

Service of Celtic Worship  
April 7, 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 that you may visit at any time before, during or after the service. You may wish to light a candle at the candle station, browse the Celtic station icons and information, or write a prayer request for yourself or others at the prayer station. Know that your written prayers will be prayed in the coming days by members of the Celtic Worship Guild.*

*During the period of extended silence later in our worship, healing ministers will be available to offer you the prayer or blessing you ask for.*

*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 **Creation**.*

**Words of Welcome**      The Reverend Dr. Molly Louden

**Opening Prayer**

*Read by Tom Neal*

*Eagle Poem by Joy Harjo*

To pray you open your whole self  
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon  
To one whole voice that is you.  
And know there is more  
That you can't see, can't hear;  
Can't know except in moments  
Steadily growing, and in languages  
That aren't always sound but other  
Circles of motion.  
Like eagle that Sunday morning  
Over Salt River. Circled in blue sky  
In wind, swept our hearts clean  
With sacred wings.  
We see you, see ourselves and know  
That we must take the utmost care  
And kindness in all things.  
Breathe in, knowing we are made of  
All this, and breathe, knowing  
We are truly blessed because we  
Were born, and die soon within a  
True circle of motion,  
Like eagle rounding out the morning  
Inside us.  
We pray that it will be done  
In beauty.  
In beauty.

**Song**

*Led by Norb Spencer*

*Morning Has Broken*

Text: Eleanor Farjeon (1931)

Music: *Bunessan*, traditional Scottish Gaelic (18th or early 19th century)

*Please stand.*

**Morning has broken, like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for the springing fresh from the word**  
  
**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven  
Like the first dew fall, on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass  
Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the one light, Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day**

*Please be seated.*

## Reflection

John Hardy

*Psalm 8*

Common English Bible translation

Lord, our Lord, how majestic  
is your name throughout the earth!  
You made your glory higher than heaven!  
From the mouths of nursing babies  
you have laid a strong foundation  
because of your foes,  
in order to stop vengeful enemies.  
When I look up at your skies,  
at what your fingers made—  
the moon and the stars  
that you set firmly in place—  
what are human beings  
that you think about them;  
what are human beings  
that you pay attention to them?  
You've made them only slightly less than divine,  
crowning them with glory and grandeur.  
You've let them rule over your handiwork,  
putting everything under their feet—  
all sheep and all cattle,  
the wild animals too,  
the birds in the sky,  
the fish of the ocean,  
everything that travels the pathways of the sea.  
Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

## Chanting

*Led by Norb Spencer*

*Kyrie Eleison*

Roman Paschal Vigil, 10<sup>th</sup> century

*Please stand.*

**Kyrie eleison**  
**Christe eleison**  
**Kyrie eleison**  
**Ora pro nobis**

*Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Pray for us.*

## Silence

*We enter now into an extended period of silence, which you are invited to use in whatever way you are called today. You are welcome to sit or move about the church in silent prayer, meditation, or reflection.*

*Feel free to visit all of the stations. Write a prayer request, light a candle, contemplate upon the Celtic saints, or pray with a healing minister near the baptismal font.*

## Intercessory Prayers

*Led by Mary Cole & John Nowacki*

*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.*

**Creator God, hear us when we pray.**

In the beginning, out of the spinning void, you created heaven and earth, and all that we know of life itself. You separated the light from the darkness, and called the light day, and the darkness, night.

**For the eternal blessing in both the Light and the Dark of our lives, we praise you.**

You said, Let there be a firmament, and let there be a sky, and let Earth be born as a holy place; let the waters be gathered together to form seas and rivers, lakes and oceans, and let the dry land and the waters be in harmony under the Heavens.

**For the eternal blessing of both Earth and Water, we praise you.**

And then above in the vaulted heavens you placed the sun, the stars, and the moon; in the waters you created the creatures of the sea, you filled the skies with winged birds; upon the earth multitudes of animals, and into them you breathed the breath of your eternal love. Trees and plants and all manner of living foods you made to grow; you raised the mountains up and filled the valleys with precious fruits. Nothing was created upon this earth that came not from your love. And then you made man and woman, saying to us that all this glory was ours to share, to nurture, to care for, because we were made in your image, and would return to your heart.

**For all of Creation, Lord, and especially for the gift of our own lives, we praise and bless you.**

We thank you for the gifts of sight, sound, smell, touch and taste, which give us the ability to interact with Creation in the most intimate of ways. We ask for your healing energies to help all those who are sensorily impaired in any way. Help us bring your healing into their lives. We especially pray for those who have been harmed by our senseless wars, and those who are being harmed through lack of nourishment, healthcare, and safety.

**Help us be your hands in this life, Lord, we pray.**

We ask for your blessing on all those who have walked the earth before us, and whom we have loved, especially those we name at this time, silently or aloud.

**May they be honored in our memories, and live on in our hearts.**

Help us be agents of Life, Lord, and not agents of Death. Help us be wise in our choice of leaders, that we may honor your kingdom, and follow your will to take care of it. Send us leaders who love the earth, and who will protect and save it. Send us leaders who love your people, and will fight to care for all those you have created: all races, all nations, all genders, all faith traditions, those who are abled and differently abled, who are in need of help, and those who work for the rights of all.

**Lord, hear this prayer.**

Thank you, Creator God, for your ongoing Creation – for the eternal return of all our lives through birth, growth, death and regeneration. May we see you in every budding plant, in every newborn child, in every sunrise, in every darkening storm, in every defeat, and in every resilient emergence of life in, around and through us. We are living members of Your Creative Spirit.

**Abiding Lover of our souls, we praise and bless you now and forevermore. Amen.**

**Closing Prayer**

*Read by Tom Neal*

*Please be seated.*

*Creation by Stephanie Dower*

You are alone. Dreaming?  
Standing on a dark dull land.  
There is nothing  
No light, no time.  
There is no wind, no sound.  
Nothing.  
Then a breath.  
Quiet and loud.  
The light is blinding. A sun.  
A feminine scream. Or a laugh?  
The land blushes green and trees explode from beneath.  
Mountains crash towards the sky.  
The sky. With clouds rolling and tumbling.  
Rolling like the hills. Lightning.  
High above the furious sea.  
A sound. Many. Voices both human and not.  
A breath. A birth. A world.

### **Celtic Blessing**

*Led by Molly Louden*

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 to you.

*A singing bell tone will signal the end of the service.*

*You are invited to join us for a reception in Hubbard Hall after the service.*

*You are also welcome to come participate in a discussion group on today's theme of "Creation" in the Reception Room.*

*Greeter: David Hadden*

*Reception Host: Cheri Evans*

*Set-up Crew: John and Ann Walsh, Holly Fenn, Carey Downes, Eleanor Baker, Florence Nicholas*

*Restrooms are in the corridor just beyond the parish hall,  
located through the doorway to the right at the front of the church.*



**Contemplative Weekend Retreat**  
*Holy Wells and Thin Places: The Wisdom of the Celtic Saints*

May 17-19, 2019

at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford

The cost to attend this retreat is \$225 (commuter),  
\$375 (private room w/ shared bath),  
or \$650 (private room w/ private bath).

**For more information and to register, please go to:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/y5bpw55u>



## 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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See our web page and video at [www.sjparish.net/celtic-worship](http://www.sjparish.net/celtic-worship).