

Service of Celtic Worship

April 1, 2018



A Joint Ministry
of
St. James Episcopal Church
and
St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT

Celtic Worship

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.

There are several stations of interest around the church for your perusal or quiet contemplation. We invite you to visit these spots at any time before, during or after the service. 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. Your written prayers deposited at the prayer station will be prayed in the coming days by members of the Celtic Worship Guild.

In today's service, we celebrate REBIRTH. You may wish to light a candle or to add a written expression to the prayer station box to celebrate the revelation of REBIRTH within your life, or perhaps in recognition of those who have nurtured you through your life. The Celtic Guild will be sure to add their prayers of thanksgiving to yours!

Healing ministers will be available to pray with you and offer you a blessing during the period of extended silence later in 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!

At 4:50 pm, a singing bowl tone will break our preparatory silence and today's service will commence.



The theme for our worship this month is “REBIRTH”.

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer “For a New Beginning”

John O’Donohue

Please stand.

Read by Sarah Keiffer

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.
For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.
It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.
Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.
Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life’s desire.
Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

Source: <http://livingonthefaultlines.com/inspirational-poems-john-odonohues-for-a-new-beginning>

From the book: “Bless the Space Between Us” by John O’Donohue

Song "The Gates of Love"

Andrew Calhoun

Led by Norb Spencer

Chorus

Who will throw open the gates of love?
Who will throw open the gates of love?
Hung in the silence and darkness around us
Who will throw open the gates of love?



People get drunk and get used to it
People get lost and get used to it
People see love and they shake and they quake and they cry
And they never get used to it

Chorus

I was forgotten and self-deceived
Cried out forsaken and was not believed
I was lost in a crowd until with you and lying
Safe under this cloth that we wear and we weave

Chorus

I have a friend in Oconomowoc
And he understands me, so we never talk
We stand around awkward, our minds shake hands
On the floor of the forest we walk

Chorus

My wife and I, we watch our weight
But still we keep stumbling on a hill of hate
With better times coming, and better times gone
Hurry up, wait for me, come along, carry on

Chorus

Ignorance circles the world at war
And tries to tell us what we are for
Government, power and armies and money
Run father and mother, and baby born

Chorus

Please be seated.

Reading for Reflection

"Small as a Seed"

Elizabeth Spires

Read by Mary Davies Cole

In everything, its opposite.
In the sun's ascendancy,
Its downfall.
In darkness, light
Not yet apprehended.

At night in bed, I fear the falling-off.
Though falling, I will rise.
I fear. Fall arriving now.
In any word so small, the world.
In the world I walk in, a wild wood.

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Reflection

Mary Davies Cole

Silence

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.

Our theme today is “Rebirth”. Perhaps Mary’s reflection inspires you to light a candle or deposit a prayer request? Of course, we invite you to pray through the warmth and energy of the candles and their light - or to seek solace through a prayer request - in whatever way you are called today.

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.

Please be seated for our closing reading.

Final Reading “Rumi on Passion”

Read by Sarah Keiffer

“So run, my friends, run fast and furious from all false solutions.
Let divine passion triumph, and rebirth you in yourself.”

Chanting “Alleluia”

Led by the Rev. Dr. Molly Loudon



Today's greeter: Bruce Loudon

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

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

Please join us at 4:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month for the rest of the season.

May 6, 2018: Earth

June 3, 2018: Light

Celtic Worship Guild

Mary Davies Cole

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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