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

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.

**Eagle Poem** by Joy Harjo

**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

Kyrie Eleison
Led by Norb Spencer
Roman Paschal Vigil, 10th 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
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.
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.

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.