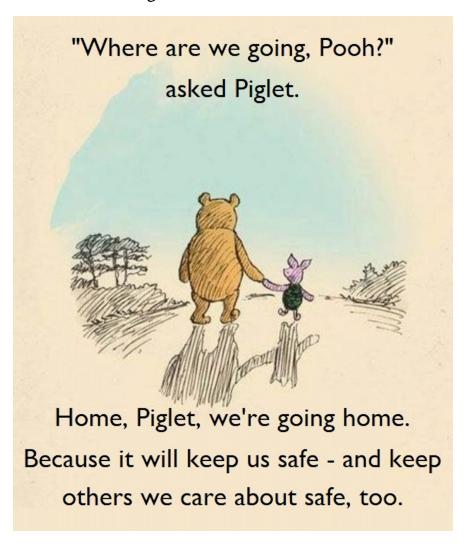
ASCENSION MEMORIAL CHURCH A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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

> June 4, 2023 Safely Home Wherever We Are



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

The Candles

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 & Introduction

Prayer Cards - Music Meditation

During the music, take a moment to fill out your prayer cards by asking "Dr. God, help me make others feel at home by____."

Then place them in the basket as it is passed around. (You can indicate on the card if you wish your prayers to remain private.)

Reading: Home Nancy VandenBerge

A home can be made of sticks and mud
Or great big blocks of snow.
A home can be twenty stories tall
Or in the ground below.
A home can be way up on a hill
Or next to the ocean wide.
A home can have a mill above
Or a chimney on its side.
A home can be where you're safe and sound
Or with family, friends and more.
A home can be where you have your heart
And all that you adore.

Reflection: Safely Home Wherever We Are

Song: The Prayer David Foster/Carole Bayer Sager

Lucas Callahan & Katherine Grocela

I pray you'll be our eyes
And watch us where we go
And help us to be wise
In times when we don't know
Let this be our prayer
When we lose our way

Lead us to a place Guide us with your grace To a place where we'll be safe.

La luce che tu dai
(I pray we'll find your light)
Nel cuore resterà
(And hold it in our hearts)
A ricordarci che
(When stars go out each night)
L'eterna stella sei
(Whoa)
Nella mia preghiera
(Let this be our prayer)
Quanta fede c'è
(When shadows fill our day)

Lead us to a place (Guide us with your grace) Give us faith so we'll be safe.

Sogniamo un mondo senza più violenza Un mondo di giustizia e di speranza Ognuno dia la mano al suo vicino Simbolo di pace, di fraternità

La forza che ci dà
(We ask that life be kind)
È il desiderio che
(And watch us from above)
Ognuno trovi amor
(We hope each soul will find)
Intorno e dentro sé
(Another soul to love)

Let this be our prayer Let this be our prayer Just like every child Just like every child

Need to find a place Guide us with your grace Give us faith so we'll be safe.

> È la fede che Hai acceso in noi Sento che ci salverà

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 our 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.

The Candles



logo and artwork by Paula Jones