

# Service of Celtic Worship

November 5, 2017



PELAGIUS



# Celtic Worship

at St. John's Church

November 5, 2017

*Welcome! We are delighted that you have joined us today - we cherish your attendance.*

*In order to prepare for worship, our time this afternoon commences with a period of silence which you may enjoy in any way that is meaningful to you: prayer, meditation or simple reflection. We ask that this silence be observed immediately upon entering, and that you turn off all electronic devices.*

*The value of silence and being present to what is immediate is all too often lost in our busy world. We hope that today's service of presence, contemplation, and periods of quiet provides nourishment and recharging for you. To that end, perhaps you may wish to turn those electronic devices all the way off if you are able!*

*There are several stations of interest around the church for your perusal or quiet contemplation. You may wish to leave a prayer request for yourself or others at the prayer station, browse the Celtic station icons and information, or light a candle for someone or some purpose. We invite you to visit these spots at any time before, during or after the service.*

*Your written prayers deposited at the prayer station will be prayed in the coming days by members of the Celtic Worship Guild.*

*In addition, healing ministers will be available to pray with you, or to offer you a blessing, both as you enter today as well as during the period of extended silence during our worship.*

*Children are welcome at our worship. To help pass time, please find Celtic themed coloring sheets near the entrances - for children of all ages!*

*Shortly before our worship commences, a singing bowl tone will mark the end of our silence. Please remain seated while today's musicians lead us in learning the participatory music and chants.*



## Prayer Stones

As you enter today, you may wish to take a prayer stone as a focus for your prayer.

Spend a few moments quietly resting in God's presence.

Look at your stone: see its color and shape. Feel its texture and its weight.

How does it feel in your hand?

Think about the story of this stone: the rock from which it came, the wind, sun, frost and water that shaped it into its current form.

Think about your own story, and what has led you to today.

Today, we reflect upon the Celtic saints. Who are the saints in your life?

As you hold your stone know that your yesterday, today and tomorrow are held in the palm of God's hand.

If you wish, when you have finished your prayer you may leave your stone behind as a symbol of trusting your life to God's care:

- You may return it to the container with the other stones.
- Alternatively, you may wish to symbolically leave your stone at the base of the Celtic cross.

Finally, please feel free to take your stone home with you and use it again when you pray.

**November 5, 2017**

***The theme for our worship this month is "Celtic Saints."***

**Words of Welcome:** *The Reverend Susan Pinkerton*

*Please stand at the tone of the singing bowl.*

**Opening Reading:** **"All Saints"**

*Read by Sarah Kieffer*

Almighty God, your saints are one with you in the mystical body of Christ:

give us grace to follow them in all virtue and holiness until we come to those inexpressible joys which you have prepared for those who truly love you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*Derived from the New Zealand Prayer Book, p.670 (Anglican) by Rev. Bosco Peters  
([www.liturgy.co.nz](http://www.liturgy.co.nz)) <http://liturgy.co.nz/reflections/all-saints>*

**Song: "Down in the Valley to Pray"**

*African-American Spiritual*

*Led by Norb Spencer*

As I went down in the valley to pray  
Studyin' about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way  
Oh fathers let's go down  
Let's go down come on down  
Oh fathers let's go down  
Down in the valley to pray

... Oh mothers let's go down  
... Oh brothers let's go down  
... Oh sisters let's go down  
... Oh children let's go down

*Please be seated.*

**Scripture Reading: from The Wisdom of Solomon 7:23 - 8:1 (NRSV)**

*Read by Mary Davies Cole*

There is in her a spirit ... overseeing all, penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle.

For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things, for she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled against entrance into her, for she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the workings of God, and an image of his goodness.

Although she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation, (she) passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.

She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared to the light, she is found to be superior, for it is succeeded by the night; Against wisdom evil does not prevail. She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well.

### **Reflection: "Celtic Saints"**

*Mary Davies Cole*

*The reflection will be followed by a moment of quiet contemplation.*

### **Chanting: "Alleluia"**

*Traditional Syrian*

*Led by Norb Spencer*

### **Silence**

*Our shared chant fades and we enter an extended period of silent prayer, meditation or reflection.*

*Please feel free to move about the church during this time. You may wish to visit the stations.*

*Today we celebrate the Celtic Saints and, in fact, all saints. Perhaps you would like to light a candle to remember a saint in your life?*

*In addition to the stations, healing ministers are available to pray with you or offer a blessing. They may be found near the baptismal font at the right side of the church. Today's Healing Ministers are Sarah Kieffer & Molly Loudon.*

*After several minutes, instrumental music will begin. Musicians Rebecca McCallum and Norb Spencer will play "Bovaglies Plaid" by J. Scott Skinner (19th Century Scottish violinist).*

**Intercessory Prayers:** *Led by Tom Neal*

*Please stand when requested.*

*You are invited to raise your own prayers, either silently or aloud for all to hear, in the periods of silence during the Intercessory Prayers.*

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves, shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.

We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.

Creator God, who brings forth both green shoot and hoar frost, sunrise and sunset, we bring our thanks for seeds that have grown, harvests gathered, storehouses filled, mouths fed.

And, as your good earth rests through winter's cold embrace, we look forward to its re-awakening when kissed by Spring's first touch.

For summer's passing and harvest home

**ALL: We thank you**

For autumn's splendor and winter's chill

**ALL: We thank you**

For seed that has fallen, the promise of spring

**ALL: We thank you**

Creator God, for daily bread and all who work to bring your harvest home we bring our thanks today.

*Pause*

Forgive our ingratitude we who have so much yet waste what we have been given.

*Pause*

For those whose harvest is poor, whose crops have withered, water tainted, children starve, help those who bring relief and bestow on us an unaccustomed generosity, that all might share from your garden and all might sing your praise.

*Pause*

Creator God, provider of all  
we bring our thanks today

So many shades of gold

Autumn

Another miracle we take for granted

Another expression of the artist's vision

The blending of the autumn hues with the setting sun

Warm

Comforting

Perfect

*Source: John Birch (Welsh: Methodist Local Preacher, musician & author)*  
[www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com)

*Please be seated.*

**Closing Prayer: "A Christian liturgy for Samhain"** (portion)

*Read by Sarah Kieffer*

For fruitfulness

**ALL: We thank you**

For a generous spirit

**ALL: We thank you**

For wisdom and faith  
**ALL: We thank you**

For old age and new birth  
**ALL: We thank you**

For those who have gone before us  
Seeds planted in your rich pasture  
With the hope of life eternal  
May their enduring spirit live on  
Enriching and empowering our lives  
Their love linger  
Their presence be near  
Until we meet once more.

For your embracing love  
A Father's love  
A Mother's love  
The love that sees our failings  
And forgives us  
The love that sees our joys  
And embraces us  
The love that knows no end  
or beginning  
A love that could die for us  
We bless you.

**ALL: We bless you**

*Source:*

[http://www.faithandworship.com/Samhain\\_praying\\_though\\_the\\_Celtic\\_year.htm#ixz4wSIMZ3WL](http://www.faithandworship.com/Samhain_praying_though_the_Celtic_year.htm#ixz4wSIMZ3WL) John Birch (Welsh: Methodist Local Preacher, musician and author)  
*Under Creative Commons License*

## **Closing Silence**

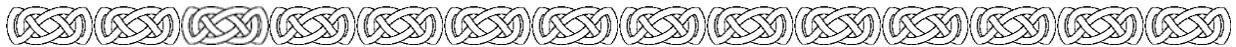
*We enter a final brief period of silence; a time for personal prayer, meditation or reflection upon today's service.*

*After a time, a final tone of the singing bowl will mark the conclusion of our worship time together.*

*After the tone, we invite you to remain seated in silence for however long you wish.*

*When you do stand to exit, please do so silently; our worship continuing in all that we do.*

*The stations continue to be available for you to visit after our service.*



***Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the parish hall,  
located through the doorway to the right at the front of the church.***

***Special thanks to Rita Neal and Sarah Kieffer  
for providing and preparing today's refreshments.***

***Today's greeters:  
Sarah Kieffer, Bruce Loudon & Molly Loudon***



*Restrooms are located in the corridor just beyond the parish hall, located through the doorway to the right at the front of the church.*

*Cover image: Pelagius (British Theologian, circa 360 – 418 AD)  
Image is in the Public Domain*

# Schedule of Celtic Worship at St. John's Church

Please join us at 4:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month,  
October through June.

October 1, 2017	Celtic Spirituality
November 5, 2017:	Celtic Saints
December 3, 2017:	Gratitude
January 7, 2018:	Pilgrimage
February 4, 2018:	Divine Feminine
March 4, 2018:	Simplicity
April 1, 2018:	Rebirth (Easter Day)
May 6, 2018:	Earth
June 3, 2018:	Light

## **Celtic Worship Guild**

Mary Davies Cole

John E. Hardy

Sarah Kieffer

Scott Lamlein

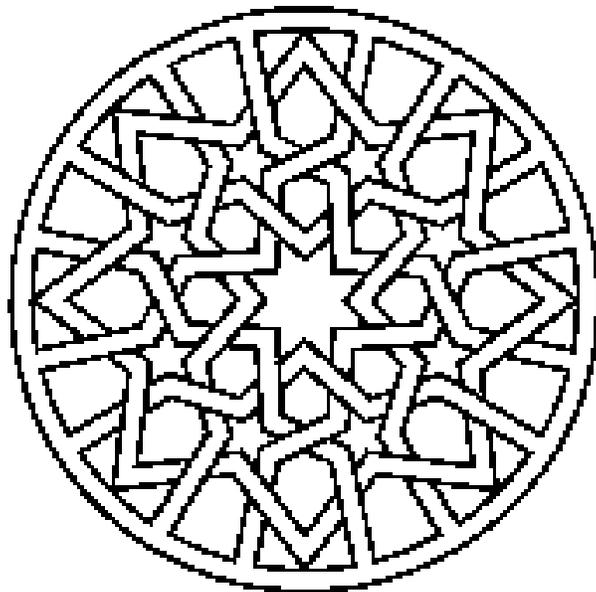
The Reverend Dr. Molly O'Neill Loudon

Rita Neal

Tom Neal

The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

Norb Spencer



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