



June 23, 2013

RITUAL SPACE PREPARATION

ASIC

Arrange chairs in quadrant sectors around labyrinth. Create altar with green cloth on circular table in center of labyrinth. Place all required items on altar (a pentacle, ritual bowl for burning herbs, unscented candles). Each ASIC guide takes a seat discretely dispersed in congregation waiting for announcements to finish.

PRELUDE MUSIC

Time on Your Side

Alan Parsons Project

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcomer *UUFB welcome, visitors, & announcements, then...*

Today, Ancient Sea Island Continuum, the Pagan spiritual affinity group of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort, presents a Celebration of the Summer Solstice. As you share our worship, the Continuum asks you to consider two important ideas put forth by the late influential American Druid, Isaac Bonewits.

First, consider a deity, a direction, or a declaration as a pattern of energy. You may perceive this energy as psychological, cultural, spiritual, or magickal. Second, appreciate the names of these energies as they signify the actions we seek ... and the effects we expect. Today's ceremony consists of three parts.

We begin with our customary Fellowship traditions, stating our Mission and enjoying a Story for All Ages. Then we prepare a sacred space within which we may worship and celebrate using the deepest convictions of our souls, hearts, and minds.

In the middle of the ceremony, our Baritone will sing a solo, "Lord of the Starfields." As we listen to the Joys and Sorrows, we will add your heartfelt energy to special herbs that symbolize our hopes for community. Then we will all sing "Spirit of Life" to bind this energy to our loved ones, and ourselves.

As we begin to close, the magick workers will open the circle and carry the herbs to the oak trees in front of this building. Everyone will follow them, and form a circle around the trees as we burn the herbs to send our goodwill throughout the Sea Islands. Please note that we will collect your generous offerings to help

fund our Fellowship as you exit the doors. Now, let us begin our Celebration of the Summer Solstice. Please turn to your Order of Service and join me in reciting aloud our mission statement.

MISSION

Acolyte lights UU candle on altar.

All Our mission is to create a joyful sanctuary for spiritual and intellectual growth, embracing all souls in a nurturing community from which we go forth as activists for social justice and as stewards of the natural world.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Acolyte invites youth to the proscenium for storytelling. Afterwards,

All We will sing all together as the world turns 'round.
We will sing all together as the day grows long.
We will sing all together growing wise and strong.
In the name of all of our children.
(Children's Song by Sally Rogers)

QUARTER CALLS

After the youth return to their seats, ASIC guides rise from their seats, walk with purpose to the altar, turn, and face each quadrant. East is Air, South is Fire, West is Water, and North is Earth.

ASIC Merry meet!

South walks deosil.

South

Our last celebration, Beltane, occurred in May. It was the union of our fertile Mother Earth with the Green Man, God of vegetation and life. Once two spirits mate, a formal bond results, called a handfasting by Pagans. Handfastings typically occurred in May and June. It is no coincidence that today's marriage ceremonies include many aspects of this rite. Ancient customs required the bride's father to supply the groom with all the mead he could consume for one moon cycle, which we call a month. Mead comes from honey, thus coining the term "Honeymoon" for the couple's postnuptial consummation. After fertilizing and rooting, the seeds of Beltane are ready for cultivation.

Today we celebrate Litha, the magickal Summer Solstice, the longest day of our year, when the seeds sown by the May Queen receive the Sun's blessing. We gather to renew our bond with Earth and ask for the spirits' guidance as we nurture the land, awaiting harvest.

As in most Pagan ceremonies, we adjust our movements to bring Nature and us closer together in the belief that like produces like. Hence, we strive to make the energies flow clockwise, just as we would see the sunlight on the ground shining through the trees. The herbs in these baskets also correspond to feelings we seek here today. Oregano is for protection, happiness, and balance. Sage is for cleansing. Rosemary absorbs negativity. Peppermint is for love and stimulation. As these baskets pass, touch the herbs and uphold these feelings in your space.

Guides hand baskets for each direction, facilitate their passage through their quadrant, and return to altar, holding the baskets.

South With the power of your touch, we invite the four elements, Air, Fire, Water, and Earth, to watch over our celebration. We will invite the Sun God to combine with all these energies and yours, to become the Fifth Element, the Spirit of Life and form our sacred space.

All guides turn toward the center and form a circle around altar. East holds the basket with the herb Oregano overhead.

East Like the Oregano, I bestow a barrier to all that is wicked and impart tranquility. You shall feel only merriment while you welcome the warmth of my fire.
So mote it be!

All So mote it be!

East lowers the basket with the herb Oregano to the altar. South holds the basket with the herb Sage overhead.

South Like the Sage, I focus thoughts and steady the mind. In your thoughts, know peace and happiness. Use my energy as the passion of your life. So mote it be.

All So mote it be!

South lowers the basket with the herb Sage to the altar. West holds the basket with the herb Rosemary overhead.

West Like the Rosemary, I absorb the negative entities of your life, rejuvenate your spirit, and renew your oath.
So mote it be!

All So mote it be!

West lowers the basket with the herb Rosemary to the altar.

North holds the basket with the herb Peppermint overhead.

North Like the Peppermint, I embrace your invocation,
acknowledge your devotion, and fill you with emotions
of love and healing. So mote it be!

All So mote it be!

North lowers the basket with the herb Peppermint to the altar.

South turns slowly while holding the Pentacle overhead.

South Four points of our symbol, the Pentacle I hold,
represents Air, Fire, Water, and Earth, the elements of
Old. We invite the Sun God to combine with these and
become our Fifth Element, the Spirit of All, the Spirit of
Life and complete our sacred space.

Sun rises to proscenium, and invokes the Sun.

Sun Blazing God,
You who are the King of the Gods,
Lord of the Sun,
Master of all that is wild and free;
Father of woman and man,
Lover of the Moon Goddess
Protector of all the Craft.
Descend I pray,
With your powerful rays
Upon this circle, here!

MUSIC SOLO

Lord of the Starfields

Sun steps to altar top. Baritone proceeds to proscenium, briefly explains the affinity of the song, then sings a capella:

Baritone Lord of the Starfields
Ancient of Days
Universe Maker
Here's a song in your praise
Wings of the storm cloud
Beginning and end
You make my heart leap
Like a banner in the wind
O love that fires the sun
Keep me burning.
Lord of the Starfields
Sower of life
Heaven and earth are
Full of your light
Voice of the nova
Smile of the dew
All of our yearning
Only comes home to you
O love that fires the sun
keep me burning

Baritone returns to seat. Sun holds up his hands, and says

Sun I come to you as the Spirit of All for, as the Sun, I fill
your heart with the power of divinity and absorb your
all tribulations.

JOYS & SORROWS

Heidi

Welcomer Within the worship service, the ceremony of Joys and Sorrows is a symbolic enactment of our community's common life. Mindful that there is a better time and place for announcements and opinion, if you want to share happiness or a concern, please come forward to the microphone, state your name, and share your feelings.

After Joys & Sorrows, Sun says

Sun Now the wheel, ever turning,
 Brings us to its height
 Let us turn inward to
 A more perfect state of being.
 May harmony be reflected in our outer work,
 May peace be found throughout this world,
 May a good harvest feed the hungry,
 May somewhere safe rest weary heads.
 And though as the days begin to slow
 Let the warmth of our love be constant,
 And more than that, grow...
 All say, blessed be!

All Blessed be!

Music Director begins playing Spirit of Life softly.

Guides place all the herbs in the ritual burning bowl.

South

We are giving candles (unscented) to everyone. A candle's flame symbolizes the sun's light. It is tradition to light a candle to burn all day during the summer solstice. Though astronomically the summer solstice occurred this past Friday, any day during the next week is considered a Midsummer day. After you start the flame, always in a safe place, do not extinguish it until the Sun surrenders to Cerridwen, the Moon Goddess, thus marking the end of the light half of the year.

South holds the pentacle up again and touches each point,

South

Like the points of our symbol, Air, Fire, Water, Earth, and Spirit of All, Carolyn McDade's song Spirit of Life, touches so much that is central to our faith—compassion, justice, community, freedom, reverence for nature, and the mystery of life. Spirit of Life finds the common ground held by Humanists and Theists, Pagans and Christians, Buddhists and Jews, Gay and Straight among us. Let the elements in her lyrics guide us to a stronger community.

Hold the candle now, resolve to silently purge any negativity or sorrow that may trouble your soul, resolve to ignite the flame on a Midsummer Day, and resolve to feel the Sun's energy and essence replace your candle's light. To impart this energy to ourselves and our loved ones, focus on these positive energies, impart them to this bowl while we sing the most beloved song in Unitarian Universalist fellowships, hymn #123 "Spirit of Life".

All Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

While the song is sung, much magick be worked here in the center...

CIRCLE CLOSING

South Blessed by the hearts of everyone in this circle...
Behold the Spirit of All! ...

All guides lift the bowl of mixed herbs.

South In perfect love and perfect trust, we say goodbye to
the energies brought here today.

Sun Go forth, Sun. Make us free from worry. Our bodies
and spirits are in harmony as we are bound to you.
Blessed be!

All Blessed be!

East Go forth, Oregano, with merriment while we
remember the warmth of your fire. Let your Spirit
billow up and touch our souls. Blessed be!

All Blessed be!

South Go forth, Sage, with focused thoughts and mind. Let
us use your energy as the passion of our lives. Blessed
be!

All Blessed be!

West Go forth, Rosemary, free us from negativities in our lives. Renew our oath with rejuvenated trust. Blessed be!

All Blessed be!

North Go forth, Peppermint, with devotion, and fill our lives with emotions of love and healing. Blessed be!

All Blessed be!

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

Welcomer After we extinguish the chalice, please note, you will find baskets on the way out to help fund our Fellowship. Now, please turn to the Order of Service, and join me in reciting aloud *Extinguishing the Chalice*.

Sun extinguishes the chalice flame...

All The chalice flame is extinguished until once again ignited by the strength of our gathering in community with a mission for justice and our hearts full of love.

South We formally conclude our celebration of the Summer Solstice with the traditional burning of the herbs outdoors. After the processional song, please join us and form a circle around the trees, and experience the rich aroma of our offerings. Now let us all say the traditional circle closing. The Circle is open but never broken!

All Merry meet, merry part, and merry meet again!

All guides process out. Guides hold funding baskets at door.

POSTLUDE MUSIC

Here Comes the Sun

The Beatles

The Celebration of the Summer Solstice concludes outdoors with the burning of the herbs.

