

Service of Celtic Worship
February 3, 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 **Trust**.*

Words of Welcome

The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

Opening Prayer

Read by Sarah Kieffer

Little Summer Poem Touching the Subject of Faith by Mary Oliver

Every summer
I listen and look
under the sun's brass and even
into the moonlight, but I can't hear
anything, I can't see anything ~
not the pale roots digging down, nor the green
stalks muscling up,
nor the leaves
deepening their damp pleats,
nor the tassels making,
nor the shucks, nor the cobs.
And still,
every day,
the leafy fields
grow taller and thicker ~
green gowns lofting up in the night,
showered with silk.
And so, every summer,
I fail as a witness, seeing nothing ~
I am deaf too
to the tick of the leaves,
the tapping of downwardness from the banyan feet ~
all of it
happening
beyond any seeable proof, or hearable hum.
And, therefore, let the immeasurable come.
Let the unknowable touch the buckle of my spine.
Let the wind turn in the trees,
and the mystery hidden in the dirt
swing through the air.
How could I look at anything in this world
and tremble, and grip my hands over my heart?
What should I fear?
One morning
in the leafy green ocean
the honeycomb of the corn's beautiful body
is sure to be there.

Song

Led by Norb Spencer

Give yourself to love by Kate Wolf

Please stand.

Kind friends all gathered 'round, there's something I would say:
That what brings us together here has blessed us all today.
Love has made a circle that holds us all inside.
Where strangers are as family, loneliness can't hide.

CHORUS:

You must give yourself to love if love is what you're after;
Open up your hearts to the tears and laughter
And give yourself to love, give yourself to love.

I've walked these mountains in the rain and learned to love the wind;
I've been up before the sunrise to watch the day begin.
I've always knew I'd find you, though I never did know how;
Like sunshine on a cloudy day stand before me now.

CHORUS

Love is born in fire; it's planted like a seed.
Love can't give you everything, but it gives you what you need.
And love comes when you're ready, love comes when you're afraid;
It'll be your greatest teacher, the best friend you have made.

CHORUS

Please be seated.

Reflection

Molly Loudon

The Celtic Way by Mervyn Wilson

Two meet, three meet at a turn of the road
Travelling with the One
Each must move on within the same circle
True together to [their] word.

You who would travel God's great highway
Unmapped, ahead, heaven's way,
With the one, with many never at rest,
Do not look back nor stay.

You who would travel the highway of faith
Do not look back, do not stay,
You who have grasped the great circle
Trust God, the world will own [your] day.

Do not try to recapture, but do not devalue
The vintage once you knew.
The gospel ever explodes yesterday's vessel,
The wine comes fresh for you.

Chanting

Led by Norb Spencer

Traditional Tibetan Sanskrit mantra

Please stand.

Om Ah Hum

Om is the primal vibration out of which all things come and into which all things will be re-absorbed, the highest expression of consciousness.

Ah is the primal state of the spirit, the female aspect, the mother fully expressed in divine wisdom, without thought.

Hum is the root vibration, the descent from universality (Om) into the human heart.

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 Mary Cole

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.

Father/Mother God of All Creation,

May we trust and be present to your vision for our lives,
not with blind obedience, but with conscious awareness,
not in careless repetition, but in the deliberate daily choice
to be lovers and co-creators of your Kingdom.

Grant us open hearts so we may trust in Your love.

May we be your eyes to see, your ears to hear, and your arms to encircle
those who are frightened, lost, lonely, or in need of care.
Show us how to love and serve You through tending to all
your children as though they were our own.

Grant us open hearts so that we may trust in Your strength.

Beloved Lord Jesus, child of God,

May we walk in your steps, humbly and with reverence,
knowing that you are the Companion of our souls always
and forever; that you never forsake us, even in the darkest
times of our lives. Help us, like you, to be companions to each other.

Grant us willing hearts, so that others may trust in Your love.

We ask your blessing for this congregation, and all those who gather in prayer to sing praises to your name. We ask your protection for peoples everywhere who meet to worship according to their own hearts. May Your forgiving grace make us whole.

Grant us the wisdom to forgive others as You forgive us.

We pray for healing in this country and all countries which suffer from destruction, decay, and disorder. We pray for wise and orderly counsel, skillful and honest leadership, a renewal of respect for truth, and the salvation of our democracy. Breathe into our hearts and minds a willingness for reconciliation, a commitment to peace, and an inspiration to build, together, a better world.

Grant us perseverance, resilience, and a passionate commitment to God's word.

Be with all those who grieve, all those who fear for their lives and the lives of those they love, and all those who support them.

Thank you for hearing our prayers, both now and always. Help us to trust the power of prayer, and to live in the never-ending embrace of Your love.

Thank you for the gift of Your Holy Spirit in our lives. Help us to be open, willing and present to Your guidance, now and always.

Amen

Closing Prayer

Led by Sarah Kieffer

From *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings* by John O'Donohue

Please be seated.

This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light

If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.

*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 Loudon

Reception Hosts: Cheri Evans and

Setup 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, February 17, 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 Loudon
Tom Neal
The Reverend Susan Pinkerton
Norb Spencer



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See our web page and informational video at www.sjparish.net/celtic-worship.