wider community. To give electronically use this QR code or text "Give" (978) 525-0712.



Worship Leaflets & More

To view our electronic worship leaflet or learn more about Saints James and Andrew, visit our website by using this QR code or fill out a welcome card available in the pews to let the clergy know you are interested in connecting or learning more.



The Episcopal Church of Ss. James & Andrew

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Facebook: [@saintsjamesandandrew](https://www.facebook.com/@saintsjamesandandrew)

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas J. Fisher, Bishop

The Rev. Heather J. Blais, Rector

The Rev. Jimmy Solano Pickett, Missioner

Summer Office Hours - June 22 to August 31, 2025

Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Closed Holidays)