

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Wakefield, Massachusetts
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Welcome Sunday



illustratedministry.com

And God's Got You!

*This bag and the person who carries it,
have been blessed by the people of
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Wakefield, MA*

September 13, 2026
10:00 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II

Welcome to Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Wakefield, MA ***Belong, Be Loved, Flourish!***

We are thrilled you are here! We welcome every person without exception in the name of Jesus Christ. You ***belong*** here and are an essential part of our family. You are ***beloved*** by God. We strive to "love God and love our neighbor," affirming that God created us for relationship and all creation ***flourishing***. We pray you are drawn to healing and joy.

If this is your first time, or first time back in a while, please fill out the visitors' card in the pew or Narthex. Introduce yourself to Rev. Brett and our Greeters — we are a friendly family!

A Note about Communion *You (all!) are welcome.* God invites you to be fed. All are welcome at the altar rail. Wine options include the chalice, intinction (a separate cup), or a non-alcohol alternative — simply let the clergy know. If you prefer not to receive, come forward with arms crossed for a blessing. *Our Altar Bread is Gluten Free.* If you cannot come forward, let an usher know and we will come to you.

A Note about Children We *love* all our children. During the Summer, childcare is available most Sundays in their special place off the Parish Hall. Once a month, children join us in the sanctuary as ushers, readers, and altar assistants. All children are welcome in the sanctuary — we ask that their grown-ups help them use quiet voices and quiet play, honoring those who need stillness to worship.

Assistive Listening Devices Four lightweight receivers are available at the back of the sanctuary. Pick one up, insert the earbud, and adjust the volume as needed — devices are charged and ready each week. Helpful for hearing differences or simply for clearer sound. See an usher with any questions.

We acknowledge that Emmanuel sits on the traditional land of the Algonquian-speaking Pawtucket tribe, whose caretaker's past, present, and future we honor with gratitude. As guests who have too often benefited at their expense, we commit to becoming better stewards and working toward a more just future.

As we prepare our hearts for worship, we kindly ask that you please silence your cell phones. Thank you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #657 *Love divine, all loves excelling*


1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less




earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -




faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hymn to the Holy Spirit*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

WELCOME

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

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

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.

GLORIA #S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - mighty 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; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most



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

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

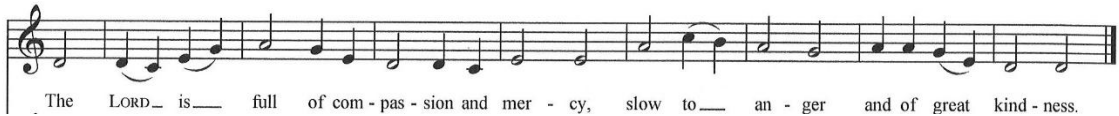
The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:1-13

The Psalm will be sung by the choir and congregation.

ANTIPHON



ANTIPHON (Choir once, then all sing)

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.

ANTIPHON (all)

3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;

4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

6 The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.

7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.

ANTIPHON (all)

9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

ANTIPHON (all)

SECOND LESSON ROMANS 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

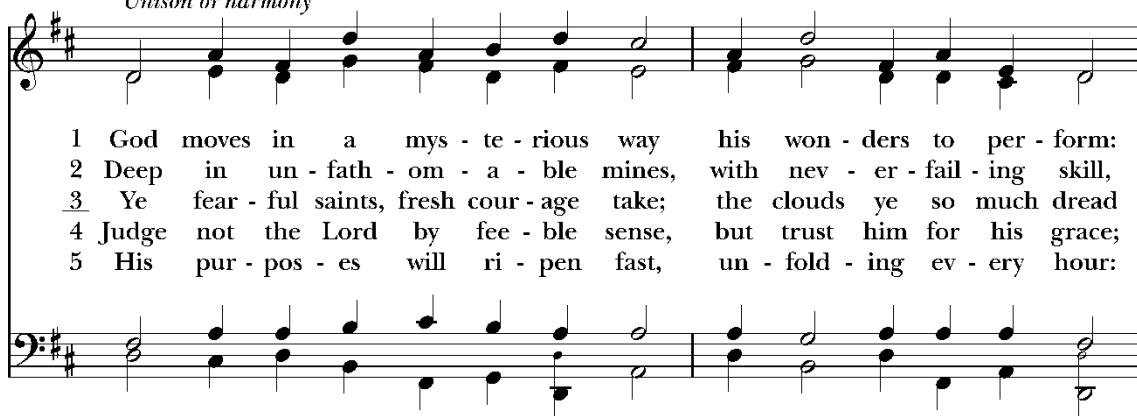
We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

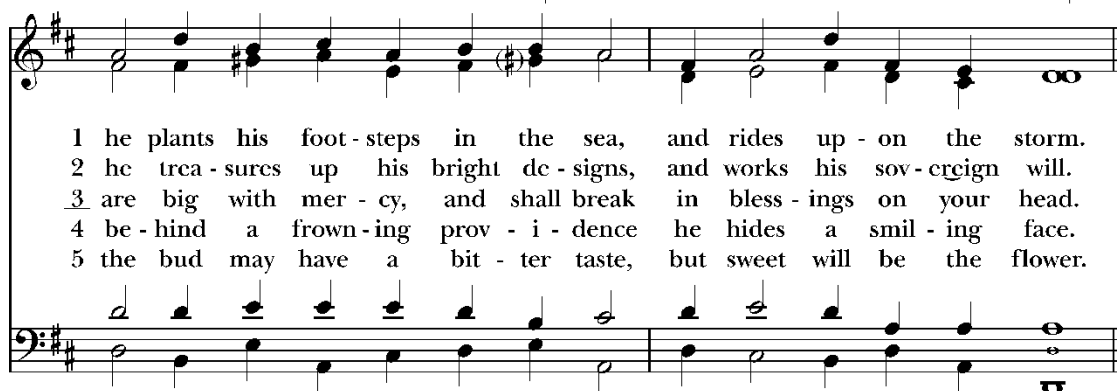
The word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #677 vss. 1,2&3 God moves in a mysterious way

Unison or harmony



1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way his won - ders to per - form:
 2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines, with nev - er - fail - ing skill,
 3 Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; the clouds ye so much dread
 4 Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, but trust him for his grace;
 5 His pur - pos - es will ri - pen fast, un - fold - ing ev - ery hour:



1 he plants his foot - steps in the sea, and rides up - on the storm.
 2 he trea - sures up his bright de - signs, and works his sov - ereign will.
 3 are big with mer - cy, and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
 4 be - hind a frown - ing prov - i - dence he hides a smil - ing face.
 5 the bud may have a bit - ter taste, but sweet will be the flower.

6 Blind unbelief is sure to err, God is his own interpreter,
 and scan his work in vain; and he will make it plain.

Words: William Cowper (1731-1800). Music: *London New*, melody from *The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter*, 1635;
 harm. John Playford (1623-1686).

GOSPEL LESSON MATTHEW 18:21-35

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON THE REV. BRETT R. JOHNSON

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 man.

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Prayers of the People were written by the people of Emmanuel
for the people of Emmanuel.*

Trusting in God's steadfast love for the world, let us pray for the Church, the nations, those in need, and all creation.

God of grace, strengthen your Church throughout the world. Inspire bishops, priests, deacons, and all the baptized to proclaim your Gospel with courage, humility, and joy, especially our Presiding Bishop Sean, and our own bishops Julia, Ian, and Mary. Bless also Emmanuel's leaders – our rector, staff, vestry, and all who offer themselves in service. Where we are divided, bring unity. Where we are fearful, grant boldness. Where we have caused harm, lead us to repentance and renewal, so that all people may know the wideness of your mercy.

Renew your Church, O God, and make us instruments of your peace. Amen.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as he loves us. We give thanks today for the blessing of our Emmanuel Choir in whose joyful celebration the altar flowers are given today.

We give thanks to God for the gift of music and for the Emmanuel Choir. May their music continue to glorify God, inspire our hearts, and bring joy and blessing to all.

God of justice, we pray for the nations of the earth, and all who exercise authority. Grant wisdom to leaders, compassion to those who govern, and integrity to all entrusted with power. Heal the deep divisions within our own nation. Replace contempt with understanding, fear with hope, and violence with the courage to seek the bonds that unite us.

We remember places torn apart by war, hunger, oppression, and displacement, praying especially for those in the Middle East and Ukraine, whose homes and futures have been shattered by conflict. Intercede we pray for those affected by the flash floods in Nepal.

Guide the nations into the ways of justice and peace. Amen.

A Prayer for the 25th Anniversary of 9/11

God the compassionate one, whose loving care extends to all the world, we remember this day your children of many nations and many faiths whose lives were cut short by the fierce flames of anger and hatred. Console those who continue to suffer and grieve, and give them comfort and hope as they look to the future. Out of what we have endured, give us the grace to examine our relationships with those who perceive us as the enemy, and show our leaders the way to use our power to serve the good of all for the healing of the nations. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who, in reconciling love, was lifted up from the earth that he might draw all things to himself. **Amen.**

God of wisdom and truth, we pray for our nation, and for all who bear the responsibility of leadership. Guide all who serve in public office to be moved to servant leadership for the common good. Grant them humility to seek wisdom beyond themselves, courage to pursue justice, and compassion for every person entrusted to their care.

In a time of deep polarization and distrust, soften hardened hearts and open pathways to honest dialogue. Teach us to listen before we judge, to seek truth with humility, and to work together for the flourishing of all people. Strengthen those who labor for fair elections, equal justice under the law, and the protection of human dignity.

Give each of us the grace to remember that we belong first to your kingdom. Amen.

God of abundance, bless our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and local communities. Strengthen those who serve the public good—teachers, healthcare workers, first responders, caregivers, and volunteers. We pray for those struggling with rising costs of living, housing and food insecurity, loneliness, and uncertainty about the future. Help us become neighbors who listen generously, serve faithfully, and welcome all in Christ's name. We also pray for the Esperanza Academy School of Hope, our coffee hour recipient this month.

Open our hearts to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

God of compassion, embrace all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Comfort those who grieve, all who are ill, facing anxiety or depression, recovering from disasters, and whose lives have been disrupted by violence or loss. We pray for refugees, immigrants, our LGBTQ+ siblings, and all seeking safety and dignity. Give strength all who care for others and hope to those who feel forgotten. We remember especially those on our Parish Prayer list.

Be near, O Lord, to all who cry out to you. Amen

God of eternal life, we remember those who have died, giving thanks for their witness and the ways they revealed your love. Comfort all who mourn, especially those whose grief is fresh. May those who have died rest in your everlasting peace, and may we be strengthened by the hope of Christ's resurrection. Today, we especially remember Ken Leach, beloved friend of Kim Collins, for whom we have been praying, and who died on Tuesday.

Receive them into your everlasting light. Amen.

CONFESSION - *Enriching Our Worship*

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Silence may be 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.

ABSOLUTION

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Almighty God have mercy on 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 PEACE

Christ is already here making peace among us.

The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The community shares a sign of peace.

BLESSING OF EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM) PARTICIPANTS

O Lord our God, we come with joy to bless these adult students as they begin this year of study together. Thank you for calling them to this work, and for placing them among us here at Emmanuel. Help them to study not for themselves alone, but as an offering to you, and remind them, when the topics grow difficult, that they are your servants, held in this place, at this time, for your glory.

Fill them with your Spirit to encourage them and give them understanding. Open their eyes to see what they need to learn, and help them see familiar things from new angles. Let them not struggle through alone, but be open to what they might learn from their teachers and from one another.

In their learning, let them seek your wisdom above all. Let them see how what they learn deepens their love for You. Keep them with a learner's open heart.

We commit ourselves to love them, encourage them, and hold them in prayer, with joy and gratitude, throughout this year and beyond. Amen!

BLESSING FOR LAUREN RIGSBY, POSTULANT INTERN

Holy God, we come with joy and praise to bless our new Postulant Intern, Lauren Rigbsby. Thank you for guiding her to Emmanuel. As we commit ourselves to loving and supporting her, we ask you to bless her time among us, that her understanding of you and your call for her life may deepen and grow. Give her an inquiring mind and a faithful heart, and walk with her on the path of discernment toward Holy Orders. We commit ourselves to love her and hold her in prayer, with joy and gratitude. In the Name of Christ. Amen.

At Reverend Brett's invitation, please come forward with your backpack, briefcase, iPad holder, bag etc. Those online, please gather your bags as well.

A LITANY FOR BLESSING BACKPACKS, BRIEFCASES, STUDENTS, TEACHERS,

AND SCHOOL STAFF

For schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them each day, God of Wisdom,

We give you thanks.

For this new beginning, new classrooms, new ideas, and new friends, God of Wisdom,

We give you thanks.

For electronics and notebooks with crisp blank pages waiting to be filled, God of Wisdom,

We give you thanks.

For the gift of making mistakes and trying again and again, God of Wisdom,

We give you thanks.

Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers. God of Wisdom,

Hear our prayer.

Help us to ask for help when we need it, because we know we never walk alone. God of
Companionship,
Hear our prayer.

Help us to work towards your dream of a world where all children everywhere might have what they
need to learn and grow, God of Justice,
Hear our prayer.

Congregation raises their hand in blessing:

God, our teacher, who helps us to understand the world around us, thank you for the privilege
of education. Bless these your children—young and old—with curiosity, understanding, and
respect. May their backpacks, briefcases, and electronics be a sign to them that they have
everything they need to learn and grow this year. Bless these teachers and school staff. May they
all be guided by your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed
his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for
us. Amen.

Distribution of blessed backpack tags

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
For when humbly in Thy name,
Two or three are met together
Thou are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Touch we now Thy garment's hem.*

As the brethren used to gather
In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father
Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
So knit Thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living
Make as sacraments of Thee,
That by caring, helping, giving
We may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will serve Thee faithfully.

Please stand as you are able

DOXOLOGY (all singing)

Old 100th

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Eucharistic Prayer G

From: Common Worship © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2004

Celebrant: The Lord is here.

People: His spirit is with us.

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 thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
 our light and our salvation;
 From the beginning you have created all things
 and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
 In the fullness of time you made us in your image,

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels
 and all the powers of heaven
 we may find a voice to sing your praise:

SANCTUS WLP #859 *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Music: Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930) from *WORSHIP II*. Copyright © 1975, GIA Publications, Inc.

The people stand or kneel.

How wonderful the work of your hand, O Lord.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
Your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Savior, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
Which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
Dying you destroyed our death,

**Rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus come in glory.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendor
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and 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. 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 people stand or kneel.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS WLP #871

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: Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930). Copyright © Ronald Arnatt.

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

COMMUNION

All are invited to come forward to receive communion or a blessing.

Our altar bread is gluten free.

Prayers for healing are also offered.

*Please stay seated until you are invited forward by the usher,
beginning from the back of the church.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM *Oculi omnium*

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

*Oculi omnium in te sperant, Domine:
et tu das escam illorum in tempore opportuno.*

(Psalm 145, v. 15)

Gloria tibi, Domine. Amen.

The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord;
and thou givest them their meat in due season.

Glory be to thee, O Lord: Amen.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

My friends, life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who are on this journey with us.

So be swift to love and hasten to be kind, and always, always offer hospitality and belonging to the stranger.

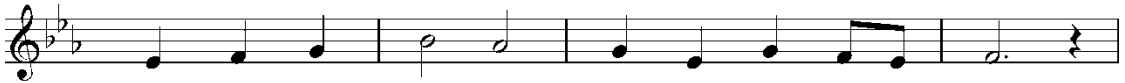
And the blessing of the God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you and those you love now and always.

Amen

CLOSING HYMN #347 *Go forth for God; go to the world in peace*



1 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in peace;
2 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in love;
3 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in strength;
4 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in joy,



be of good cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace,
strength - en the faint, give cour - age to the weak;
hold fast the good, be ur - gent for the right;
to serve God's peo - ple ev - ery day and hour,



in God's good Spi - rit dai - ly to in - crease,
help the af - flict - ed; rich - ly from a - bove
ren - der to no one e - vil; Christ at length
and ser - ving Christ, our ev - ery gift em - ploy,



till in his king-dom we be - hold his face.
his love sup - plies the grace and power we seek.
shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his light.
re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spi - rit's power.

Words: J.R. Peacey (1896-1971) and *English Praise*, 1975, alt. Copyright © 1984 by IHope Publishing company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Litton*, Erik Routley (1917-1982). Copyright © 1984 by IHope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Prelude, Fugue, & Chaconne, BuxWV 137 Dieterich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

The 9/11 Prayer is by Frank W. Griswold, "Remembering September 11, 2001," from *An American Prayer Book*, edited by Christopher L. Webber (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2008), 113.

Please join us after the service for our Parish Picnic hosted by the Hospitality Team.

This month's coffee hour recipient is Esperanza Academy School of Hope.

Esperanza Academy is a tuition-free, all-girls Episcopal school in Lawrence, MA for students in grades 5 through 8, built on justice and centered in joy. It has 63 students in grades 5-8 with a student-teacher ratio of 7 to 1.

In 2002, the vestries of Christ Church of Andover and Grace Church of Lawrence began exploring a high-impact way to serve the Lawrence community. They identified a critical need for high-quality educational opportunities for young women and decided to establish an independent middle school for girls. Esperanza Academy opened its doors on September 6, 2006. In 2015, the Academy earned full accreditation from the Association of Independent Schools in New England.

Rooted in the Episcopal tradition, Esperanza combines academic excellence with inclusivity, service, and a commitment to social justice. Students of all faiths, cultures, and economic backgrounds are welcomed, while thoughtfully designed Episcopal experiences recognize spiritual growth as an important part of each student's development.

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Celebrant:	The Rev. Brett R. Johnson
Organist & Music Director	Luca Cantone
Postulant Intern:	Lauren Rigsby
Lector:	Chris Healy
Litanist:	Andrea Sullivan
Eucharistic Minister:	Paul LaSpina and Amy Walsh
Usher:	Dave Sullivan
Altar Guild:	Alison Shaw & Amy Walsh
Vestry Greeter:	Nicole Russo De Souza
Streaming Coordinator:	Pete McCann
YouTube Editor:	Kim Collins
YouTube Scheduler:	Denise Mallen



*The flowers adorning our altar are given to the Glory of God and in joyful celebration of our
Emmanuel Choir with gratitude from Cathlyn Cantone.*

HEALING PRAYER OFFERED TODAY

The Prayer Team is available as a healing prayer resource at a prayer station to the left of the main altar during communion and after the service.

EMMANUEL PRAYER LIST

Andrew, Debbie and Evelyn Bourne, Peter Brown, Lydia Cedrone, John Claya, Jacob DeCarlen-Bumiller, John DeNatale, Donna, Peggy Downs, Dutchy, Erica, Kristen Goddard, Michelle Hager, CJ, Ginny Johnson, Jonathan, Chris Kelsey, Linda, Kevin MacKenzie, Mark Martino, Sara Murphy, Muriel Peters, Mo Pollman, Rebecca, Carolyn and Jeff Robinson, Cheryl Russo, Keith Santarelli, Trudy, CV, Amy Walsh, Charlie Wisner, Kelly Wood, and Alan Wright.

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

In the Diocesan cycle of Prayer, we pray for the churches of the Neponset River Deanery: Christ Church, Medway; St. Michael's Church, Milton; Church of Our Saviour, Milton; St. John's Church, Westwood; Trinity Church, Stoughton and Trustees of Donations.

JOIN US TODAY!

≡ You're invited! ≡

WELCOME SUNDAY!

KICKING OFF A NEW SEASON TOGETHER

 **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**
≡ ONE 10:00 AM SERVICE ≡

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS  Bring your backpack to be blessed for the year ahead! ♥	WELCOME BACK CHOIR  Our choir is back! Join in the joy of music together. ♥	PARISH PHOTO  All are invited for our parish photo after the service. ♥	PARISH PICNIC  Stay, connect, and enjoy good food & fellowship! ♥	ALL ARE WELCOME!  New here? Longtime member? There's a place for you here! ♥
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≡ Come as you are. ≡
LEAVE CONNECTED.

 **EMMANUEL
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH** *beloved*
♥ WAKEFIELD, MA ♥

EMMANUELWAKEFIELD.ORG

CONSIDER THIS YOUR TAP ON THE SHOULDER!
WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Every parish runs on the willingness of ordinary people to say *yes* to extraordinary service.
This year, that could be you — or someone you know.

The Nominating Committee — Kim Collins, Dawn Jackson, Beth Martin, Andrea Sullivan, and Brett — has begun its prayerful work of discerning who might step into leadership at Emmanuel for the coming year. And there's real room to grow into: we're seeking a warden (2-year term), two vestry members (3-year term), and several representatives to the Mystic Valley Deanery and the Episcopal City Mission.

Not sure where you'd fit? Come find out on September 27th,
when you can explore all of Emmanuel's ministries in one place —
find one of us there and we'll talk it through with you.

And if the Holy Spirit is nudging you toward a name — your own, or someone else's — don't wait for the tap on the shoulder. Talk to any member of the committee. *"The LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:7) — so don't rule anyone out too quickly, including yourself.

"Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8). If that's stirring in you, we'd love to hear it.

The slate will be presented at our Annual Meeting on January 24, 2027.

CALLING ALL SINGERS!

Do you love to sing?
We would love to welcome you to Emmanuel's Choir!

Today we welcome back Emmanuel's Choir. Choir rehearsals are held every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The choir also warms up on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join, especially new parishioners who enjoy singing! Interested in joining? Please speak with Luca, Brett, or any choir member. We'd love to have you!

WELCOME LAUREN RIGSBY!



Today we welcome Lauren Rigsby to join our Emmanuel Family for the coming year! Lauren will be serving us as an intern. This is Lauren's first year as a Postulant for Holy Orders in our Diocese. She has a Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School. Lauren brings extensive leadership and pastoral capabilities in her role as the Director of Mission and Chaplaincy at Tufts Medicine Lowell General Hospital where she has worked as a chaplain for almost 11 years. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome her to Emmanuel!

DO YOU LOVE NUMBERS? FINCOM WANTS YOU!

Does a well-balanced spreadsheet make your heart sing? Do you find real joy in "crunching" numbers, digging into financials, or building a budget that actually balances? Maybe you even have accounting experience gathering dust? Good news: we have a very special place for you!

The Finance Committee (affectionately known as FINCOM) is Emmanuel's small-but-mighty band of number-lovers, led by our terrific Treasurer, Aimee Forsythe. They meet monthly to monitor the parish's financial health and make recommendations to the Vestry, who carries "overall fiduciary responsibility" for Emmanuel.

FINCOM is looking for a few good souls (bonus points if you already own a calculator) to join the team. If the Spirit — or your inner accountant — is nudging you, we'd love to hear from you.

Interested? Talk to Rev. Brett, Aimee Forsythe or let the church office know. Many thanks!

Please note: We will return to our regular two-service schedule (8:00 AM and 10:00 AM) on Sunday, September 20th.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING ALTAR FLOWERS

Each week beautiful flowers grace our altar. We have openings on

September 20th and we have openings on October 18th and October 25th. Donations in any amount towards altar flowers are always welcome to help defray expenses to the church's flower budget. If you would like to remember or celebrate your loved ones with flowers on the altar, please speak to Lisa Ventura 781-526-9777 or contact the church office eecw@verizon.net.

10:00 AM COFFEE HOSTS NEEDED

As we return to our Fall schedule of two services on Sunday, September 20th, hosts for the 10:00 a.m. coffee hour are needed and appreciated beginning then! We have guidelines to make hosting easier for everyone. **We need a host for September 20th – can you help?!**

If you can host, sign up on the sign in the Narthex or the clipboard at coffee hour.

Questions, please contact Colleen Moran at colleenm781@gmail.com or Lisa in the office at lvventura@emmanuelwakefield.org. Thanks!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE HELP

Are you interested in helping at our worship services? We invite you to consider volunteering to support our Sunday morning ministries as a reader, litanist, lay eucharistic minister or usher. New and longtime members are encouraged to join this important ministry. **We are particularly in need of ushers – especially on September 20th and 27th – can you help?!** Please talk to Rev. Brett or Lisa in the church office.

EMAIL SCAMS

We continue to hear from parishioners who are receiving emails that appear to be from Rev. Brett or other members of the vestry or church staff. These messages often ask for donations, gift cards, personal information, or parish directory details.

Please remember: We will **NEVER** ask for financial assistance, gift cards, or sensitive information this way. If you are ever unsure whether a message is legitimate, please contact the church office directly to verify it before responding. Thank you for helping keep our parish community safe from scams.

WAKEFIELD FOOD PANTRY

The most needed item for the month of September is Boxed Pasta.

HELP STOCK OUR LITTLE FREE PANTRY!

Please help stock our Little Free Pantry! Some suggested items:

Canned goods: vegetables, chicken or tuna, soup or fruit.

Dry foods: pasta, rice, beans oatmeal, crackers, cereal, macaroni & cheese.

Other items: peanut butter, jelly, mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise, salad dressings, spaghetti sauce, powdered milk, personal hygiene products.

Please Note: All pantry items must be:

- Shelf-stable (non-perishable) • Sealed
- Able to withstand high temperatures



THANK YOU! You can leave items in the Little Free Pantry Box in the Narthex closet or the box in the church office.

WOW! LOOK AT THAT!

“If we believe that our unity comes from looking together into a mystery and occasionally nudging one another and saying, “[Wow!] Look at that!” it can help us to feel how the unity we enjoy

(Brett: with radical diversity!)

*is not primarily about institutional uniformity...
the unity is found in the common direction we are looking.”*

Rowan Williams,
Where God Happens: Discovering Christ in One Another



JOIN US AT WAKEFIELD'S ANNUAL TOWN DAY ON SEPTEMBER 26

Our parish is excited to participate in Wakefield's Annual Town Day on Saturday, September 26, from 1-4pm, and we need your help to make our presence a blessing to our community!

Mark Your Calendars – Come visit our booth and enjoy this wonderful community celebration. It's a perfect opportunity to connect with neighbors and share the welcoming spirit of our parish.

Volunteers Needed – We're looking for friendly faces to help staff our booth throughout the day. Whether you can spare an hour or the whole day, your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Calling All Bakers! – We're planning to give away homemade cookies as a sweet welcome to visitors at our booth. If you love to bake (or even if you don't but are willing to try!), we'd love your contribution.

Ready to Help? Visit our SignUp Genius to see all the ways you can get involved:



Let's show Wakefield the warm,
welcoming heart of our parish community!

LIFE AT EMMANUEL

MINISTRY FAIR

Come see what makes Emmanuel, Emmanuel.



THERE'S MORE HERE THAN
YOU MAY KNOW



WORSHIP



OUTREACH & SERVICE



CARE AND COMMUNITY



FORMATION & LEARNING



WELCOME & CONNECTION

COME AND SEE.

Sunday, September 27
After both the 8AM
and 10AM services

Wander. Ask questions. Meet
people. Discover something you
didn't know about Emmanuel.

No sign ups required.



THE GENEROSITY OF GOD
SEE IT. • KNOW IT. • LIVE IT.

STEWARDSHIP 2026



PARISH SCHEDULE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Sunday, September 13		Welcome Sunday!
	9:45 AM	Nursery Care
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Blessing of the Backpacks
	11:15 AM	Parish Photo
	11:30 AM	Parish Picnic
Tuesday, September 15	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting
	4:45 PM	Horizon House
	6:00 PM	Worship Advisory Team
	6:00 PM	Pastoral Care Team
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, September 16	10:00 AM	Brightview Service
	5:30 PM	Wakefield Alliance Against Violence Meeting
	6:00 PM	Evening Prayer
	7:00 PM	Finance Committee
Saturday, September 19	1:00 PM	Rainbow Recovery
Sunday, September 20	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
	9:00 AM	Coffee Hour
	9:00 AM	Welcoming Team
	9:45 AM	Nursery Care
	9:45 AM	Kids' Club
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
	11:00 AM	Coffee Hour

*If you would like to give to the ministries
of Emmanuel Episcopal Church,
please use this QR code.*





UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES *to Gather!*



Sunday, September 13th – Welcome Sunday!

Blessing of the Backpacks

Welcome Back Choir

Parish Photo

Parish Picnic



Sunday, September 20th

Return to two services at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Kids' Club Begins



Sunday, September 27th

Sundae Sunday

Ministry Fair during Coffee Hour



Thursday, October 1st

Soul Suppers Return



Sunday, October 4th

12:30 p.m.– Blessing of the Animals



Sunday, October 11th

Indigenous Peoples Sunday

Guest Preacher: Nikki Nash-MacIsaac

8:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer led by Colleen Moran

10:00 a.m. – Rite II service





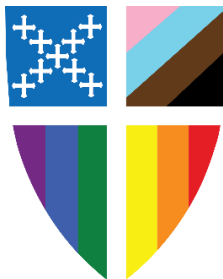
OUR MISSION:

Emmanuel Episcopal Church is a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming community dedicated to spiritual growth through worship and education for adults and children.



OUR VISION:

Emmanuel embodies Christ's light in service to all. Here, through God's love and grace, all are accepted, purpose is found, and together we flourish.



Bishop Diocesan: The Rt. Rev. Julia Whitworth (she/her)
 Rector: The Rev. Brett R. Johnson (he/him) 978-206-1788
 Organist and Music Director: Luca Cantone 332-209-8432
 Postulant Intern: Lauren Rigsby 210-275-3115
 Co-Warden: Kim Collins (she/her) 339-224-8455
 Co-Warden: Beth Martin (she/her) 781-308-3474

Please be advised that our services are live streamed on our YouTube channel. Your participation in the service serves as your consent to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your participating minor children.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

5 Bryant Street Wakefield MA 01880
www.EmmanuelWakefield.org