



Holy Communion Order I (Common Worship)
with Spiritual Communion
Proper 10 Sea Sunday Trinity 5 YrA 12Jul20

WELCOME

Welcome to our service from the beautiful and historic Church of St Mary and All Saints, Droxford, in an area with so many connections to the sea as we are just a few miles north of Portsmouth: the home of the Royal Navy and the busy commercial port bringing in goods from around the world. Our own Cathedral is often known as the Cathedral of the Sea.

Today, we gather before God joining with other churches around the world to celebrate Sea Sunday to pray and give thanks and, I hope, raise funds for those who support seafarers London to Lagos, Archangelsk to Wellington.

Sea Sunday is our chance to celebrate our maritime heritage and to give thanks seafarers who do so much to keep the nations of the world fed, to keep the wheels of international trade turning and, in the case of Royal Naval personnel, to defend these islands and our interests beyond our shores. We remember that life at sea, is far from being free from danger, and those who go to sea make many sacrifices for our sakes. You are therefore warmly invited to donate to the *Mission to Seafarers* and support their vital work among those who go to sea and also among their families.

Seafarers are now facing additional challenges due to CoViD-19 precautions. They are having to stay on board for even longer spells and there are many more restrictions on them when they do come alongside, so Mission to Seafarers is developing new ways to supporting them.

See our website (www.bridgechurches.org.uk) for links to their latest initiatives (<https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/wp-content/uploads/Flying-Angel-Campaign-Brochure.pdf>) and to their giving page (<https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/donate>).

OPENING HYMN

Will your anchor hold?

- 1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?
- Ref We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.*
- 2 It is safely moored, 'twill the storm withstand,
For 'tis well secured by the Saviour's hand;
And the cables, passed from His heart to mine,
Can defy that blast, thro' strength divine. *Refrain*
- 3 Will your anchor hold in the Straits of Fear,
When the breakers roar and the reef is near?
Though the surges rave, and the wild winds blow,
Shall the angry waves then your bark o'erflow? *Refrain*
- 4 Will your anchor hold in the Floods of Death,
When the waters cold chill your latest breath?
On the rising tide it can never fail,
While your anchor holds within the Veil. *Refrain*
- 5 Will your eyes behold through the morning light
The city of gold, our harbour bright?
We shall anchor safe by the heav'nly shore,
When life's storms are past forevermore. *Refrain*

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life
Priscilla Jane Owens (1829 – 1899)

THE COLLECT

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words
'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.
The Collect is said.*

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

SEAFARERS' SUNDAY COLLECT

O most mighty and gracious God,
your mercy is over all your works,
but especially extended toward those who go to sea,
whom you have so powerfully and wonderfully defended.

They witness both terror and wonder;
they experience your power and your grace;
may they know your readiness to help them.

Continue, we pray,
your faithfulness to all people
and especially to seafarers;
that we with those, whom you have saved,
may serve you in holiness and righteousness
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. **Amen**

COLLECT FOR OUR TIMES

Dear Lord anoint us with the Holy Spirit,
as we share in Christ's suffering and victory
that we may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;
through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 55.10-13

At the end the reader may say
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Some verses from Psalm 107 – The Sailors' Psalm

Those who go down to the sea in ships
and ply their trade in great waters,

These have seen the works of the Lord
and his wonders in the deep.

For at his word the stormy wind arose
and lifted up the waves of the sea.

They were carried up to the heavens
and down again to the deep;
their soul melted away in their peril.

They reeled and staggered like a drunkard
and were at their wits' end.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.

He made the storm be still
and the waves of the sea were calmed.

Then were they glad because they were at rest,
and he brought them to the haven they desired.

Psalm 107: 23-30

SECOND READING

A Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

¹There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Romans 8.1-11

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Eternal Father, strong to save

- 1 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!
- 2 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!
- 3 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!
- 4 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.

Eternal Father, strong to save
William Whiting (1825 – 1876).

GOSPEL READING

Please remain standing.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew*.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!

¹⁸Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundred, in another sixty, and in another thirtyfold.'

Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Today people around the world will be celebrating Sea Sunday.

Psalm 107 is made up of four stories of rescue. First, there is the wanderer, lost and aimless in the desert, until God intervened and brought him to a town.

Then there is the prisoner, miserable and shut away, until he finds release and comes back into the light.

Thirdly there are those in a prison of their own making, bowed down by guilt until God healed them by his word.

Then, there are the sailors and the dangers they face until they are brought to a safe haven.

The psalmist is acknowledging the source of all our help, God himself, to whom we give thanks. In each case, we hear how those who were suffering experienced rescue.

'Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out from their distress.'

Those saved are called upon in the psalm to:

'... give thanks to the Lord for his goodness and the wonders he does for his children.'

Let us who buy our exotic food at the supermarket and everything from our electronic gizmos to our summer fashions appears to arrive from somewhere in cyberspace, remember 'Those who go down to the sea in ships and ply their trade in great waters.'

Those goods we put in our basket or click for one day delivery are brought to these shores by seafarers; they do not go out to sea for just for the fun of it, although there is fun to be had at sea, but for millennia seafarers have put out to sea to feed, clothe and sustain us. Were it not for seafarers much of what happens in the world would grind to a halt. For example, 90% of trade by tonnage is moved by sea, and that is made possible by 1.5 million seafarers across the globe. We owe these people, many from the developing nations, a huge debt of gratitude for the positive impact they have on our lives.

The sea is a challenging environment, for the mercantile marine, the Royal Navy, the fishing fleet and indeed all who provide search and rescue. The psalmist risks inducing seasickness in his readers when we read that 'they were carried up to the heavens and down again to the deep'.

Storms at sea can still be a challenge. But there are emotional stormy waters for seafarers too, not least in these times of the 3 Ps: **p**olitical tensions, **p**iracy, and **p**andemic. There are issues of loneliness and worries about dependents at home too. Many seafarers are away from their families for months at a time. Most of us can only begin to imagine the frustration at hearing of some situation at home and then not being able to help because of being away at sea.

Chaplains in the various seafarers' organisations and in the Navy try to provide, that human touch, for those at sea and those left at home. Their work is vital as depression can easily follow any sense of being cut off. Chaplains act as good friends to seafarers, in practical ways and pastorally. Although sailors are in contact with the sea which God created, not all are quite so aware of God himself. The chaplains offer a window into God's care for them.

God is the ultimate safe haven for seafarers and indeed for us all. It is God who stills the storms of life and brings calm for those, as we say, 'all at sea'. None of us goes through life without some difficulty at some time. God understands the need within us all for a safe haven in life. Storms, whether physical, spiritual, or emotional are part of life. But, knowing God gives us security and peace, even in the face of the fiercest tempest.

Like the sailor who longs to reach port, we too seek the safety of the ultimate haven, the haven with an additional 'e' where we shall be with God forever. But before we even reach that stage of the life eternal never forget that Jesus remains with us in the person of the Holy Spirit. He still is just as real as he was for the disciples in the fishing boat and for the crowds hearing his teaching from a boat.

So, let us give thanks to

'Those who go down to the sea in ships and ply their trade in great waters'

and to the God, who in his goodness, provides not only

'his wonders in the deep' and even 'the stormy wind'

but also his love and care, be that evident through the work of chaplains to seafarers, the care shown by neighbour to neighbour or, be that by wrapping us in the Holy Spirit when we are afraid or in grief or just lost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers of Intercession

Today is Sea Sunday, when we think about those who work at sea, let us turn in prayer to God, our loving Father.

After each prayer, a brief moment of silence, then

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end of the prayers

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Andrew, Ss Peter and Paul and all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.



THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

OFFERTORY HYMN

To God be the Glory

1 To God be the glory! great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Ref Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the father through Jesus the son;
And give him the glory – great things he hath done.*

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *Refrain*

3 Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the son:
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see! *Refrain*

To God be the Glory
Frances Jane van Alstyne [Crosby] (1820 – 1915)

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

1 Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am God.

2 I am the Lord that healeth thee,
I am the Lord that healeth thee,
I am the Lord that healeth thee.

3 In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.

Be still and know that I am God
Author & Composer unknown

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Silence is kept.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered
by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Post Communion Prayer is followed by:

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us**

**with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

HYMN

1. Lord, the wind and sea obey Thee,
Moon and stars their homage pay Thee;
Listen to us, as we pray Thee,
Who on Thee for all depend.
2. Bless all travellers and strangers,
Safely keep the ocean rangers,
Guide them in the midst of dangers:
All to Thee we now commend.
3. Bless the friends we've left behind us;
Closer may our parting bind us:
May they dearer, better, find us,
When we reach our journey's end.
4. On our way, dear Lord, direct us;
Where we err do Thou correct us;
From the powers of ill protect us,
From all perils us defend.
5. May we know Thy presence o'er us,
See Thy guiding hand before us,
Till Thou safely dost restore us,
Love to love and friend to friend.
6. Holy God, in mercy bending,
Human souls with love befriending,
Fit us all for joy unending,
When this earthly course doth end.

Lord, the wind and sea obey thee
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BLESSING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

May the Father from whom every family
in earth and heaven receives its name
strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;
and the (✠) blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Hymns

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Will your anchor hold in the storms of life
Priscilla Jane Owens (1829 – 1899)

WILL YOUR ANCHOR HOLD

William James Kirkpatrick (1838 – 1921)

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Eternal Father, strong to save
William Whiting (1825 – 1876).

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MELITA

John Bacchus Dykes (1823 – 1876).

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To God be the Glory

Frances Jane van Alstyne [Crosby] (1820 – 1915)

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TO GOD BE THE GLORY

William Howard Doane (1832 – 1916)

Descant arranged by Richard M.S. Irwin (b. 1955)

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Be still and know that I am God

Anon

BE STILL AND KNOW

Author & Composer unknown

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Lord, the wind and sea obey thee

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QUEM PASTORES

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