Service of Celtic Worship
October 6, 2019

We are a Celtic spiritual community grounded in sacred love, which is at the heart of the Christian message.

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 **Rebirth**.

**Words of Welcome**  
*The Reverend Susan Pinkerton*

**Opening Prayer**  
*Read by Jeff Verney*

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

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life’s desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.
Song
Led by Norb Spencer

CAM YE OWER FRAE FRANCE, Scottish traditional
Words by Kathy Galloway

From creation's start

Please stand.

2. Though the love was there, men would not believe it;
   blinded by their fears, they could not receive it.
   Pride, oppression, hate, ride the world uncaring;
   in the lust for life, we would die despairing.

3. Listen for the voice, it has never vanished,
   though to death’s dark night we had thought it banished;
   hear it through the guns, from the prisons ringing,
   from the long-denied, songs of freedom singing.

4. Hear it from the poor, crying for each other,
   from the sister scorned, reaching to a brother,
   from the wounded heart, touching us in pity,
   hear it from the cross, raised outside the city.

5. Everyone who hears the heart and spirit
   knows the story true, life we shall inherit;
   what we give away shall return completed,
   so the song goes on, evermore repeated.

Please be seated.
Reflection

Tom Neal

from Astral Weeks by Van Morrison, 1968

From the far side of the ocean
If I put the wheels in motion
And I stand with my arms behind me
And I'm pushin' on the door
Could you find me?
Would you kiss-a my eyes?
To lay me down
In silence easy
To be born again
To be born again

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.

Chant

Led by Norb Spencer

Traditional

Please stand.

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 give you thanks, Nurturing Spirit, for our Celtic Community.

Cultivate our awareness of the cycle of birth and death in your creation.

Show us the potential present in our midst.

Grow our capacity to love and hope.

Awaken us to the beating of our hearts.

Heal us all, heal flora and fauna, heal the earth itself.

Bring us your miracle of rebirth.
Closing Prayer
Read by Jeff Verney

On my heart and on my house
The blessing of God.
In my coming and in my going
The peace of God.
In my life and in my seeking
The love of God.
At my end and new beginning
The arms of God to welcome me
and bring me home.

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 “Rebirth”
in the Reception Room.

Greeters: David Hadden and Bruce Louden
Healing ministers: Sarah Kieffer, Jane Cloutier and Molly Louden
Reception Host: Jane Cloutier and Cheri Evans
Setup Crew: Holly Fenn, John and Ann Walsh, Carey Downes, Florence Nicholas, and Eleanor Blake

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

Sunday, October 20, 1:00 pm
Meet at 12:45 at Simsbury Land Trust Tanager Hill parking lot
off East Weatogue Street in Simsbury.

Led by David Hadden. For more info, email David at dhadden@rc.com.
Join us on this short pilgrimage connecting us to the earth. All are welcome.

Many of us feel closest to the Divine when we are in the midst of Nature. Some sense in the outdoors an experience of ongoing creation. For many, the earth, sea and sky in any weather, and at any time of day or night, are transparencies of ineffable Spirit that remind us that we too are part of one universal beauty. This contemplative walk in the woods will be an invitation to listen deeply within to the music and poetry we share with our natural surroundings.

This will be a gentle hike through the Simsbury woods, taking approximately one hour between leaving the parking lot and returning to the same spot. David Hadden will lead the group. While we hope for a lovely fall day, we will be embracing whatever Nature offers, short of lightening or gale winds! So please bring rain gear as the forecast may indicate. We will be on well maintained trails through the woods and well-mown paths across fields. Please bring appropriate footgear. You may also wish to bring water and insect repellent. There is a modest incline at the beginning of the walk.

We will likely walk for a few minutes and then pause for one or more short readings. We’ll ask for silence for part of the time that we walk as a group. We’ll also likely disperse to meander in silence separately, reconvening for another reading and an opportunity for brief sharing ... or not. We want to allow you to be exactly how you want to be outdoors. (We shall only require returning with the same number as set out!) We might conclude with a brief prayer before returning to our cars.

Coming from the East (Hartford/Bloomfield/West Hartford): Proceed West on Rte 185 (Simsbury Road). After entering into Simsbury at the top of Talcott Mountain, you come down the hill past Folly Farm (on your left). Bear right at the fork onto East Weatogue Street. After exactly 1.0 mile, Talcott Mountain Road will be on your right. Keep going an additional 0.2 mile on East Weatogue Street. The grass parking lot will be on your right. The entrance is flanked by stones on either side, but otherwise unmarked. One of our group will be standing by the road to wave you in!

Coming from the South (Avon, Farmington): Proceed North on Rt 10 to the intersection with Rt 185 in Simsbury. Turn right. After 0.3 mile, take your first left on to East Weatogue Street. After exactly 1.0 mile, Talcott Mountain Road will be on your right. Keep going an additional 0.2 mile on East Weatogue Street. The grass parking lot will be on your right. The entrance is flanked by stones on either side, but otherwise unmarked. One of our group will be standing by the road to wave you in!

Confused? Coming from a different direction?: Call David at (860) 559-5894 or email him at dhadden@rc.com with any questions.
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 6, 2019 - Rebirth
Sunday, November 3, 2019 - Welcome the Stranger
Sunday, December 1, 2019 - Shadow
Sunday, January 5, 2020 - Spirit
Sunday, February 2, 2020 - Trust
Sunday, March 1, 2020 - Silence
Sunday, April 5, 2020 - Creation
Sunday, May 3, 2020 - Healing
Sunday, June 7, 2020 - 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
Jeff Verney

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