

Service of Celtic Worship
May 6, 2018



A Joint Ministry
of
St. James Episcopal Church
and
St. John's Episcopal Church

679 Farmington Avenue, 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.

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.

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 “EARTH”.

Words of Welcome Sarah Kieffer

Please stand.

Opening Prayer “Gaelic Blessing” Fiona Macleod

Read by The Rev. Dr. Molly O’Neill Loudon

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the gentle night to you
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you
Deep peace of Christ to you

From the album “Peace” by Libera

Song “Mother Earth” Tom Rush

Led by Tom Neal

Chorus

Mother Earth lives on the ocean
Mother Earth sails on the sea
I am blessed with her devotion
Mother Earth provides for me



Please be seated.

Read by Scott Lamlein

May the beauty of your life become more visible to you, that you may glimpse your wild divinity.
May the wonders of the earth call you forth from all your small,
secret prisons and set your feet free in the pastures of possibilities.
May the light of dawn anoint your eyes that you may behold what a miracle a day is.
May the liturgy of twilight shelter all your fears and darkness within the circle of ease.
May the angel of memory surprise you in bleak times with new gifts from the harvest of your
vanished days.
May you allow no dark hand to quench the candle of hope in your heart.
May you discover a new generosity towards yourself,
and encourage yourself to engage your life as a great adventure.
May the outside voices of fear and despair find no echo in you.
May you always trust the urgency and wisdom of your own spirit.
May the shelter and nourishment of all the good you have done, the love you have shown,
the suffering you have carried, awaken around you to bless your life a thousand times.
And when love finds the path to your door may you open like the earth to the dawn,
and trust your every hidden color towards its nourishment of light.
May you find enough stillness and silence to savor the kiss of God on your soul
and delight in the eternity that shaped you, that holds you and calls you.
And may you know that despite confusion, anxiety and emptiness, your name is written in
Heaven.
And may you come to see your life as a quiet sacrament of service,
which awakens around you a rhythm where doubt gives way to the grace of wonder,
where what is awkward and strained can find elegance,
and where crippled hope can find wings, and torment enter at last unto the grace of serenity.
May Divine Beauty bless you.

From "Beauty - The Invisible Embrace" by John O'Donohue

Reflection *The Rev. Susan Pinkerton*

Chanting "Amen"

Led by Scott Lamlein

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 "Earth". Perhaps Susan'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 readings.

Intercessory Prayers

Led by Mary Davies Cole

Please join in reading the text that is printed in bold.

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.

Oh Loving Source, Creator of all that is,
Bring us to the altar of Your Creation.

There is no plant in the ground but tells of your beauty,
There is no life in the sea but proclaims your goodness.
There is no bird on the wind, there is no star in the sky,
There is nothing beneath the sun but is full of your blessing.
Lighten our understanding of your Presence all around, O God;
Kindle our will to be caring for Creation.

Oh Loving Source, Creator of all that is,
Bring us to the Altar of your Creation.

You are above us O God; You are beneath us;
You are in air; You are beside us;
You are within. O God of Heaven, you
Have made your home on earth in the broken body of Creation.
Kindle within us a love for you in all things.

Oh Loving Source, Creator of All that is,
Bring us to the altar of your Creation,

Where today we place all that is on our hearts,
And remember all those who have need of you.
Help us to be open. Help us to be grateful.
Help us to be forgiving. Help us to be loving.
Help us to forget ourselves in service to your kingdom.
Help us to remember ourselves in You.

Oh Loving Source, Creator of All that Is,
Bring us to the altar of your Creation,

That we may walk with your Light, live through your word,
And be fulfillers of your blessed dream for all things
In which you live and love and have Your Being.

Amen, and Amen.

(The embedded text in italics is adapted from prayers by John Philip Newell, and can be found in Celtic Prayers From Iona.)

You may now proceed to the Cloister Garden for a prayer for the Earth,
or go directly to the reception.
If you wish, you may remain in the church for as long as you like.

Closing Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Molly O'Neill Loudon



*We invite you to join us for a reception
in Hubbard Hall after the Closing Prayer.*

Greeter: Bruce Loudon

Reception Host: Rita Neal

*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.

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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