



Ascension Church 31 County Street, Ipswich



"Seeing in the Dark"

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*

October 23, 2022
"Seeing in the Dark"

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

Acolytes - Ushers - Readers
Charlie Ackley, Malcolm, Margaret & Peter Joss-Green,
Emmett Lees-Rolfe, John Quimby, Charles Quimby,
Anja & Soren Suomi, Vicki Hughes, Paul Philpy, Paula Jones

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

*The night can be scary to some people,
but we can also see things in the night that are invisible during the day.
I am thankful for the night because of...*

*The ushers will collect the cards and they will be read aloud during the Prayers
unless you indicate that you wish them to remain private.*

First Reading

“The only instruction I can offer you I is to become more curious about your own darkness. What can you learn about your fear of it by staying with it for a moment before turning on the lights? Where can you feel the fear in your body? When have you felt that way before? What are you afraid is going to happen to you, and what is your mind telling you to do about it? What stories do you tell yourself to keep your fear in place? What helps you stay conscious even when you are afraid? What have you learned in the dark that you could never have learned in the light? I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is really only one logical conclusion. I need darkness as much as I need light.”

— The Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor, Episcopal Priest, [Learning to Walk in the Dark](#)

Second Reading: Psalm 139: 7-12

*Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit?
to be out of your sight?
If I climb to the sky, you're there!
If I go underground, you're there!
If I flew on morning's wings
to the far western horizon,
You'd find me in a minute—
you're already there waiting!
Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark!
At night I'm immersed in the light!"
It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you;
night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.*

Reflection -

Song: *No One Is Alone*

Stephen Sondheim
as sung by Cleo Laine

*No one here to guide you now you're on your own,
Only me beside you, still you're not alone.
No one is alone. Truly, no one is alone.*

*Sometimes people leave you halfway through the wood.
Others may deceive you. You decide what's good.
You decide alone. But no one is alone.*

*People make mistakes,
Fathers, Mothers, people make mistakes,
Holding to their own, thinking they're alone.
All of their mistakes, everybody makes,
One another's terrible mistakes.
Witches can be right. Giants can be good.
You decide what's right. You decide what's good.*

*Just remember,
Someone is on your side, someone else is not.
While we're seeing our side, maybe we forgot,
They are not alone. No one is alone.*

*Hard to see the light now. Just don't let it go.
Things will come out right now. That's the best I know.
Someone is on your side. No one is alone.*

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.*

Following the service, please join us in the Parlor for
Magic Scratch Art.

