

## ASIC Winter Solstice Ritual

December 21, 2012

### RITUAL SPACE PREPARATION

Circle

*Create altar with green cloth on circular table in center of building.  
Place chalice candle in center. Music Director operates CD player with  
playlist.*

### PRELUDE MUSIC

Director

*Minister blesses the worshippers as they file past her into the building.*

Welcome to Yule, a most ancient rite  
On this Sea Island. The longest night  
With families and friends, we invite  
You... to spin a circle of love in delight.

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minister

Welcome to the Winter Solstice Celebration sponsored by the Ancient Sea Island Continuum, here at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort. Tonight's ritual starts with a preparation of sacred space. You will notice that all the major movements in this rite occur clockwise, imitating the natural motion of the earth, much as a shadow following the sun. Then we will invite the four elements, Air, Fire, Water, and Earth, to watch over our celebration. We will invite Mother Nature to combine with your energies to become the Fifth Element, the Spirit of Life.

As we begin our circle, and again at the end, you can welcome the

feeling, the energies, and yes, the deities we respect. Face the center as we call each of the energies from the four cardinal directions. Listen and you will know what to say. Tonight's ceremony focus on healing the weak and the torn, and the building our families for a stronger worship community.

Now, please rise to open the celebration of the Winter Solstice.

### QUARTER CALLS

We summon the eternal, the gentle, the salty sea breeze,  
To clear our minds, set us at ease.  
To keep all in our circle safe from harm  
We invite your steady grace, your island charm.  
Hail and welcome.

We summon the spark, the blaze, the roasting fire  
To inflame our passions, to increase desire.  
To keep all in our circle loving and warm.  
We invite your fiery will, your dancing form  
Hail and welcome

We summon the tides, the currents, the river flowing  
To wash our souls, to feel time slowing  
To keep all in our circle, in healing emotion.  
We invite your gentle waves, the soothing rhythms of the ocean  
Hail and welcome

We summon the shore, the shells, the sheltering trees  
To keep us humble and wise, to see what another being sees,  
To keep all in our circle, sharing ancient tradition  
We invite your silent gaze, the eerie foundation of your protection.  
Hail and welcome

Here in the Center

*Minister*

In the heart of sacred space,  
In the timeless moment of transformation,  
New life grows from old,  
New life grows within old,  
New life grows beyond old.

*Guide lights center candle*

The fire is lit, the circle is cast, our Winter Solstice rite's begun.  
Blessed be!

Please stand and sing from memory one verse of, 'Deck the Halls.'

Deck the Halls

*All*

## CHARGE OF THE GODDESS

*The Charge is the promise of the Goddess (embodied by the High Priestess) to all witches that she will teach and guide them. It has been called "perhaps the most important single theological document in the neo-Pagan movement".*

Hear ye the words of the Star Goddess, she in the dust of whose feet are the hosts of heaven; whose body encircles the Universe; I, who am the beauty of the green earth, and the white Moon among the stars, and the mystery of the waters, and the heart's desire, call unto thy soul. Arise and come unto me.

For I am the Soul of Nature, who gives life to the universe; from me all things proceed, and unto me must all things return; and before my face, beloved of gods and mortals, thou innermost divine self shall be unfolded in the rapture of infinite joy.

Let my worship be within the heart that rejoices, for behold: all acts of love and pleasure are my rituals. And therefore, let there be beauty and strength, power and compassion, honor and humility, mirth and reverence within you.

And you who thinks to seek for me, know that you seeking and yearning shall avail you not, unless you know this mystery: that if that which you seek you find not within yourself, you will never find it without

### MAGICKAL TRANSFERENCE

*The union of opposites*

*The union of love*

*The Holly King and the Goddess have received our offering. We know that they are glad that we celebrate. It is time to celebrate the mysteries and receive their blessings in return.*

### THE MEANING OF THE YULE LOG

*Guide*

*Each part of the ceremony has an allegorical meaning based on ancient superstitions. The sprig of green, protects the house from 'ghosties and ghosties and things that go bump in the night,' wine is poured into the fire during the traditional blessing of the log. The ashes of the log are used throughout the year to continue to ward off evil."*

*It's unlucky to buy a yule log or candle...*

*There is a custom that in northern lands, an enormous log of freshly cut wood called the Yule log would be fetched and carried to the house with great ceremony. On the Winter Solstice, the family placed the Yule log on the hearth, made libations by sprinkling the trunk with oil, salt and mulled wine and said suitable prayers. In some families, the young girls of the house lit the log with splinters from the preceding year which they had carefully tucked away. In other families, the mother had this privilege. It was said that the cinders of this log could protect the house from lightning and the malevolent powers of the devil. Choices about the variety of wood, the way in which it was lit and the length of time it took to burn constituted a genuine ritual which varied from region to region.*

*The Story of the Holly King & the Oak King ..... Guide*

SECOND SONG

*All*

*"Lament"*

*By the tides of the Moon, by the fire of the Sun  
As I do will, so must it be done. So mote it be*

THE MEANING OF THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

THIRD SONG

*"The Holly and the Ivy"*

*Holly stands in the hall, fair to behold:  
Ivy stands without the door, she is full sore a cold.  
Nay, ivy, nay, it shall not be, I know;  
Let holly have the mastery, as the manner is so.*

Holly and his merry men, they dance and they sing,  
Ivy and her maidens, they weep and they wring.  
*Nay, ivy, nay, it shall not be, I know;*  
*Let holly have the mastery, as the manner is so.*

Ivy hath chapped fingers, she caught them from the cold,  
So might they all have, aye, that with ivy hold.  
*Nay, ivy, nay, it shall not be, I know;*  
*Let holly have the mastery, as the manner is so.*

Holly hath berries red as any rose,  
The forester, the hunter, keep them from the does.  
*Nay, ivy, nay, it shall not be, I know;*  
*Let holly have the mastery, as the manner is so.*

Ivy hath berries black as any sloe;  
There come the owl and eat him as she go.  
*Nay, ivy, nay, it shall not be, I know;*  
*Let holly have the mastery, as the manner is so.*

Holly hath birds a fair full flock,  
The nightingale, the popinjay, the gentle laverock.  
*Nay, ivy, nay, it shall not be, I know;*  
*Let holly have the mastery, as the manner is so.*

Good ivy, what birds hast thou?  
None but the owlet that cries how, how.  
*Nay, ivy, nay, it shall not be, I know;*  
*Let holly have the mastery, as the manner is so.*

## CIRCLE CLOSING

We thank you Great Goddess, the Mother of many aspects. Lady of the Moon, Mother of the Earth, Maiden, Mother and Crone, for attending our rites and blessing us. And we bid you now, Hail and farewell.

We thank you, Holly King, of many aspects. Father of the Hunt, Lord of Death and Rebirth, light and dark, for attending our rites and blessing us. And we bid you now, Hail and farewell.

Silent guardians of the North  
Enduring foundations of our support  
You guarded our rite and blessed our spell,  
We bid you now,  
Hail and farewell.

Flowing rhythms of the West  
Tides that pull us to an internal quest  
You guarded our rite and blessed our spell,  
We bid you now,  
Hail and farewell.

Burning embers of the South  
The fire that warms us all about  
You guarded our rite and blessed our spell,  
We bid you now,  
Hail and farewell.

Blessed sea breeze of the East  
Gentle air that brought us peace  
You guarded our rite and blessed our spell,  
We bid you now,  
Hail and farewell.

The Circle is open but never broken.

*Minister and Guide*

**Merry Meet, Merry Part, And Merry Meet Again**

*Immediately start playing...*

POSTLUDE

*Director*

**Circle of Joy**

Remainder of Music

