
Teddington

800



River Blessing Service

**Sunday September 10th
10am**

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind 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 Saviour whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
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!**

**O Sacred Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bad'st its angry tumult cease,
And gavest light and life and 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;
and ever let there rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.**

GREETING

**Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ be with you
and also with you.**

OPENING RESPONSES

I will take you from the nations:
and gather you from all countries.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you:
and purify you from all uncleanness.

A new heart I will give you:
and put a new spirit within you.

You shall be my people:
and I shall be your God.

CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters,
as we prepare to celebrate,
let us call to mind our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.**

Amen.

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

READING

Revelation 22. 1-5

- A reading from the book of the Revelation to St John.

The angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN:

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born my peoples pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them,
Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN

SERMON

CREED

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

COMMISSIONING OF THE CHILDREN'S CHURCH ARK

- 'The Good Ship Tedd800'.

Lord bless this tiny ship, the Tedd800, as it helps us to teach our children and our children's children of Noah's determined faith in God's promise, and the safety and surety of God's great love for us all, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN

During which we will process out of the church - please follow us to the riverside in Manor Gardens for a blessing of the river. A retiring collection will be taken as we leave.

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.**

RIVER BLESSING

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

PSALM – The SAILORS’S 23rd PSALM

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift.
He lighteth me across the dark waters.
He steereth me in the deep channels. He keepeth my log.
He guideth me beneath stars of his holiness for his name’s sake.
Yea, though I sail ‘mid the thunders and tempest of life,
I shall dread no anger, for thou art with me;
Thy love and thy care, they shelter me.
Thou preparest a harbour for me in the homeland of eternity.
Thou anointest the waves with oil
My ship rideth calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me on the voyage I take,
And I will rest in the port of God forever.

HYMN

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**O sisters, let’s go down,
Let’s go down, come on down
O sisters, let’s go down
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**O brothers, let’s go down
Let’s go down, come on down
Come on, brothers, let’s go down
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**O fathers, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O fathers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**O mothers, let's go down
Let's go down; don't you want to go down?
Come on, mothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**O sinners, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sinners, let's go down
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way!**

READING

Jeremiah 17. 7-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE INVOLVED WITH THE RIVER THAMES

The response is:

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

DRAKE'S PRAYER

Read by Commanding Officer of Twickenham Sea Cadets, Lt Martyn Mayger

Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wilder seas
Where storms will show Your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.

We ask you to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push back the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

This we ask in the name of our Captain,
Who is Jesus Christ.

THE BLESSING OF THE RIVER

A wooden cross is lowered into the river and congregation are invited to spread their flowers and small boats as the blessing is given.

We say together the Fisherman's prayer.

**Protect me oh Lord,
My boat is so small,
And your sea is so big.**

HYMN

The first verse will be sung by the Teddington RNLI.
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?

***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!***

**Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
When the breakers roar and the reef is near?
While the surges rage, and the wild wings blow,
Shall the angry waves then your bark o'erflow?
We have an anchor.....**

**Will your anchor hold in the floods of death,
When the waters cold chill your latest breath?
On the rising tide you can never fail,
While your anchor holds within the veil.
We have an anchor.....**

**Will your eyes behold through the morning light,
The city of gold and the harbour bright?
Will you anchor safe by the heav'nly shore,
When life's storms are past for evermore?
We have an anchor.....**

FINAL BLESSING

God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Let us go, rejoicing in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Please stay and enjoy refreshments with us and cheer our local Guides and Scouts in Dragon Boat racing.

*'The tide in Teddington ebbs and flows,
Like life itself it comes and goes,
Let's row together side by side,
Knowing God's love will be our guide'*

By Liz Stewart, congregation member, St Mary with St Alban.

