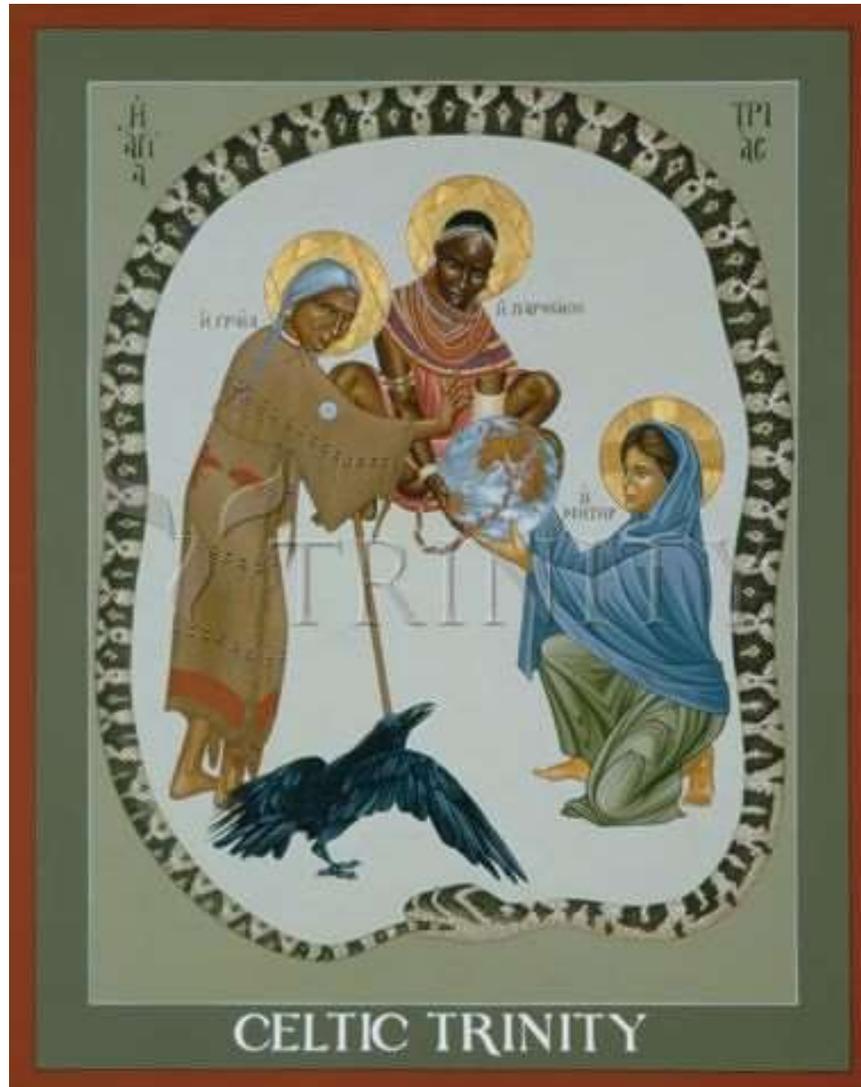


Celtic Spirituality Night



Saturday, August 29, 2020

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

The Diocese of Bethlehem

www.nativitycathedral.org

Welcome- About this Experience

Celtic Spirituality nights at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity are an opportunity to gather for peaceful, hope-filled, reflection, meditation, and prayer in the Celtic Spirit.

What you Need to Know

1. **Find your space:** You are free to find any space in the Cathedral to best receive this experience. This includes the choir area up past the “rood screen” and the altar area. Sit anywhere you feel most comfortable.
2. **Celtic Musical Interludes:** Music will be played for your enjoyment, refreshment and reflection. You may journal if you like, pray, meditate, or just take enjoyment.
3. **A spoken meditation** is always offered typically with a Celtic theme or Celtic influence of experience, world-view, prose, poetry, etc.
4. **Stations** are offered during an extended time of reflection. During this time as and if you feel moved you are invited to visit each station and participate in its theme of invitation. The stations tonight are
 - A. **Mist of Purity-** Psalm 51 “Create in me a Clean Heart”- Visit the mist and take in the scent and ask for God to clean and purify your heart. To Make way for Goodness, peace, healing, wholeness to be offered to the world.
 - B. **Trinity Icon-**The Trinity Icon invites us into union with God. Write on the Index card provided something you long for- for love, for a forgiveness you seek, or an unanswered question in your life.
 - C. **Candles-** are located at the entrance to the Cathedral. Come and light a candle of prayer or thanksgiving on behalf of yourself or others.
 - D. **Healing-** In the side chapel find oils for healing. Take a shell with you and anoint yourself asking for healing and wholeness.



Gathering *Music*

Alison and Tom Gillespie

Welcome

The Very Rev. Tony Pompa

The Lighting of our Lights. The welcome of the Holy.

Leader: The God of love is with us.

People: The Spirit of love is in us.

Leader: Come to us maker of the universe!

People: The one who orders atoms, worlds, galaxies, and all living things.

Leader: Meet us one who reveals all Love.

People: The one who makes right the hearts of all creation.

Leader: Light us on fire with your Spirit.

People: The one who strengthens, redeems, empowers us.

Music for Reflection

Alison and Tom Gillespie

Spoken Word

The Very Rev. Tony Pompa

“Stations of Renewal, Dwelling, Prayers and Healing”

Music for the Stations

Alison and Tom Gillespie

Come now if you desire. Visit our stations during this time of reflection. Visit the waters of renewal, light a candle, receive prayers for healing, visit the Trinity Icon, offer a prayer for the world or walk the labyrinth. You may also sit and reflect.

Concluding Words and Blessing

The Very Rev. Tony Pompa

May all that is unforgiven in you
Be released,
May your fears yield
Their deepest tranquillities,
May all that is unlived in you,
Blossom into a future
Graced with love.

Going forth Music

Alison and Tom Gillespie

Join us next for the next Celtic Spirituality Night, Saturday, September 27, 2020. Please register for in person worship at nativitycathedral.org or watch virtually on livestream.



About the Celtic Trinity Icon, Brother Robert Lenz

From ancient times human beings have responded to experiences with the divine with works of art. They have used metaphor and image to describe what they have “seen.” Individual expressions of personal experiences of the divine have often challenged rigid religious traditions.

The spiritual genius of many ethnic groups through the centuries has been responsible for profound images of faith. Drawings on walls of prehistoric caves are powerful witnesses to highly developed spiritual sentiments of peoples who lived before the traditional religions of the East and West.

The civilizations of the Americas which flourished prior to the arrival of Columbus and missionaries from Europe were routinely destroyed. Images of faith were often condemned before any attempt was made to understand the experience which gave birth to these images of the spirit. Religious authorities, urged by patriarchal bias, were especially fearful of the role of feminine images in these primitive yet often highly evolved cultures. Male clerics and theologians were careful to exercise control over the images to be used in worship and devotions.

Native Americans, Africans, Asians, and early Europeans saw their religious traditions and images cast aside in favor of the Christian images current at the time. Treasures of faith were lost as cultures were systematically destroyed by colonists and conquerors.

A beautiful image from ancient Celtic religious experience was God as a trinity of women. The Maiden gave birth to creation. The Mother nurtured and protected it, and the Crone brought it wisely to its end. A raven accompanied the Crone as a symbol of life and death: though it ate dead things, it flew high into the heavens. The three women are depicted from different races to extend the Celtic image to a more global perspective. The snake was another sacred feminine image. It represented life, fertility, and rejuvenation. Devouring its own tail, it represented immortality.

Feminine images have suffered greatly in the west. Women will continue to suffer oppression in religious society until their images have been reclaimed and honored. These feminine insights can help to present a new healing perspective on the problems that face our modern world.

Some Ministries of service of this Cathedral

Yarns of Love - Blankets and apparel knit in prayer and fellowship and given to sick, the lonely, homebound, and to newborns. For more information contact Sally Snyder at sallymsnyder@verizon.net

Thrift Shop Ministry - Lightly used clothing available to those most in need, profits earned granted to Southside Bethlehem service organizations. To donate, volunteer or more information contact Connie at Church office (Teisenreich@nativitycathedral.org or 610-865-0727)

New Bethany Ministries Meal Center- Preparing Meals for the hungry- The first Tuesday of each month. For more information or to volunteer contact Teisenreich@nativitycathedral.org

Emergency Shelter Ministry- Provides Shelter and Meals to homeless Men . Thursday nights November-March. For more information deaconrodney@cnativitycathedral.org

Food Bank - Bring a canned good or cereal anytime and leave in basket at entry of Cathedral for New Bethany Food pantry.

Hagiography: Celtic Saints

This is a four (4) week series: 09/24, 10/01, 10/08, 10/15
7 PM – 8 PM at Cathedral Church of the Nativity

Join us for a four week session as we explore Celtic Hagiography and the lives and miracles of the Celtic Saints. Over the 4 weeks, you will enjoy the study of the saints and medieval writings that recounted the saints' lives, deeds and miracles, and martyrdom.

A native of Jim Thorpe, Rev. Pompa is the Dean and Rector of the Nativity Cathedral Church. Tony's deep knowledge of the subject and engaging style of teaching will inspire you as you attend the sessions. He also leads a Celtic Spirituality Night on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Nativity Cathedral.

To ensure the safety and health of the class participants, instructor, and staff, comprehensive measures that follow local, state, national and CDC guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic will be followed.

Registration required: https://www.celticfest.org/hagiography_celtic_saints



About the Cathedral Church of the Nativity



WE Seek to Live the Story of Christ as aWelcoming Haven, Caring Community, Nurturing Space for Children and Youth, A Congregation Committed to Serving.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AND BECOME PART OF THE STORY!

Join us Sunday mornings for Worship.

For a full listing of worship times please visit www.nativitycathedral.org

CELTIC SPIRIT NIGHTS TAKE PLACE THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5:00 P.M. IN THIS CATHEDRAL.

For more information about other opportunities for worship, concerts, and ministry to our neighbors locally and abroad visit www.nativitycathedral.org

Or call 610-865-0727

The Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols, Bishop

The Very Rev. Anthony R. Pompa, Dean and Rector tpompa@nativitycathedral.org

The Rev. Canon Dale Grandfield, Missioner

The Ven. Richard I. Cluett, Archdeacon in Residence

The Rev. Rodney Conn, Deacon

The Rev. Charles Barebo, Deacon

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