

Blessing of the Fleet

1 May 2020 @ 2pm

Bag Pipes

OPENING WORDS

Pastor Keith

The Blessing of the Fleet is a statement of faith by all who participate in it. It is an affirmation that God is Lord over all creation in which we live and move and have our being solely by God's grace.

When we bless the fleet it is not a magic ritual to ensure that nothing evil happens. But it is recognition of the sovereignty of God as we commit our lives and occupations to Him.

It is our prayer to Almighty God:

A prayer of thanks to God for the goodness of life;

A prayer expressing our hopes and fears to God;

A prayer for deliverance from evil;

A prayer of remembrance of God's blessing on our land and sea; A prayer of trust, remembering His presence with us at all times.

So let us come to this blessing of the fleet to offer the work of the fishermen to God's service, to ask His blessing upon their labor, their boats and their gear.

SCRIPTURE

Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty - **Psalm 65**

To the leader..A Psalm of David. A Song.

1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed,

2 O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.

3 When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.

4 Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

5 By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

6 By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

7 You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

8 Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

9 You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

10 You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

11 You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

- The Good News according to **Luke 8:22-25**

One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"

WORDS of THANKSGIVING

- From God comes every good and perfect gift. Our praise and thanks we offer to you, O Lord, for the tang of the salt air and for the sparkle of the sun upon the waves.
- For the cry of the gull and the eagle, and the graceful beauty of their flight.
- For the sound of the horn in the fog, and for the sight of the harbor lights at night.
- For the gift of radio communication between boats, and with the shore, and for all of the navigational aids...
- For the rattle of the winch and the song of the diesel
- For the laden nets and holds that are filled...
- For honest labor and work, and for the blessing of good crew and friends...
- For the faithful support and love of our families and the stability they represent,
- and for the quiet comfort and warmth of a place called home.
- **WE PRAISE** you O Christ and offer our thanks! **AMEN.**

Bagpipes

BLESSING of the FLEET

Pastor Janice

To all who have gathered today to send this year's fleet out with God's safety:

For the Fisherman: Their boats are a sign of their labor. Through their use our lives are gained from the sea. The boats provide not only for our livelihood, but also our safety. So, at the beginning of another season, the fisherman, their wives, their children, friends and family ask that you, you Lord, give your blessing to the vessels and to all who toil upon the sea.

Merciful Lord, hear the prayers of your people and with your right hand bless the boats of these fishermen and all who voyage therein. Stretch forth your hand to be their protection as you did for the disciples as they feared for their lives in the storm. Send forth your holy angels to keep and deliver these boats and their crews from the dangers of high and angry seas; and when their work is done, bring them safely to this harbor and the security of their own homes and families. In this prayer we call upon your name, O God, the One who lives and reigns, world without end.

Bless, O Lord, the fishing gear of this fleet and preserve in body and soul those who use it to harvest the sea. We acknowledge you to be the giver of all good gifts and we render glory to you, Creator God.

Merciful Father, help us, we pray, never to become blind to the mysteries of the sea. May we never forget that it is a powerful part of your creation. Save us from the temptation to take fair winds, good weather and bountiful catches for granted. Save us from minds which are easily darkened with greed, hearts that are full of envy, and actions that take advantage of the sister and brother with whom we work. May the authority of each captain be kind and may obedience to that authority be practiced without resentment as each person remembers his or her responsibility towards your creation, the boat and the crew.

This prayer we ask in the name of your son, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER —

Our Father, who art in heaven Hallowed by thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the powerful and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

TOSSING OF FLOWERS

We toss these flowers upon the sea in remembrance of our family members, friends, and loved ones who have gone out from our harbors never to return.

MOMENT of SILENCE → The Bells Toll 3 x's (From the boats)

Amazing Grace — Bag Piper

BENEDICTION

God of boundless love, at the beginning of creation your Spirit swept over the waters. You called forth every creature and made the seas teem with life. Bless this fleet, their equipment, gear and all who serve. Protect them from wind and rain and the dangers of the deep. Provide for them an abundant harvest and return them always to this harbor in your light and peace. May the saving power of our Lord, guide and protect you all, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CLOSING - Let us now go forth with God's blessings in our lives and in our work!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Bag Piper