



Worship Resources Pack

CALMING THE
STORM AT HOME,
IN PORT AND AT SEA.



WELCOME

Welcome to Sailors' Society's Sea Sunday worship resources pack. On behalf of seafarers everywhere, I would like to thank you for your support.

The 2022 Sea Sunday theme is: 'Calming the storm at home, in port and at sea'.

We have taken our inspiration from Matthew's telling of the story of Jesus calming the storm, reminding us not only of the power of faith but of the unpredictability of life and how storms can beset us all.

As the leading charity for the welfare and wellbeing of seafarers and their families worldwide, we help calm the storms facing seafarers at home, in port and at sea.

Storms can be global - the Ukraine conflict, record tsunamis, the Covid pandemic.
Or they can be individual - sickness, unemployment, bereavement.

Our chaplains and family support workers reach out to thousands of seafarers and their loved ones every month helping whatever the storm. They reach out a hand of friendship and pastoral care, as well as helping with practical matters like phone cards and shopping.

We are a listening ear – and remind seafarers how valued they are. We provide a 24-hour helpline, peer-to-peer support groups and a range of easily accessible grants.

We also aim to calm some of the storms before they start.

Sailors' Society leads the way with our pioneering Wellness at Sea programme, which supports seafarers through the challenges of life at sea. While our community projects support seafarers and their families at home with health clinics, community ambulances and library boats. We have been there, through the storms, for more than 200 years, providing spiritual, welfare and educational support to seafarers.

This year, Sea Sunday will be officially marked on July 10, but you can celebrate anytime in the year. Whether you have two minutes or an entire service to highlight Sea Sunday, we are delighted to connect with you to bring hope and transformation into the lives of seafarers and their families.

Thank you once again and God bless,



Sara Baade
CEO Sailors' Society





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You can find resources for an outreach family picnic here sailors-society.org/seasunday22

CHURCH SERVICE OUTLINE

'Calming the storm, at home, in port and at sea' - a service outline to celebrate Sea Sunday 2022.

Gathering to worship

Those gathered say together the words printed in bold.

The greeting

The minister/worship leader may say:

Let us worship together.

Amen.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

The sea is yours, O God, and you made it. Psalm 95:5

Opening prayer

Lord, direct our thoughts this Sea Sunday to all those who serve at sea.

Be with seafarers, Lord, on all their voyages, to cheer them and keep them safe in all dangers. Let nothing afloat or onshore cut them off from you.

Bless all on board their ship, whatever their responsibility.

Help them to be good shipmates and bring them back again safely to their homes and to those who long for their return, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

A hymn or worship song(s) may be sung.

The Collect/prayer of the day may be said.

A time of confession/saying sorry to God

The minister declares God's forgiveness.

Hearing and responding to the word of God

Readings

Psalm 107:23-30

The Pilot's Psalm

A hymn or worship song(s) may be sung.

The Gospel

Matthew 8:23-27

Sermon or all-age talk

Affirmation of faith

Prayers/Intercessions

Followed by:

The Lord's Prayer

A Communion/Eucharist may be celebrated here.

Going out to serve God

A hymn or worship song(s) may be sung.

Blessing

Lord God, be the ship that holds us in the sea of life.

Be the rudder that keeps us on the straight course.

Be the outrigger that supports us in times of great testing.

May your Spirit fill our sails to carry us through each day,

and keep our bodies strong so that we may paddle steadfastly on in the voyage of life.

A suitable blessing may then be given in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A 'sending out' by the Minister ends the service.

You might use:

For those at sea, for those in port and for those of us at home, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

SUGGESTED PRAYERS/INTERCESSIONS

Prayer pointers/meditations:

Pray for God's blessings upon all seafarers as they tirelessly transport so many of our daily goods. Remember the sacrifices made by seafarers who give up a lot to give us so much. Think about where your reliance is placed when it comes to the struggles and strains of life. Are your feet firmly fixed on the Rock or do they waver?

For seafarers

Almighty God, we remember those whose lives are lived on your great oceans. For those who go down to the sea in ships, we give thanks; they enrich our lives at great personal cost. May they daily feel the strength of your protection, the warmth of your presence and the love of your relationship as they seek the hope of safe passage.

Remembering seafarers' families

Loving Father, we pray for solace for families awaiting the return of seafarers; allow your grace and peace to dwell in their homes and their hearts until they are reunited with their loved ones. Banish fear and pain and uncertainty from their lives, that they may be blessed with hope for safe return and joy at the reunion.

For the shipping industry

All-powerful God, we lift the shipping industry to you; those who build, those who own, those who manage, those who operate ships to support the trade of the world. We thank you for every company that cares for those who go to sea on its ships. Lord, let your righteousness pervade every being so that all who work at sea are blessed by safe working conditions, good food and just rewards for all their efforts. Let justice wash over this industry like the powerful waves of your ocean and turn the hearts of those who are exploiting seafarers today. Preserve the dignity of those who do not work for responsible and just employers, that they may be rewarded with your love and protection.

For those on whom the seafarer depends

We give thanks, O Lord, for those who protect those that work on the sea, providing rescue services and safe havens. Today we remember the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Trinity House, the Royal Navy, and maritime trade unions. We rejoice that the work of these, and other organisations around the world, gives great comfort to those who are at times in danger, exhausted, injured, exploited and afraid on the sea.

For harmony on board

Holy Spirit, may you join the crews of every ship that sails the oceans, bringing peace and harmony to your children. May your presence counsel the downhearted, heal the sick and bind together seafarers of all nationalities, cultures and faiths so that they can live in harmony despite their differences.

For Sailors' Society

Sovereign Lord, we thank you for laying the needs of seafarers upon the hearts of your people and giving them such a vision for the Society 204 years ago. We thank you for their vision to provide Christian care for seafarers around the world, irrespective of their religious faith, nationality and background. We remember the work of Sailors' Society's port chaplains around the world who are the hands and feet of Jesus as they bring your love to seafarers through acts of kindness and compassion. We thank you for the Society staff involved in supporting the families of seafarers - building homes, schools, medical centres, and improving seafaring communities by sharing your love. We thank you that you have given them a heart for seafarers and pray that you will grant them and the Society every success in all that is done for seafarers in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMNS AND WORSHIP SONGS

Hymns:

Eternal Father Strong to Save

Author: William Whiting (1860)

Tune: MELITA (Dykes)

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Author: John Greenleaf Whittier (1872)

Tune: REST (Maker)

Will your Anchor Hold in the Storms of Life

Author: Priscilla J. Owens

Tune: WILL YOUR ANCHOR HOLD

I the Lord of Sea and Sky

Author: Daniel L. Schutte (1981)

Tune: HERE I AM, LORD

Jesus Call us O'er the Tumult - Alexander

Author: Cecil Frances Alexander (1852)

Tune: GALILEE (Jude)

Amazing Grace

Author: John Newton (1779)

Tune: NEW BRITAIN

When the Storms of Life are Raging, Stand by Me

Author: Charles Albert Tindley (1905)

Tune: WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE ARE RAGING (Tindley)

When Through the Torn Sail

Author: Reginald Heber (1827)

Tune: SULLIVANS

When the Storms of Life Surround Me

Author: Richard W. Adams (2006)

Tune: NETTLETON

Worship songs:

Jesus Calms the Storm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abDzMnlybqs>

Praise you in this Storm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgpaULjZOI8>

Eye of the Storm

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qlow_JkOpiw

Children's songs:

Jesus Calms the Storm

He's got the Whole World in His Hands

This is the Day the Lord has made

Our God is so Big

SERMON FOR SEA SUNDAY 2022

'Calming the storm, at home, in port and at sea'

Reading through the Gospels you may come across the story of Jesus calming the storm repeated across three of them. It is of course in Matthew, but also in Mark 4:35-41, and Luke 8:22-25.

They are all accounts of the same story but give us different perspectives on what was going on. And, as with all Gospel stories, there are many layers of theology, context and messaging there for us to learn from and apply to our own lives.

It is also ideal reading for this Sea Sunday as we spend time thinking about seafarers and the many storms that beset them.

This year many of us found ourselves in the eye of the storm, with record winds and high seas battering this country. Can you imagine being on a ship at sea in storms like that rather than inside your home?

Typhoons and large Atlantic storms can shipwreck even the largest container vessel, as happened off Reunion Island in the spring. Luckily, the crew were rescued from their vessel, but they bore the scars of their trauma.

The sort of trauma that must have beset the disciples. Those among them who fished the sea of Galilee were well aware of the power of the storm that whipped up there and how a small wooden fishing vessel could easily be submerged, taking the lives of those on board.

In Hebrew culture, large bodies of water were the home of Leviathan – the embodiment of chaos – only God could control the sea and the evil within it.

And so, by calming the storm, by controlling the evil within it, Jesus proved his divinity.

And, it would not have gone unnoticed amongst the Jews, that this act mirrored exactly the words of Psalm 107 - our Old Testament Reading for this morning:

*Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and He brought them out of their distress.
He calmed the storm to a whisper,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
They rejoiced in the silence,
and He guided them to the harbour they desired.*

Jesus was also fulfilling prophecy.

But there is of course more to this passage than just this theological context. When Jesus calms the storm, we are encouraged to have faith that He will be with us in the middle of all the storms of our lives.

Recently there seems to have been a lot of those doesn't there! Covid with its isolation and the fear and loss it brought with it. More recently, Ukraine and the helplessness we feel.

Now rising prices see financial worries added into the mix.

But if we are struggling, imagine what it must be like for a seafarer.

I'll quote from our Psalm again:

*Others went out to sea in ships,
conducting trade on the mighty waters.
They saw the works of the LORD,
and His wonders in the deep.*

Seafarers bring us almost everything we buy and use, like cars, phones, clothes, and food. All coming by sea from other countries.

This means that seafarers can be at sea for months; during the pandemic some were on their ships for 17 months or more.

Their jobs vary. Some work on the decks in all weather, others are officers, bridge staff overseeing the navigation from port to port, and others still are engineers maintaining and running the huge engines that power these mighty vessels.

SERMON FOR SEA SUNDAY 2022

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Many come from the poorest areas of the world.

So low wages, long hours and separation from family. Birthdays, anniversaries - even deaths go past without them being at home.

At sea often they can't get a signal or Wi-Fi, so they can't Facetime, or even text family and friends. And their lockdown is still going on, as they are often unable to leave their ship, even when it is in port.

So, as well as facing real storms, scary storms, they face the storms of isolation, loneliness, depression, anxiety over finances and, more recently with Ukraine, the safety of family members.

Imagine being a Ukrainian seafarer unable to speak to your family caught up in the war there?

And their families are also facing storms in their lives.

Seafaring communities along the Black Sea have been devastated by the war, and other large seafaring communities around the world have faced the issues of poverty, poor health care and a lack of accessible schooling for years.

But, if there is one thing we have learnt from Covid and Ukraine, it is that not only is God with us, but he answers our prayers and often he does this through the work of others who have heard his call.

And for seafarers, those prayers are often answered by Sailors' Society.

How?

You may like to introduce the work of Sailors' Society below.

Sailors' Society

Sailors' Society is here for seafarers in lots of different ways, providing them with things that they need.

An international maritime charity, Sailors' Society is one of the oldest maritime welfare charities in the world. It reaches out to almost 200,000 seafarers, of all faiths and none, every year at home, in port and at sea.

The charity supports and empowers seafarers, their families and communities through welfare and wellness programmes, education and the relief of poverty.

So how do they do that on a day-to-day basis?

Sailors' Society's chaplains and family support teams work across a staggering 87 ports in 21 countries around the world.

They extend a hand of friendship, hospitality and pastoral care to everyone they meet. They can be a listening ear, or offer practical help, like phone cards and access to Wi-Fi hotspots to connect with loved ones at home.

They also bring small but valued treats, like chocolate or a McDonalds when seafarers are in port, but still trapped on their vessels.

Before Covid, 25 per cent of seafarers were already struggling with depression. Long contracts at sea, thousands of miles away from families and friends, left many feeling isolated and stressed.

The pandemic left around 400,000 seafarers stranded at sea, a further 400,000 unable to join ships and work to feed their families.

Mental health issues are rife, and the Society also receives multiple reports of suicides.

It has launched a helpline for seafarers who need someone to talk to and has rolled out a free mental health awareness campaign to nearly 2,000 ships.

The charity also gives out welfare grants and recently has been providing emergency grants in Ukraine, to both seafarers and the team of chaplains for their work there.

Sailors' Society also has a pioneering Wellness at Sea programme which is the most comprehensive and long-running in the maritime industry. Its aim is simple - to empower seafarers at all ranks to look after their own and others' wellbeing.

It has an amazing Crisis Response Network - 37 crisis responders around the world offer practical and emotional help, following traumatic incidents such as accidents, piracy, natural disasters and more recently war

SERMON FOR SEA SUNDAY 2022

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It also employs family support workers, who are based in some of the most underprivileged seafaring communities in the world. They provide grants and run projects to meet a variety of local needs in these seafaring communities.

This can be medical ambulances to visit outlying areas without medical facilities or school facilities that help educate the next generation of seafarers. Sailors' Society has built classrooms and schools and has provided boats to get children who were at times swimming to school to class safely, dry and on time.

Sailors' Society is doing everything it can to calm the storms in seafarers' lives, at home, in port and at sea.

Our Gospel story highlights the need for true faith and the seafarers' adaption of the 23rd Psalm reminds us not only of their needs but their faith that help will be provided:

*Even though I sail amid the thunder and tempest of life,
I will dread no danger, for you are near me.
Your love and your care, shelter me.*

Sea Sunday not only highlights the needs of our seafarers. Sea Sunday also allows us to learn about how many of these needs are being answered through the work of Sailors' Society.

However, while our Lord answers prayers through the work of those He calls, when it comes to seafarers that is not exclusive to the maritime charities alone.

We too are called to help calm the storm.

Our collection today will go to Sailors' Society, but we can do more.

Individual giving, considering the Society as a Link Charity. These too are possibilities.

God is with us, even in the middle of a storm.

He is with seafarers on their ships. He is with their families back home. He is with Sailors' Society chaplains in ports across the world and in the shelled cities of Ukraine. He is with Sailors' Society in all its work.

*Even though I sail amid the thunder and tempest of life,
I will dread no danger, for you are near me.
Your love and your care, shelter me.*

*You prepare a harbour before me in the homeland of eternity.
You anoint the waves with oil, and my ship rides calmly.*

*Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me on the voyage I take,
And I will rest in the port of our God forever.*

Amen.

ALL-AGE TALK

Aim of short talk:

To explain the work of Sailors' Society in helping seafarers cope with some of the storms in their lives, while encouraging people that Jesus has the power to calm all the storms in our lives.

Main themes:

Seafarers, Sailors' Society, Jesus, Storms, Trust, Faith, Help

Biblical references:

Matthew 8:23-27

Our Gospel story tells us all about a day when Jesus and his disciples found themselves in the middle of a big storm.

Do you remember the storms we had earlier this year?
It was really windy and wet, wasn't it?

The wind blew and blew, and the rain came down and down and by the sea the waves crashed onto the shore.
Did you sleep through it?

Well Jesus slept through the storm he and the disciples found themselves in.
Can you imagine that?

You can tell this story yourself or get others to help you act it out...

They were on a boat in the sea of Galilee when a great storm blew up out of nowhere.

And the waves buffeted the boat, and the wind blew...
(Get the children and grown-ups to rock as if they were in a boat and make the sound of the wind).

And it rained...
(Wiggle fingers up and down to illustrate rain).

The disciples were afraid - but Jesus still slept...

Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, "Be quiet!"
(Get everyone to stop making a noise).

And he said to the waves, "Be still!"
(Get everyone to stop rocking).

Jesus calmed the storm down completely.

The disciples were no longer afraid of drowning because the wind died down and the sea was calm.

But you know what? This story was retold, and retold, and retold and then written down in the Gospels, not just to show what power Jesus had over the storm in the sea of Galilee.

No, it was to let us know that Jesus has the power to calm the storms in our lives.

And by storms, we mean the things that make us afraid or sad.

And sometimes he does this by sending people to help make things better.

Today is Sea Sunday and today we say thank you to seafarers.

Seafarers are people who work on really big ships. Some work on the decks in all weather, others oversee steering the ship or keeping the engine running.

These ships help bring us almost everything we buy and use, like cars, phones, clothes, and food. All coming by sea from other countries.

But this means that seafarers can be at sea for many months; during the pandemic, some were on their ships for 17 months or more.

They miss seeing their families and birthdays go past without them being at home.

So, as well as facing real storms, scary storms with huge waves that can make even their huge ships roll about, huge storms that are very frightening for those on board a ship...

As well as facing those storms, seafarers face the sort of storms we can recognise from our own lives.

Sadness, fear, loneliness.

ALL-AGE TALK

Covid has meant they have been trapped in one place unable to get out and see friends. But for them, it's worse.

They aren't with any of their families in their lockdown and they are at sea so often they can't get a signal or Wi-Fi so they can't Facetime, or even text family and friends. And their lockdown is still going on.

Imagine being a Ukrainian seafarer unable to speak to your family caught up in the war there?

And their families are also facing storms in their lives. Many are very poor, some must travel across the sea to get to school, others do not have easy access to doctors or hospitals.

But remember I said that Jesus sends people to help calm the storms?

Well, seafarers are lucky because they have Sailors' Society.

Sailors' Society helps seafarers and their families cope with the storms in their lives. They help them with the aftermath of real storms that can cause shipwrecks, but also with the things in their lives that can make them feel like they are in a storm. Whether that is being away from home, not being able to contact their family, Covid or the war in Ukraine.

Sailors' Society is here for seafarers in lots of different ways, providing them with things that they need.

The charity can help them when they get caught up in real storms and are shipwrecked, they can help them get back home safely.

The Society also has a team of chaplains, Christian men and women who are a bit like church ministers, who visit seafarers on their ships. They are a friend, someone to talk to and to share problems with, and the seafarers look forward to seeing them.

They help them stay in touch with their families by giving them SIM cards and Wi-Fi. They cheer them up with treats like chocolate or a McDonalds when they are in port. They are also here to listen to them and hear their problems and worries. They can offer woolly hats and blankets to keep them warm at sea and bibles to read, and sometimes they pray with them too.

Sailors' Society runs special training to help seafarers cope with being away from home for so long.

It also helps the families of seafarers when things go wrong while the seafarer is away at sea and helps their children too, making sure they can get to school and learn. Did you know that in the Philippines some children have to go across the sea to get to school? For these children, the school bus is actually a school boat provided by Sailors' Society.

Seafarers are often forgotten about because they work at sea, but they have a really hard job. Sailors' Society is helping seafarers because they want to show them God's love and care and help calm the storms in their lives.

So, remember Jesus can calm the storms in our lives, however big or small. We shouldn't be like the disciples, surprised by Jesus and what he can do for us.

And we shouldn't be surprised when he sends that help by other people... like when Sailors' Society helps seafarers with the storms in their lives.

Or when he asks us to help those people by supporting their work.

We can help support Sailors' Society and we are doing so today by giving them the collection from today's service. But we could also make them our Link Charity for the Year. And we could all do our bit, by making individual donations or planned giving.

We can also share their stories with others spreading the word by following the Society on social media.

And today we give thanks for seafarers and the work of Sailors' Society in their lives and thank the Lord that He is with us calming the storms in all our lives. **Amen.**

HOW CAN YOU HELP CALM THE STORMS IN THE LIVES OF SEAFARERS?

You can practically support seafarers in several ways:

Pray:

Let them know you are doing it by telling us on Facebook or Twitter (@SailorsSociety). We will share this with seafarers so that seafarers can know you are thinking of them. It is a great way of showing seafarers that they're not alone.

Volunteer:

Would you be interested in meeting seafarers face-to-face by ship visiting? We would love to hear from you if you would consider giving your time to this valuable role (023 8051 5950 or enquiries@sailors-society.org).

Give:

The generosity of our donors means we can put chaplains in 87 ports around the world. You can give towards the work of Sailors' Society in several ways:

Your Sea Sunday collection:

Many churches choose to take up a collection and donate to Sailors' Society after marking Sea Sunday. If you would like gift aid envelopes for your congregation please contact us on 023 8051 5950.

Making Sailors' Society your Link Charity:

Many churches nominate a charity to link to. Some do this annually, others for an indefinite period. They hold fundraising events specifically for their Link Charity or set aside part of their charitable giving to donate to them. We would be delighted to be your Link Charity and can provide a range of fundraising materials as well as offer speakers and other resources.

Individual Giving:

There are two ways you can do this:

- You can donate online at www.sailors-society.org/give
- Or write a cheque made out to Sailors' Society and post to:
Sea Sunday, Sailors' Society, 74 St Annes Road,
Southampton, SO19 9FF

YOUR DONATION CAN PROVIDE A LIFELINE FOR SEAFARERS IN NEED. HERE'S HOW YOUR DONATION CAN HELP:

£20

could help provide a gift of data so that a seafarer can call home.

£155

could help to fund a chaplain for a week to visit seafarers in port.

£500

could provide an emergency package of support to an abandoned crew – including chaplain visits, Wi-Fi, fresh food, warm clothes and other essentials.





sailors-society.org/seasunday22



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TOGETHER

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