

Service of Celtic Worship
November 4, 2018



A Joint Ministry
of
St. James's 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. You are also welcome to light a candle at the candle station. 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. At the completion of our service, you will hear another singing bowl tone to signal the end.



*The theme for our worship this month is **Gathering.***

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Susan Pinkerton

Opening Prayer

Read by Mary Davies Cole

The Gathering

A Native American Poem

Can you hear the calling?
Those ancestral voices in the wind,
Pulling your worn moccasins forward,
Towards the sacred circle?

They understand your heart's longing.
For the mending of your spirit,
For those coyotes you once fed
That left you blanketed in doubt.

Can you hear them calling?
The drums which shout out for you,
Rhythmic as a heartbeat,
Like lyrical sweet grass for your soul?

They recognize your deep desires
Of beaded ambitions and braided dreams,
Passed down through generations,
Which you long to make your legacy.

Can you hear them calling?
The stomping feet from each Nation,
Adorned with Inter-tribal traditions,
Eagerly waiting upon your arrival?

They have felt your suffering
And dance like prairie lightning,
Each step a solemn promise
Of your bloodline's reawakening.

Can you hear them calling?
The tobacco prayers of your relations,
Feathered on wings of freedom,
Awaiting in honored celebration?

Brave Warrior, on this journey back to self,
The Grandfathers walk beside you,
Turquoise footprints scorching the earth,
And they lead you home.

by Melanie Mariano

Song

Led by Tom Neal

Please stand.

May The Road Rise To Meet You
Celtic Blessing

**May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rain fall soft upon your fields
Until we meet again**

**May God hold you in the palm of her hand
Until we meet again**

Please be seated.

Reflection

Sarah Kieffer

All the Hemispheres

Leave the familiar for a while.
Let your senses and bodies stretch out

Like a welcomed season
Onto the meadows and shores and hills.

Open up to the Roof.
Make a new water-mark on your excitement
And love.

Like a blooming night flower,
Bestow your vital fragrance of happiness
And giving
Upon our intimate assembly.

Change rooms in your mind for a day.

All the hemispheres in existence
Lie beside an equator
In your heart.

Greet Yourself
In your thousand other forms
As you mount the hidden tide and travel
Back home.

All the hemispheres in heaven
Are sitting around a fire
Chatting

While stitching themselves together
Into the Great Circle inside of
You.

*By Hafiz, 14th century Persian Sufi poet
From The Subject Tonight is Love
Translated by Daniel Ladinsky*

What should be done then, my friends?
When you come together,
each one has a hymn, a lesson,
a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation.
Let all things be done for building up.

1 Corinthians 14:26
New Revised Standard Version

Chanting

Led by Scott Lamlein

Please stand.

Stay with me, remain here with me. Watch and pray, watch and pray.
Traditional Taizé

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.

Perhaps the 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 intercessory and closing readings.

Intercessory Prayers

Led by John Hardy

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

The prayers are adapted from "A Liturgy for Samhain" by John Birch, in his book A Fragrant Offering. 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.

In the fading of the summer sun, the shortening of days, cooling breeze, swallows' flight and moonlight rays

We see the Creator's hand

In the browning of leaves once green, morning mist, autumn chill, fruit that falls, frost's first kiss

We see the Creator's hand

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth.

Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing. Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our hands to share, and may our feet tread lightly on the road that we must travel.

By faith we gaze up to the heavens and know within its vastness that this is your creation, planned and effected within eternity.

We see the Creator's hand

By faith we pluck an ear of corn and know within its symmetry lies the chemistry of life, the potential of creation within our hand.

We see the Creator's hand

By faith we listen for your voice and know the whisper that we hear breathed a world into existence yet listens to a prayer within our heart.

We see the Creator's hand

By faith we strive to do your will and know the door we approach may lead us to shadows, where our role is to become your light.

We see the Creator's hand

By faith we cling to your word and know the strength that we receive has its source within the live that is at the center of all things.

We see the Creator's hand

The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and moon. It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. (*Psalm 74:16-17; NIV*)

For summer's passing and harvest home

We thank you

For autumn's splendor and winter's chill

We thank you

For seed that has fallen, the promise of spring

We thank you

For fruitfulness

We thank you

For a generous spirit

We thank you

For wisdom and faith

We thank you

For old age and new birth

We thank you

We pray 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, a love that sees our failings and forgives us. A love that sees our joys and embraces us. A love that knows no end or beginning. A love that could die for us.

We bless you.

Together we say:

We bless you

God of seed time and harvest,

And we bless each other,

that the beauty of this world,

and the love that created it,

might be expressed through our lives

and be a blessing to others,

now and always. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Mary Davies Cole

God bless those who gather here today
and God bless those who would be gathered here,
we hold them in our hearts.

God bless those who've gathered here in ages gone
and left their prayers, and longings here.

God bless those who will come to pray
seeking all that we have known today.

God bless this earth that holds us fast
and lets us go at end of stay.

May we know the peace that passes
between all pilgrims on your path.

God bless all Creation stirring,
all Creation laying down to sleep.

God help us keep all souls before us
in the wider circle of our love.

Make us strong to live in courage,
slow to fail your vision for our lives,

Quick to prayer for self and others,
all who suffer, all who hope, all who
would be gathered in this blessed place.

Amen.

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

Greeters: Bruce Loudon and David Hadden

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.*



Celtic Christianity Book Study

Sunday, November 18, 4:30pm

Molly Loudon and David Hadden

Rebirthing God by John Philip Newell

John Philip Newell is the leading voice of Celtic Theology in the world today.

Please join us to talk about the “Why?” we are offering Celtic Worship

and the “What?” is the foundation of Celtic Christianity.

The book is available at Amazon. Please read the first 2 chapters for November 18.

All are welcome. We hope you will join us.



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, 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

John 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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