



Amid the stirring sounds of pipe and drum, harp, and voice, the 13th Annual Kirkin' o' the Tartans was held at The First Church in Belfast, UCC, on Sunday, July 16th, at the 10:00 a.m. service. It was a full house including many visitors who had come to town for the Maine Celtic Celebration. The service was punctuated by the voices of those of Celtic descent as they stood to call out their clan names during the "Calling of the Clans." The Reverend Joel Krueger taught the children a prayer written by St. Patrick and led the congregation in the "Blessing of the Bairns" as the children received a special blessing from all. The Reverend Dr. Kate Winters claimed the Celtic tradition as her spiritual home as she shared a message on "Good Soil," relating Jesus' parable of the Sower to our need to cultivate lives from which strong shoots of love and justice can grow. The church was filled with a joyous and thankful spirit as we celebrated our origins and the Christian traditions enriched by the Celtic peoples. Many thanks are due to piper

Al Baker, drummer Carol Baker, and to Celtic Harpist Nancy Schroeder for their inspirational music. Thanks also to pianist Barbara Kemp First Church choir for Rutter.



and members of the Belfast closing our service with the "Gaelic



Maskers and the Blessing" by John

To watch the service on local BCTV television, tune in on Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday at 6:00 and 10:00 a.m., Thursday at 2:00 p.m., Friday at 6:00 a.m., and Saturday at 5:30 p.m. The program can also be seen by going to the church website: www.firstchurchinbelfast.org and paging down and clicking on Church Service Videos, and then to the 7/16/2017 service. For more information about the church and its ministries, call the church office at 338-2282 or email office@firstchurchinbelfast.org. The First Church in Belfast, United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation, open to all.