



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*

January 8, 2023

Baptism

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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 fill out your prayer cards. The ushers will collect the them later in the service and they will be read aloud during the Prayers. You can indicate on the card if you wish your prayers to remain private.

Music Meditation

Reading

Inseparable from the Love of God ~ Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God.

Reading

The Baptism of Jesus ~ Mark 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Reflection – Rev'd Brad Clark

Song – Lucas Callahan

The Lone Wild Bird

*The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
is still with You, nor leaves Your sight.
And I am Yours! I rest in You,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me, too.*

*Each secret thought is known to You,
the path I walk my whole life through;
my days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears,
my deepest joys, my silent tears.*

*For the ends of earth are in Your hand,
the sea's dark deep and the distant land.
I nothing want but know Your care,
Great Spirit come receive our prayer.*

*Great Spirit live, Great Spirit breathe.
Great Spirit come, receive our prayer.
And I am Yours! I rest in You,*

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.*