

Service of Celtic Worship
October 7, 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 or browse the Celtic station icons and information. 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 **Belonging**.*

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Susan Pinkerton

Please stand.

Opening Prayer

Read by Sarah Kieffer

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knee
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting –
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

Wild Geese by Mary Oliver

Song

My life flows on in endless song,
Above earth's lamentation;
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn,
That hails the new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul,
How can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly roars,
I hear the Word, it liveth;
What though the darkness round me close,
Songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to the rock I'm clinging;
Since love's the rule of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes, the cloud removes,
I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths,
Since first I learned to love it.
Thy song of peace makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am thine,
How can I keep from singing?

How Can I Keep from Singing? by Robert Wadsworth

Led by Norb Spencer

Please be seated.

Reading for Reflection

Read by John Hardy

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with celebration!
Come before him with shouts of joy!
Know that the Lord is God—
 he made us; we belong to him.
 We are his people,
 the sheep of his own pasture.
Enter his gates with thanks;
 enter his courtyards with praise!
 Thank him! Bless his name!
Because the Lord is good,
 his loyal love lasts forever;
 his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

Psalm 100 (CEB)

Reflection

John Hardy

Chanting

Alleluia

Traditional Syrian

Led by Norb Spencer

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 "Belonging." Perhaps Sarah'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.

The bold print lines are from an ancient traditional Celtic prayer.

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.

Let us pray.

God to enfold us,

Your arms are like the branches of olive trees, holding the nest of Creation..

God to surround us,

Protect us from the evils of envy and despair.

God in our speaking,

Form syllables of love in our hearts and mouths.

God in our thinking,

Banish fear and hatred, pride and petty thought. Grant us compassion, truth, and peace.

God in our sleeping,

Renew us with your love, let us dream dreams of freedom and inclusion,
welcome and belonging.

God in our waking,

Let us give solace to the grieving, food to the hungry, welcome to the stranger.

God in our watching,

Make us sentinels of a new world, in which your Creation is guarded and protected,
honored, nourished and fed.

God in our hoping,

May we cherish hope for our lives, and the lives of others.

God in our lives,

May we walk with you through the shadows, carrying Your light into the world.

God in our sufficing,

Help us to be grateful. For everything, small or grand, painful or joyful, knowing
You are in all things.

God in our ever-living souls,

Let us know your Presence, breathe through our breath, see through our eyes, hear
through our ears.

God in our eternity,

May we know we live only through You, that we came from Your Being, and will return to
Your Light.

Amen, and amen.

Closing Prayer

Led by Sarah Kieffer

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
May the clarity of light be yours,
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
Wind work these words
Of love around you,
An invisible cloak
To mind your life.

Excerpt from *Beannacht* by John O'Donohue
Taken from the book: *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*

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

Greeters: Bruce Louden

Reception Host: Celtic Service Team

*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

Thank you for spending time with us.
Please join us at 4:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday, October 7, 2018 - Belonging
Sunday, November 4, 2018 - Gathering
Sunday, December 2, 2018 - Darkness
Sunday, January 6, 2019 - Spirit
Sunday, February 3, 2019 - Trust
Sunday, March 3, 2019 - Silence
Sunday, April 7, 2019 - Creation
Sunday, May 5, 2019 - Healing
Sunday, June 2, 2019 - Celebration

Celtic Worship Guild

Mary Davies Cole

Sarah Kieffer

Scott Lamlein

The Reverend Dr. Molly O'Neill Louden

Rita Neal

Tom Neal

The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

Norb Spencer



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