

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CELTIC CELEBRATION WEEKEND ANNOUNCED



(Columbia, PA. February 19, 2024) Saint Paul Episcopal Church, Columbia, and Saint Luke Episcopal Church, Mount Joy will hold a Celtic Celebration Weekend March 1, 2 and 3, 2024. The weekend will feature music composed and performed by Brother Stefan Andre Waligur, founder of the [Community of Peace](#), a religious community in Louisa, VA.

Modeled upon the Community of Taizé in France, Community of Peace welcomes all people in a beautiful sung-prayer three times a day. Br. Stefan earned his PhD in Christian Spirituality from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. His PhD dissertation is entitled: "Howling at the Moon: the Transformative Spirituality of the Irish Lament." He also earned a Masters in Music Composition from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA and graduate studies in music and theology in Ireland and Scotland. He is a well-known retreat leader and offers concerts and workshops on Christian and Celtic spirituality (having lived and studied in Ireland for six years) around the country. Br. Stefan also conducted Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring for Boston and Portland's First Night celebrations. His music for congregational singing is sung by churches around the country and abroad.

The weekend begins with a concert at 7 pm on Friday March 1, 2024 featuring Br. Stefan on the keyboard and vocals, Davie Krak on the Irish Harp, Valerie Henry with liturgical dance, at Saint Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust Street, Columbia, PA 17512. The concert is free and open to the public.

On Saturday, March 2, 2024 Br. Stefan will lead two workshops on Celtic Spirituality: The Wonder and the Wild at Saint Luke Episcopal Church, 209 S. Market Street, Mount Joy, PA. 17552

During two successive workshops, 10 am - noon and again from 2 pm - 4 pm, Brother Stefan will explore the rich tradition of the Irish Celtic world. The workshops will focus on three things: ancient stories, beautiful poetry, and the lovely music from the Irish tradition. These three things are at the heart of the Celtic tradition. Through song, poetry and story we will take a deep dive into the three-fold experience of lullaby, love, and lament. Hear the ancient cry of the Banshee and the women who keened their beloved dead. The power of their voice will shake you and move you to deeper reflection and healing during this Lenten season.

Following the workshops, Br. Stefan will lead the prayers and chanting of Saint Luke's monthly Taize worship service at 5 pm. A reception will follow the service for those wishing to meet Br. Stefan.

On Sunday, Br. Stefan will be the guest preacher at Saint Paul's 9 am service in Columbia and at Saint Luke's 11 am service in Mount Joy.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, click here:

[CELTIC CELEBRATION WEEKEND](#)