



31 County Street, Ipswich, MA

September 18, 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

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

Prelude

The Tower Bell

Gathering 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

You are invited to write on your prayer card what one thing you would bring (maybe a friend, a pet, a wild animal, or a teddy bear) as you bravely pass through the storm to arrive on the other side.

*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.*

Reading: from Canticle 10 - The Second Song of Isaiah

For 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 my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me empty;

But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

Music: *The Water is Wide/Deep River* (as sung by Barbra Streisand on the recording "Higher Ground")

*The water is wide, and I can't swim over,
and neither have I wings to fly,
Build me a boat that can carry two,
And both shall row, my love and I.*

*There is a ship and she sails the sea,
She's loaded deep as deep can be,
But not so deep as the love I'm in,
I know not how to sink or swim.*

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.
Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace?
Oh, deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.*

Reading: Noah's Ark from the *Children of God Storybook Bible* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Reflection

The Rev'd Bradford D. Clark

Prayers

The Blessing Over the Bread

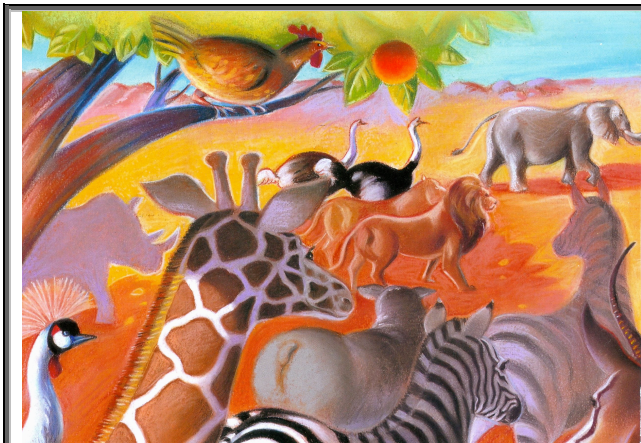
Just as rain and snow fall from the heavens and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, seed for sowing and bread for eating;

So is the love that flows through you and flows through me, bringing us life and giving us growth;

It will not return empty, but will break open your life and my life as a gift for feeding others, just as we now
break open this loaf of bread as a gift for feeding one another.

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.



Following the service,
please join us for animal crackers and animals for the ark.
Your painted and named animals
will be placed on the ark
which will be displayed in front of the church.