

blessing the boats

by Lucille Clifton

(at St. Mary's)

5 may the tide
 that is entering even now
 the lip of our understanding
 carry you out
 beyond the face of fear
 may you kiss
10 the wind then turn from it
 certain that it will
 love your back may you
 open your eyes to water
 water waving forever
15 and may you in your innocence
 sail through this to that