

Service of Celtic Worship
June 2, 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 *Celebration*.

Words of Welcome

The Reverend Dr. Molly Louden

Opening Prayer

Dr. Antony Theodore

Read by John Hardy

I am the singer who sings to the dance of life.
My songs shall be every soul's delight.
Come, dance to the rhythm of life.
Forget the past.
Burn the sorrows to the roots.
Pick up the stars of joy.
Crown with it yourself
And dance to the drums of never ending joy.
Life is a celebration.

Song

Led by Norb Spencer

Drive Dull Care Away

Traditional

Collected on Prince Edward Island,
published versions of text appearing as early as 1775

Please stand.

Oh, why should we our lot complain
Or grieve at our distress?
Some think if they could riches gain
T'would be true happiness
But alas how vain is all their strife
Life's cares it will not allay
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away:
 Away, away, away, away
 We will drive dull care away
 So while we're here with our friends so dear
 We'll drive dull care away.

Why should the rich despise the poor?
Why should the poor repine?
When we will all in a few short years
In equal friendship join
They're both to blame, they're all the same
We are all made of one clay,
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away:

The only circumstance in life
Which I could ever find
To conquer care or temper strife
Was a contented mind

With this in store we have much more
Than all things else can convey
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away:

So let us make the best of fate
Not rendering it a curse
But take it as you would a mate
For better or for worse
Life at its best is but a jest
Like a dreary winter's day
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away:

Please be seated.

Reflection

Mary Cole

Jelaluddin Rumi

The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you.
Don't go back to sleep.
You must ask for what you really want.
Don't go back to sleep.
People are going back and forth across the doorsill
where the two worlds touch.
The door is round and open.
Don't go back to sleep.

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.

Chanting

Traditional Celtic blessing

Led by Norb Spencer

Please stand.

**May the long-time sun shine upon you,
All love surround you,
And the pure light within you
Guide your way on.**

Intercessory Prayers

Led by Sarah Kieffer

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.

We celebrate the goodness of our earth.

We celebrate our families, those we are born into and those we create.

We celebrate our community of Celtic worship.

We celebrate the potential of healing.

We celebrate the memory of those who have passed away.

We celebrate our capacity to hope.

Closing Prayer

Read by John Hardy.

Shari A. Smith*

You are loved by the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Stars, planets, galaxies.

The Creator of oceans and mountains.

The Creator of every miraculous bit of nature.

The Creator who decided the universe needed you.

You are loved. Deeply. Unconditionally.

Passionately.

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.

**See www.shariasmith.wordpress.com. Used with permission of the author.*

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 "Celebration" in the Reception Room.

Greeters: *David Hadden and John Walsh*
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.*



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



Follow us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/CTCelticWorship.

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