



logo and artwork by Paula Jones

ASCENSION MEMORIAL CHURCH
A Parish of the
Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Flourishing - Family - Community

*To bear witness to the Spirit of God
we see in Jesus as an Episcopal community open to all,
centered in worship, Christian education, table fellowship,
care for the environment,
and compassion for neighbors local and global*

November 20, 2022

"Gratitude"

P.O. 547, 31 County Street
Ipswich, MA 01938
e-mail: amcipswich@verizon.net
978-356-2560
www.amcipswich.org

The Singing Bowl

Take a moment to listen to the sound of the bowl as it echoes and reverberates through the church and slowly fades away.

Opening Invocation

*As we gather here in this harbor of safety,
we give thanks for fellowship and family.
We ask for strength in all adversity
and the inspiration to love and care for one another.
Let our hearts be filled with peace and understanding
so that as we journey onwards,
we pour out love and grace to others.
We ask that our souls catch the wind of the Spirit
so that we may carry the promise of peace and joy
to all the earth.*

Welcome

Prayer Cards

*During the following music meditation,
you are invited to write on your prayer cards things that you are grateful for
during this season of Thanksgiving.*

*You may indicate on the card if it's ok to read your prayers aloud
or if you wish them to remain private.*

Music Meditation: Heartsounds - David Lanz

Reading: Psalm 95

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Reading: *My work is loving the world* - Mary Oliver

My work is loving the world.
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—
equal seekers of sweetness.
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?
Am I no longer young, and still half-perfect? Let me
keep my mind on what matters,
which is my work,

which is mostly standing still and learning to be
astonished.
The phoebe, the delphinium.
The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.
Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the ingredients are here,

which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart
and these body-clothes,
a mouth with which to give shouts of joy
to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,
telling them all, over and over, how it is
that we live forever.

Reflection

Song: *Sometimes* - Karen and Richard Carpenter

*Sometimes, not often enough,
We reflect upon the good things.
And those thoughts always center around those we love.
And I think about those people who mean so much to me,
And for so many years have made me so very happy.
And I count the times I have forgotten to say "thank you"
And just how much I love them.*

The Prayers

The Blessing Over the Bread

*Just as rain and snow fall from the heavens
and return not again, but water the earth,
bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread for eating;
So is the love that flows through us,
bringing us life and giving us growth;
It will not return empty, but will break open your life
as a gift for feeding others,
just as we now break open this loaf of bread
as a gift for feeding one another.*

*During the breaking of bread,
please feel warmly invited to come forward to receive a
piece of bread as a sign of your place in the family of things.*

Blessing & Dismissal

*Life is short, and we do not have too much time
to gladden the hearts of those who walk the way with us;
so be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
and may the Blessing of the One who created us,
redeemed us, and who walks always with us,
be with us and all those we love, this day and always. Amen.*