**Seafarer’s Service**

**2020**

The Annual Seafarers Service took place on Sunday, January 26th 2020 at the Chapel of Ease, St. David’s; it was a very well attended service, presided over by Rev’d Tom Slawson and Bishop Nicholas Dill.

The service is normally attended by our members from the Marine & Ports division along with their family and friends, members from the fishing industry and their families and the families of people who have lost love ones to the seas. The service gives thanks and highlights the accomplishments of those people who work on the seas around Bermuda and those that go off to other places around the world to work on the seas.

This year once again Pilot Warden, Bro. Mario Thompson gave the roll call of Young Mariners with updates on their progress, they were as follows: Ms. Erin Grieg is in Nova Scotia and plans to continue her goals and become Bermuda’s first Master Mariner and she wants to get on a container ship, Denzel Todd is in England working as the Chief Officer with Red Funnel Ferries in Southampton, UK which operates between Southampton and the Isle of Wight, James Daniels is in the Mediterranean working as a Chief Engineer, in the motor yacht industry and big sailing yachts, Vernon Harrison, is taking his exams and will soon be promoted to the ranks of a first class branch pilot, Christen Green is working for a company based in New Zealand, he is one of the most sort after man in his capacity as a Boatswain, Patrick Poire is a Deck Officer in the motor yacht industry as well, Lamar Samuels is a phase three engineering student at South Tyneside school in the UK, he has completed one deep sea assignment and will do a second this year, Dillon Ward is a fourth year navigation student at Warsash Maritime Academy/Solent University, Southampton, he is on his second ship, Marcus Simmons is a phase three navigation student at Glasgow City Riverside Campus, Scotland and Andre Durham is a second year student at North East Maritime Institute working towards his associates in Nautical Science. Bro. Mario said there are a number of Maritime students that are enrolled in various programs overseas and he would like to recognize them as well.

Bro. Mario announced that the Endeavour program continues to be a success for our Primary students, he congratulated Christian Warren who participated in the service, on being a graduate of the 2018 Endeavour Springboard program. The Bermuda Sloop program continues to generate interest for our middle school students also as he had said last year they are making good strides to open up the Bermuda Maritime Academy. Bro. Mario also recognized the industry partners some of whom were present such as the Department of Workforce Development, the Department of Marine & Ports, Mr. Bo Evans, CEO of the Spirit of St. George, the Bermuda Sloop Foundation, the Endeavour Group, the families, Mr. John Moore and the Bermuda Industrial Union.

After the service the congregation gathered at the Memorial for the Lost at Sea at the Battery on St. David’s island for the laying of the wreaths which was followed with lunch at St. David’s Cricket Club. In attendance representing the BIU was Bro. Chris Furbert, Sis. Molly Burgess, Bro. Graham Nesbitt, Sis. Ronnie Burgess and Bro. Clarence Smith, Trustee.