

Service of Celtic Worship
May 5, 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 *Healing*.

Words of Welcome

The Reverend Dr. Molly Louden

Opening Prayer

Buddhist Prayer of Forgiveness

Read by Mary Cole

If I have harmed anyone in any way either knowingly or unknowingly through my own confusions, I ask their forgiveness.

If anyone has harmed me in any way either knowingly or unknowingly through their own confusions, I forgive them.

And if there is a situation I am not yet ready to forgive, I forgive myself for that.

For all the ways that I harm myself, negate, doubt, belittle myself, judge or be unkind to myself through my own confusions, I forgive myself.

Song

Balm in Gilead

Led by Scott Lamlein, Tom Neal and Jared Schmidt

Please stand.

Refrain:

**There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again. *Refrain***

**If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, "He died for all." *Refrain***

Please be seated.

Reflection

The Reverend. Susan Pinkerton

Matthew 9:18–26

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Chanting

Led by Scott Lamlein, Tom Neal and Jared Schmidt

Stay with me

Jacques Berthier, community of Taizé

Please stand.

**Stay with me,
Remain here with me,
Watch and pray,
Watch and pray.**

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 Sarah Kieffer

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 of all that is known and unknown, you breathe life into every living thing. In your sacred design of creation, you provide the miracle of healing.

We give thanks for the miracle of healing.

Whatever our suffering may be, we ask for your comfort in our pain. Soothe us with your loving touch. Ease our distress. Give us awareness and insight to cope. Give us hope for restoration.

We pray for ourselves and all those who need healing comfort in the world.

For our suffering from any kind of sickness, we ask you to free us from our physical pain and to anoint us with strength to endure. Fill us with hope for renewed wellness. We ask, too, that you guide the hands and minds of all the healers who treat our sickness.

We call out for your healing embrace for all those who are sick in the world.

For our suffering caused by the actions or inactions of others, we ask that you fill us with your love. Turn out any inclination of anger, resentment or bitterness, lest it take root within us. Turn our hearts and heads toward wholeness in you.

We pray that we may dwell in the trust of your loving healing, and your divine justice for all the world.

For our suffering caused by calamity or chaos, we ask that you touch us with your keen power to see what is truly important. Help us to find the path to a sure solution for our collective survival. Keep us steadfastly resolute within your protective wings.

We reach out to you for the healing power of your vision for our world.

Holy One, you see the brokenness within each of us, in body, mind and spirit. You know the hurting in our relationships and in our communities.

We lift up our hearts and minds to you. Open us up to your healing power and make us agents of your healing in our world. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Read by Mary Cole

Last Night as I Was Sleeping by Antonio Machado

Please be seated.

Last night as I was sleeping,

I dreamt—marvelous error!—
that a spring was breaking
out in my heart.
I said: Along which secret aqueduct,
Oh water, are you coming to me,
water of a new life
that I have never drunk?

Last night as I was sleeping,
I dreamt—marvelous error!—
that I had a beehive
here inside my heart.
And the golden bees
were making white combs
and sweet honey
from my old failures.

Last night as I was sleeping,
I dreamt—marvelous error!—
that a fiery sun was giving
light inside my heart.
It was fiery because I felt
warmth as from a hearth,
and sun because it gave light
and brought tears to my eyes.

Last night as I slept,
I dreamt—marvelous error!—
that it was God I had
here inside my heart.

Celtic Blessing

Led by Molly Loudon

**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 "Healing" in the Reception Room.

Greeters: Molly Louden and John Walsh
Reception Hosts: Rita Neal and Gale Gardiner
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>



Boundless: A Celtic Vision of the Sacred in All Things
A talk by John Philip Newell

July 18, 2019
7 p.m.
Hartford Seminary

This is a special opportunity to hear from John Philip Newell, internationally acclaimed Celtic teacher from Edinburgh and the celebrated author of *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality*, as well as founder of the School of Celtic Consciousness.

Co-sponsored by Hartford Seminary; First Church of Christ Congregational, West Hartford;
and St. John's Episcopal Church, West Hartford

Go to www.hartsem.edu/about/events to register.

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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www.facebook.com/CTCelticWorship.

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