



31 County Street, Ipswich, MA

September 11, 2022

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.*

P.O. 547, 31 County Street, Ipswich, MA 01938  
e-mail: [amcipswich@verizon.net](mailto:amcipswich@verizon.net) 978-356-2560 [www.amcipswich.org](http://www.amcipswich.org)

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

## **Prelude**

Improvisation on *How Can I Keep From Singing*  
Julian Colville, *piano*

## **The Tower Bell**

## **Welcome**

## **Prayer Cards**

*You are invited to write on your cards a prayer of thanks for the "rocks" in your life to which you cling,  
and any other prayers you may wish to add.  
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.*

## **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.*

## **Reading: "How Can I Keep From Singing"**

My life goes on in endless song  
Above earth's lamentations,  
I hear the real, though far-off hymn  
That hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear its music ringing,  
It sounds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?

While though the tempest loudly roars,  
I hear the truth, it liveth.  
And though the darkness 'round me close,  
Songs in the night it giveth.

No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
While to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is lord of heaven and earth  
How can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble in their fear  
And hear their death knell ringing,  
When friends rejoice both far and near  
How can I keep from singing?

In prison cell and dungeon vile  
Our thoughts to them are winging,  
When friends by shame are undefiled  
How can I keep from singing?

*Robert Lowrey*

## Reading: The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider  
Climbed up the waterspout.  
Down came the rain  
And washed the spider out.  
Out came the sun  
And dried up all the rain,  
And the itsy bitsy spider  
Climbed up the spout again.

The itsy bitsy spider  
Climbed up the kitchen wall.  
Swoosh! went the fan  
And made the spider fall.  
Off went the fan,  
No longer did it blow,  
So the itsy bitsy spider  
Back up the wall did go.

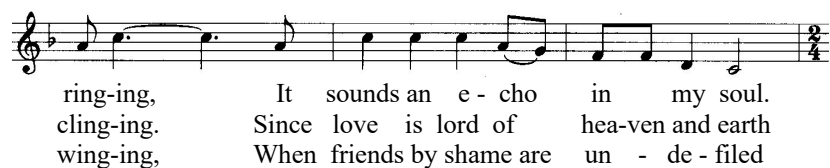
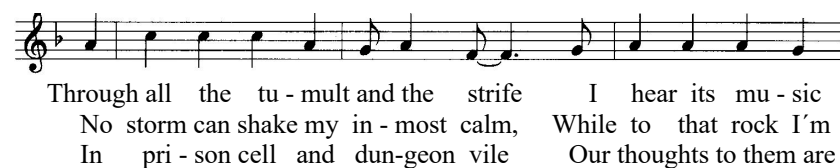
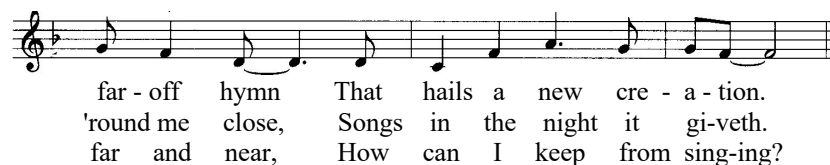
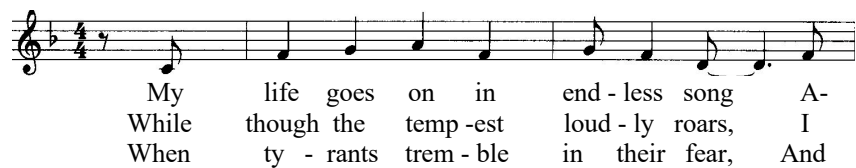
The itsy bitsy spider  
Climbed up the yellow pail.  
In came a mouse  
And flicked her with his tail.  
Down fell the spider,  
The mouse ran out the door,  
Then the itsy bitsy spider  
Climbed up the pail once more.

The itsy bitsy spider  
Climbed up the rocking chair.  
Up jumped a cat  
And knocked her in the air.  
Down plopped the cat,  
And when he was asleep,  
The itsy bitsy spider  
Back up the chair did creep.

The itsy bitsy spider  
Climbed up the maple tree.  
She slipped on some dew  
And landed next to me.  
Out came the sun,  
And when the tree was dry,  
The itsy bitsy spider  
Gave it one more try.

The itsy bitsy spider  
Climbed up without a stop.  
She spun a silky web  
Right at the very top.  
She wove and she spun,  
And when her web was done.  
The itsy bitsy spider  
Rested in the sun.

## Hymn: How Can I Keep From Singing



How can I keep from sing - ing?  
How can I keep from sing - ing?  
How can I keep from sing - ing?

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## Reading: Psalm 31

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame:  
*deliver me in your righteousness.*

Incline your ear to me;  
*make haste to deliver me.*

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold;  
*for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.*

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
*for you are my tower of strength.*

Into your hands I commend my spirit;  
*for you have redeemed me,  
O Lord, O God of Truth.*

## Reflection

The Rev'd Bradford D. Clark

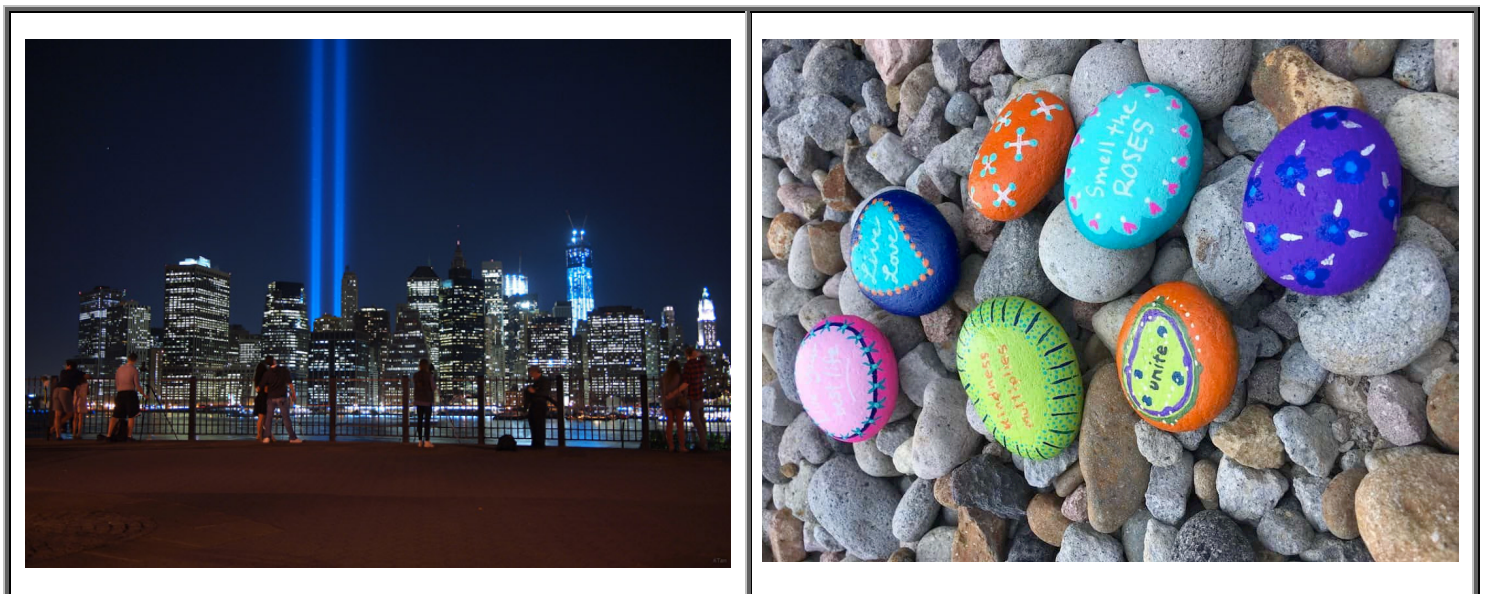
## Prayers

## Communion

*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 you, redeemed you, and who walks always with you, be with you and all those you love, this day and always. *Amen.*



Following the service, please join us outside for Rock Painting.  
Your painted rocks will be placed around the big beech tree in front of the church.