

Ancient Sea Island Continuum

*As darkness
now draws near
Feel the cycle
of the year.*



*As light goes
now within
Let the hallows
dance begin.*

Samhain 2013: Piercing the Veil

RITUAL SPACE PREPARATION

Place circular altar in center of labyrinth. Cover altar with black cloth. Place chair opposite scrying mirror. Set scrying mirror on altar. Set two tall candles, yellow & silver, one on each side of mirror. Set pentacle behind scrying mirror. Place athame, boline, chalice, bowl of pomegranates, & bag with small black stones on altar. Have sage smudge stick, feather, & drums.

Place chairs around edge of labyrinth. Place table for Help of Beaufort & UUFB donations inside Building B. Quarters sweep circle boundaries, then...

SMUDGING

West smudges celebrants with sage as they enter circle.

West To join the circle & work arcane
Bring goodness in, leave the profane.
With heart & mind, flesh & bone,
You may enter now the labyrinth.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

West Merry meet!

ASIC welcome to visitors, UUFB announcements, explanation of dumb supper, then

West Let us begin the celebration of Samhain,
With a grounding meditation & chant
As we prepare to pierce the veil!

GROUNDING

Lady walks to center.

Lady Relax & breathe deeply (*pause*)
Take a breath for a count of three,
Hold your breath,
Exhale as you count to three.
Now, plant your feet firmly on the ground.
Think of your feet growing roots into this ground
Absorbing the relaxing energy of the earth...

Now, let us create sacred space by consecrating our circle.

CONSECRATION

Lady We meet to turn the Wheel.
The eighth & final spoke of the wheel.
The ancient festival of Samhain,
On this night, as we form our sacred space,
We perceive the boundaries thinning
Between the visible & the invisible worlds
Souls of either realm might look beyond the veil,
Glimpse the other side, & perhaps, even pass through.

Our Lord, the Sun, has become the Lord of Shadows
The days grow short.
We rise in darkness,
Return home from our daily work in darkness,
And the nights will soon be cold.
Even the Crone Moon is dark on this night.
Yet, fear not, I say!
I conjure this to be a circle of power & protection.
I do call upon the energies
Of that mighty image of the One
For the courage to face the darkness.
Give us the faith to accept & release
That which is finished.
Let our spirits be reborn
In all the names of the Threefold Goddess
& Her mighty Consort
I do bless & consecrate this circle
As a beacon of light & love between the worlds.
As I do will, so mote it be!

All So mote it be!

QUARTERS

Quarters stand & face their directions.

Lady All rise for the calling of the quarters.

East Power of mind & clarity
We seek you now, your truths to see.
Guardian of the Eastern sphere
Now I call your presence here.
Come, East, come,
Be here this night.
So mote it be!

All So mote it be!

South A Southern Watch tower, fiery bright
Now form a beacon, spirit's light.
Guardian of the Southern sphere
Now I call your presence here.
Come, South, come,
Be here this night.
So mote it be!

All So mote it be!

West Western portal, watery deep
Place of mystery, souls do keep.
Guardian of the Western sphere
Now I call your presence here.
Come, West, come,
Be here this night.
So mote it be!

All So mote it be!

North Stable earth, a rampart form
Protect this circle from all harm.
Guardian of the Northern sphere
Now I call your presence here.
Come, North, come,
Be here this night.
So mote it be!

All So mote it be!

Quarters take their seats.

INVOCATION OF THE GOD

Lady Now do I call the eternal God.
I call him in the ancient way, as Lord of Day,
Who, in this season, has become the Lord of Shadows.
Send thy spirit forth through the darkness of this night.
Return from the Summerland.
Pierce our sacred veil with thy vibrant presence.
Flow through the body of this, thy servant & priest,
Through him touch the light of God within us all.
As I do will, so mote it be!

All So mote it be!

GOD CHARGE

Lord invokes God, then lights yellow candle before speaking:

Lord This is the eighth & final turn
 Of the celestial Wheel of the Year.
 Now is the death of the seasonal cycle.
 Your Great Mother has delivered forth Her bounty
 In the harvest of the grain.
 The plants that bore her fruits now brown and wither,
 The Great Stag has fallen, too—
 All these facts are the reality of your life,
 Life that must die so you may eat
 & continue on to another day.
 For truly you must know
 That no ending is forever.
 The final spoke
 The completion of this cycle
 Becomes the emptiness, the zero,
 That contains all potential—
 The seeds of thought, seeds of new beginnings—
 The turn of the Wheel that never ceases.
 Tonight, you must celebrate the darkness,
 For without it, how will you know the light?
 On this night shall you seek
 A new understanding.
 I call upon my Lady
 To share Her grace with us
 And reveal the mystery.

MAGICKAL WORK

Lady takes up black mirror & holds it up as she circles altar deosil.

Lady Here will be our magick.
 On this night when the veil is pierced,
 I charge you to scry into the mirror,
 For it will be the mirror of your soul.

Lady sets mirror on altar then offers a black stone to each celebrant

Lady Each of you, take a stone, a stone of darkness
 Into which you may focus your intent.
 After this rite, during the harvest feast,
 Take the stone between your hands.
 Walk slowly to the center of the labyrinth.
 Sit comfortably & ground yourself.
 Gaze into the scrying tool before you.
 When you glimpse the other side,
 Direct its meaning into your stone.
 Focus it, charge it, & save it there.
 Hold it close to you as you return to the world.
 Keep your charged stone as a sign
 That every ending carries within itself
 The seed of a new beginning.
 For this is the way of life & death & life again.
 All things must die, yet all are born again.
 Everything passes; everything changes.
 Seed becomes fruit; fruit becomes seed.
 In birth, we die; on death, we feed.
 Look to me within the endless cycle & be not afraid.

THE GREAT RITE

Lady Open your hearts & join our affirmation of life.

Facing each other, Lord holds athame overhead; Lady holds up chalice.

Lord Athame to chalice

Lady Spirit to Flesh.

Lord & Lady Man to Wo-man

Lord steadily lowers athame into chalice.

Quarters The joining of God & Goddess
 Brings blessedness to life.

Lady slowly lowers chalice. Lord & Lady place sacred tools on altar. Lady holds up pomegranate.

Lady When the maiden Persephone
 Dwelt in the Dark World,
 She ate of the seeds of this fruit
 And so was bound always to return.

Lady takes boline, cuts pomegranate in bowl, then holds bowl overhead.

Lady Behold the fruit of life,
 Which is death.
 Taste the fruit of death.
 Dance the dirge of death
 Banish whatever is in your life
 That you know has reached the time of passing.
 Feel the presence of the Dark Lord,
 Bid farewell to souls who are passing into his realm

Lady gives bowl of cut pomegranates to Lord to pass around circle. Each celebrant takes a piece to eat. Lord takes bowl back to altar.

VALEDICTIONS

Lady As we begin to close this Samhain rite,
Look not to what is passing away.
Instead, search for insights
Into a future that are as yet unknown.
As the western portal stands open
New souls may pass into incarnation.
So also must you be open to new possibilities.

Lady bows to Lord. Lord bows to Lady. Quarters stand & face directions.

Lord Lady of Light & of Darkness,
Of love & of wisdom,
We thank you within our circle & within our souls.
Hail, farewell, & Blessed Be!

All Blessed be!

Lady Lord of Darkness
And of bright, new possibilities,
We thank you for your presence
In our dance & in our souls.
Hail, farewell, & Blessed Be!

All Blessed be!

East Guardian of the East,
Power of air,
We thank you for clarity gained this night.
Hail, farewell, & Blessed Be!

All Blessed be!

South Guardian of the South,
Power of fire,
We thank you for your beacon of spirit light.
Hail, farewell, & Blessed Be!

All Blessed be!

West Guardian of the West,
Power of water,
We thank you for mysteries revealed at your portals.
Hail, farewell, & Blessed Be!

All Blessed be!

North Guardian of the North,
Power of earth,
We thank you for your strength & protection.
Hail, farewell, & Blessed Be!

All Blessed be!

CLOSING

Lady As the veil is now pierced,
The labyrinth remains here in sacred space
To trace your path with your stone
To & from the scrying mirror.
With perfect love & perfect trust,
We now close our Samhain rite,
As together, we all say...

All The Circle is open but never broken!
Merry meet, merry part, & merry meet again!



Adapted from the 1991 Samhain ritual in Simms, M. (1994). *Witch's circle: rituals and crafts of the cosmic muse*. St. Paul: Llewellyn Worldwide, Ltd.