

Service of Celtic Worship  
January 6, 2019



A joint ministry of  
St. James's Episcopal Church  
and  
St. John's Episcopal Church

679 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, Connecticut

# Celtic Worship

*Welcome!*

*We are delighted that you have joined us today – we cherish your attendance.*

*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 you observe this silence immediately upon entering, and 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 p.m., a singing bowl tone will break our preparatory silence and today's service will commence.*



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

**Words of Welcome**

The Reverend Dr. Molly O. Louden

**Opening Prayer**

*Read by Mary Davies Cole*

*The Spirit Likes to Dress Up* © 1986 by Mary Oliver

The spirit  
likes to dress up like this:  
ten fingers,  
ten toes,  
shoulders, and all the rest  
at night  
in the black branches,  
in the morning  
in the blue branches  
of the world.  
It could float, of course,  
but would rather  
plumb rough matter.  
Airy and shapeless thing,  
it needs  
the metaphor of the body,  
lime and appetite,  
the oceanic fluids;  
it needs the body's world,  
instinct  
and imagination  
and the dark hug of time  
sweetness  
and tangibility  
to be understood  
to be more than pure light  
that burns  
where no one is —  
so it enters us —  
in the morning  
shines from brute comfort  
like a stitch of lightning;  
and at night  
lights up the deep and wondrous  
drownings of the body  
like a star.

**Song**

Led by Scott Lamlein

*You are the center* by Margaret Rizza

Please stand.

You are the center, You are my life  
You are the center, Lord of my life  
Come, Lord, and guide me, Lord of my life  
Send me Your Spirit, Lord of my life  
You are the center, Lord of my life

You are the center, You are my life  
You are the center, Lord of my life  
Come, Lord, and heal me, Lord of my life  
Come, Lord, and teach me, Lord of my life  
You are the center, Lord of my life

Give me Your Spirit and teach me Your ways  
Give me Your peace, Lord, set me free  
You are the center, Lord of my life  
Give me Your Spirit and teach me Your ways  
Give me Your peace, Lord and set me free

You are the center, Lord of my life  
You are the center, Lord of my life

Please be seated.

**Reflection**

Tom Neal

Excerpt from *Blessing in the Chaos* by Jan Richardson

Let what distracts you  
cease.  
Let what divides you  
cease.  
Let there come an end  
to what diminishes  
and demeans,  
and let depart  
all that keeps you  
in its cage.

Let there be  
an opening  
into the quiet  
that lies beneath  
the chaos,  
where you find  
the peace  
you did not think  
possible  
and see what shimmers  
within the storm.

### **Chanting**

*Led by Norb Spencer*

*Please stand.*

**Ubi caritas et amor  
Ubi caritas, Deus ibi es**

*Translation: Where there is charity and love, there God is also.*

*Ubi caritas, 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. 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 are available near the baptismal font at the right side of the church.*

### **Intercessory Prayers**

*Led by John Hardy*

*Please stand and 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.*

Then I will pour out my spirit on all flesh, thus says the Lord.

**Send down the fire of your justice!**

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

**Send down the rain of your love!**

Your old shall dream dreams, and your young shall see visions.

**Send down your Spirit, breathe life in your people!**

In those days, I will pour out my spirit.

**And we shall be people of God.**

The coming of the Spirit transforms the community.

Locked doors are opened.

Fear is replaced by courage.

Peace is proclaimed.

The power to forgive sins is present.  
Those who were afraid now speak up boldly.  
Thousands hear the message in their own language.

In a world of racism and xenophobia and fear of immigrants, the Spirit speaks to people of every nation under heaven. **Lord, pour out your Spirit.**

In a world of fear and doubt and confusion, the Spirit inspires people to open the doors and speak out, especially about issues of justice and peace. **Lord, pour out your Spirit.**

In a world of selfishness, competition, and control, the Spirit gives out gifts that are shared for the benefit of all, especially those who are poor or in need. **Lord, pour out your Spirit.**

In a world with war, violence and terrorism, the Spirit proclaims a message of peace and reconciliation to all. **Lord, pour out your Spirit.**

In a world of economic problems, the Spirit reminds us that the things of the world are meant to be shared by all and are to be used for the common good. **Lord, pour out your Spirit.**

In a world where the environment is abused and overused, the Spirit calls to reform how we live and to use the earth with care and love. **Lord, pour out your Spirit.**

In a world of ideology and prejudice, the Spirit calls us to think about things in a new way. **Lord, pour out your Spirit.**

*First section by Katherine Hawker (inspired by Joel 2: 28-29); [www.liturgyoutside.net/Biblical.Litanies.pdf](http://www.liturgyoutside.net/Biblical.Litanies.pdf)*

*Second section adapted from John Bucki, SJ; [www.coc.org/ef/pentecost-2013](http://www.coc.org/ef/pentecost-2013)*

### **Closing Prayer**

From *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, & Getting Old*, ©2018 Parker J. Palmer

Led by Mary Davies Cole

*Please be seated.*

They say there layered earth rose up  
ancient rock leviathan  
trailing ages in its wake  
lifting earth-mass toward the sun  
and coursing water cut the rock away  
to leave these many-storied walls  
exposé of ages gone  
around this breathless emptiness  
more wondrous far  
than earth had ever known.

My life has risen layered too  
each day each year in turn has left  
its fossil life and sediments  
evidence of lived and unlived hours  
the tedium the anguish yes the joy  
that some heart-deep vitality  
keeps pressing upward  
toward the day I die -

And Spirit cuts like water through it all  
carving out this emptiness  
so inner eye can see  
the soaring height of canyon walls within  
walls whose very color, texture, form

redeem in beauty all my life has been  
the darkness and the light, the false, the true  
while deep below the living waters run  
cutting deeper through my parts  
to resurrect my grave-bound heart  
making, always making, all things new.

*We invite you to join us for a reception in Hubbard Hall after the Closing Prayer.  
You are also welcome to join us for a more in-depth discussion on today's theme, in the Reception Room.*

*Greeter: Bruce Louden  
Reception Host: Sarah Kieffer  
Set-up Crew: John and Ann Walsh, Holly Fenn, Carey Downes, Eleanor Baker*

*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, January 20, 4:30pm**

**at St. John's Church**

Molly Louden 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 "Why?" we are offering Celtic Worship and "What?" is the foundation of Celtic Christianity. We will discuss chapters 5 and 6 at the January meeting. All are welcome!

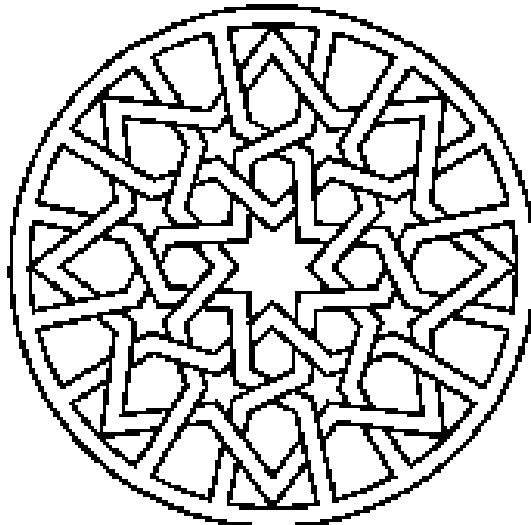
## Schedule of Celtic Worship at St. John's Episcopal Church

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

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  
John Hardy  
Sarah Kieffer  
Scott Lamlein  
The Reverend Dr. Molly O'Neill Louden  
Tom Neal  
The Reverend Susan Pinkerton  
Norb Spencer



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