

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 27 1-12



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.  
Psalm 107:23-24

## **Praising:**

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm doth bind the restless  
wave,  
who bidd'st the mighty ocean  
deep  
its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

## **Reading:**

Acts 27:1-12  
Paul sets sail for Italy

Paul is not some notable personage being ferried to Rome aboard some specially chartered vessel for an audience with the Emperor. It is a journey undertaken in fits and starts, with Paul wending his way slowly, as and when the next lift becomes available. It becomes clear from the description that Paul and his companions are making an

uncertain winter voyage on ships that are a far cry from the sturdy industrial vessels we take for granted today. Paul is so conscious of the hazards that he raises his concerns with his Roman escort. He senses that their very lives may be lost if they press on any further. While the final leg to Italy itself is postponed, Paul's concerns fall on deaf ears and the ship readies itself to find a suitable port to spend the winter.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Thank you Lord for those times when we have sensed danger and fear

- and you have given us courage and strength in the presence and kindness of friends
- and our prized comforts and securities have been exposed as passing and illusory
- and we have been thrown on your power and peace in a whole new way

Father: it's been in the uncertainties of life that Christ's love has proved itself strong. Stronger than my basest fears; stronger than my gravest doubts; stronger than my weakest faith. Amen

## **Doing:**

Monday, 18 July 2016