**Shape, arrow

Description automatically generated**

*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*

**May 7, 2023**

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**

**Prayer Cards**

Help me to be a trustworthy person by…..

*You can indicate on the card if you wish your prayers to remain private.*

**Music Meditation**

**Reading -** *Amos and Boris -* William Steig

*The most important decisions we make often begin with a willingness to trust in taking the first step. TRUST serves as the central theme of our time together tonight and TRUST brings together Amos and Boris, a mouse and a whale who save each other from harm by learning to trust one another.*

**Reflection** Rev’d Brad Clark

**Song***.* *Getting To Know You -* Rogers and Hammerstein Vicki Hughes & Lucas Callahan

*Getting to know you,*

*Getting to know all about you.*

*Getting to like you,*

*Getting to hope you like me.*

*Getting to know you,*

*Putting it my way,*

*But nicely,*

*You are precisely,*

*My cup of tea.*

*Getting to know you,*

*Getting to know all about you.*

*Getting to like you,*

*Getting to hope you like me.*

*Getting to know you,*

*Putting it my way,*

*But nicely,*

*You are precisely,*

*My cup of tea.*

*Getting to know you,*

*Getting to feel free and easy*

*When I am with you,*

*Getting to know what to say*

*Haven't you noticed*

*Suddenly I'm bright and breezy?*

*Because of all the beautiful and new*

*Things I'm learning about you*

*Day by day.*

**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**