

Procession of Tartans

The Clergy Tartan
The State of NC & SC Tartan
The Jacobite Tartan
The Battle of Colloden Tartan

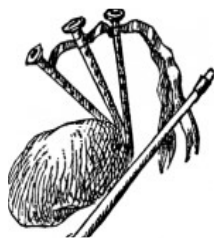
Rev. Stuart Fowler
Samuel Best
Samuel Fowler
Steven Fowler

THE CLAN

Boyd
Clarke
Crawford
Davidson
Erskine
Ferguson
McCarter
McCullen of Lochbuie
McDonald
McLean of Duait

CARRIED BY

Josh Grigg
Carla Clarke
Julie Millar
Nathan Davidson
Karen Elliotte
James Murphy/Mona Davidson
Rhett Clarke
Nicole Best
Cavan Hoose
Shannon Mejia



A warm welcome and thank you to Mr. Dave McKenzie who is playing the bagpipes for our service today. Thank you for sharing your beautiful blessing with us!

Kirkin' o' The Tartans

Kirk is a Scottish word for Church and a Tartan is the traditional dress of the Scots consisting of a pattern of stripes crossing at right angles woven into a woolen fabric that distinguishes the various Scottish Clans. Thus, the Kirkin' o' the Tartans is the traditional blessing of the tartans by the Clergy.

Following the failure of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 led by Bonnie Prince Charles when the English defeated the Jacobites at the battle of Culloden, the Disarming Act of 1746 was imposed by England that forbade the Scots from wearing or even possessing their tartans, punishable by death. The Scottish Clan System, with its representative tartans, was declared forbidden as troops loyal to the Duke of Cumberland and the House of Hanover ravaged the Scottish Highlands, searching out Jacobite supporters. It was during this time that the English declared the Bagpipe to be a weapon of war.

The legend goes the Highlanders hid small pieces of their tartan among their clothing when they went to church, and at a predetermined time, they secretly touched their tartan material as the preacher would say a blessing during the worship service.

With the coming of the 18th Century, many of these Scots faced the Highland Clearances. Thousands of Highland tenant farmers were forced into becoming pioneers in the New World as their former aristocratic lords drove them off their land, so that they could conduct the much more profitable business of raising sheep.

The Kirkin' o' Tartans, or blessing of the tartan, was revived in 1943 by Reverend Peter Marshall, then the Chaplain of the U.S. Senate and Pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. It was his desire to instill pride among Scottish Americans in their Scottish ancestral homeland.

The Kirkin' o' the Tartans ceremony became popular in Presbyterian churches across the USA. Today, the Kirkin' o' the Tartan is not limited to Presbyterian Churches, but can be observed in other Protestant and Roman Catholic services where the ceremony is a great social occasion for people of Scottish origin to congregate and worship God. (Source: <http://www.clansofscotland.org>)