



31 County Street, Ipswich, MA

"Saints" Among Us



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 6, 2022

"Saints Among Us"

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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 write the name(s) of someone you think is a saint and/or someone you would never want to forget. The ushers will collect the cards 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: Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reading: "Do It Anyway" by St. Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;
Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;
Succeed anyway.
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
Be honest and frank anyway.
What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.
The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.
You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;
It was never between you and them anyway.

Reflection

Song: *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*



1 I sing a song of the saints of God, _____
2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and _____
3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are



pa - tient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and
his love made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for
hund - reds of thou - sands still, the world is bright with the



lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And
Je - sus' sake, the whole of their good lives long. And
joy - ous saints who love to do Je - sus' will. You can



one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep -
one was a sold - ier, and one was a priest, and one was slain
meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains,



herd - ess on the green: they were all of them saints of
by a fierce wild beast: and there's not an - y rea - son
or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of God are just



God and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
no, not the least, why I should - n't be one too.
folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Saints' Days; All Saints' Day (November 1).

Words: Lesbia Scott (b. 1898), alt.

Music: *Grand Isle*, John Henry Hopkins (1861-1945)

Irr.

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 outside for
glowsticks in the dark.