



SERVICE OF BLESSING AND PRAYER FOR MARINERS WORLD MARITIME DAY OBSERVANCE

October 25, 2007

St. James Episcopal Church, New York, NY

Organ Prelude

Processional Hymn: *Come Down, O Love Divine*

Hymn 516

Come down, O love divine, seek Thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with Thine own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.

Welcome and Greeting

The Rev. Brenda Husson

Opening Sentences

The Rev. James Von Dreele

The Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before him.
Behold what a great thing it is for God's children to dwell together in unity.

Prayers for the Day

We thank you, Lord, for all mariners – and for the food, raw materials and manufactured goods by which our lives are sustained. For the skills of seamanship and navigation which bring them in safety across the oceans of the world. For the courage of those who sail in wartime and peace, in storm and calm, in security and in danger. For those who care for seafarers and their families.

Almighty God, remember in your love and mercy all who minister to the people of the sea. Prosper the work in which they are engaged; enable them faithfully to preach your word and to fulfill their ministry. May they uphold Christ both by their word and in their lives. Raise up, we pray, faithful and true people for this work, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Be with us in the activities of this day, that all who attend may find ourselves strengthened for your service, at sea and ashore. *Amen.*

First Lesson: Genesis 1:27-28, 31

The Rev. J. Loring Carpenter

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

Psalm 107.23-30 (in unison)

Ms. Maggie Whittingham Lamont

Some went down to the sea in ships *
and plied their trade in deep waters;

They beheld the works of the LORD *
and his wonders in the deep.

Then he spoke, and a stormy wind arose, *
which tossed high the waves of the sea.

They mounted up to the heavens and fell back to the depths; *
their hearts melted because of their peril.

They reeled and staggered like drunkards *
and were at their wits' end.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

He stilled the storm to a whisper *
and quieted the waves of the sea.

Then were they glad because of the calm, *
and he brought them to the harbor they were bound for.

Reading from the Gospel: Matthew 4:18-22

The Rev. Thomas Falkenthal

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Sermon

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

Hymn: *Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation*

Hymn 573

Father eternal, Ruler of creation,
Spirit of life, which moved ere form was made;
Through the thick darkness covering every nation,
Light to man's blindness, O be Thou our aid:
Thy kingdom come, O Lord, Thy will be done.

Races and peoples, lo! we stand divided,
And sharing not our griefs, no joy can share;
By wars and tumults love is mocked, derided,
His conquering cross no kingdom wills to bear:
Thy kingdom come, O Lord, Thy will be done.

Envious of heart, blind eyed, with tongues confounded,
Nation by nation still goes unforgiven;
In wrath and fear, by jealousies surrounded,
Building proud towers which shall not reach to heaven:
Thy kingdom come, O Lord, Thy will be done.

How shall we love Thee, holy, hidden Being,
If we love not the world which Thou hast made?
O give us brother love for better seeing
Thy world made flesh, and in a manger laid:
Thy kingdom come, O Lord, Thy will be done.

Prayers and Thanksgivings

Let us thank God the Father, Maker of the Universe, for the unity and order of created things; for the gift of life; for our share in the continuing work of creation; for creative vision and inventive skill; and for the world of shipping as it links together the people of all nations. Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

We give thanks for all the resources of the earth and sea; for the ships which distribute them; and for the agencies which work to comfort and relieve those in need. Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

We thank God for those on whose labor we depend for the necessities of life; for seafarers and all who leave their homes and communities to serve others; for the skills of seamanship and for modern aids to navigation; and for all engaged in the shipping industry. Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

We pray for our own country; for the nations of the world; and for peace and reconciliation in those areas where there is violence and oppression. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We give thanks as we remember all seafarers who made the supreme sacrifice for us in time of war and pray that the offering of their lives may not have been in vain. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for all seafarers in their daily work; for their safety as they face the dangers of their calling; and for their families during long periods of separation, loneliness and anxiety. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray that the Spirit of God may guide all in positions of leadership in the shipping industry and international agencies, in particular the International Maritime Organization; for an awareness throughout the industry of the sanctity of human life; for those responsible for safety at sea; and for those involved in the training and welfare of seafarers. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for the work of the Church within the shipping industry; for the reconciling ministry of all Christian societies ministering to seafarers of different faiths, cultures and ideologies; for all Christians in their place of work. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Let us give thanks and pray for our ministries to seafarers:

Almighty God, Creator of the land and sea and all life, we give you thanks for all the blessings you have bestowed on the chaplains to seafarers and for all who have served you within our family. Make us responsive to the many changes in the shipping industry which affect our work, so that we may more worthily serve those who sail upon the seas. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray that you will bring your whole Church to a greater awareness of the needs of seafarers, so that it may more effectively fulfill its vocation to minister to all your children. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Creator and Father of all, we pray for those who go down to the sea in ships and serve you upon the waters of the world. Bless them and those who serve their needs that they may put their whole trust in you and find in you a strong anchor for their hopes, and so be filled with your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Presiding Bishop

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walked'st on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Lord, stand beside all those who sail
Our merchant ships in storm and gale
In peace and war their watch they keep
On every sea, on thy vast deep.
Be with them Lord, by night and day
For Merchant Mariners we pray.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Worship Leaders

Officiant

The Rev. James D. Von Dreele,
Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia & South
Jersey

First Lesson Reader

The Rev. J. Loring Carpenter
Seafarers Friend, Boston, MA

Psalmist

Ms. Maggie Whittingham Lamont
Mission to Seafarers, Halifax, NS Canada

Gospel Lesson Reader

The Rev. Thomas Falkenthal
Seafarers' House, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Preacher

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori,
Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church USA

Rector

The Rev. Brenda Husson
St. James Episcopal Church, New York, NY

Organist

E. Davis Wortman, DMA
Director of Music & Organist
St. James Episcopal, New York, NY

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