

LAMMAS/LUGHNASA '06

Nature Walk – (3:30 pm with Richard, Elemental West)

Introduction and Meditation – (5 pm with Mike, Elemental South)

Making Harvest Necklaces – (After meditation, with Sandy, Elemental North)

Moot– (6:00 pm, with the Four Directions)

Dinner – (potluck dinner at 6:30 pm)

Ritual

Cleansing --

Calling the Directions –

- EAST:** Old Ones of the East, Ancient Powers of Air, we call to thee this Lammas night! Guard us well through this harvest feast, And turn away all those who'd dare disturb our sacred ritual of light. Grant to us the power of your glorious winds, calming breeze and furious gale, that by our wits we may thrive and prosper in these darkening times. Come, oh Gods of Air, ye who are the Lady's breath; come now, ye Old Gods of the East. As we will it, so mote it be!
- SOUTH:** Guardian of the South, Element of Fire, we call to you and ask your presence this night as we remember who and what we are. We ask that you bring your strength that we may feel the power of conviction. We ask that you bring your passion that we may feel the fire that comes from within, to draw upon it, in honor of the Lord and Lady, and of ourselves and all who walk this path. As we will it, so mote it be!
- WEST:** Guardians of the Western Gate, Spirits of the Rivers and Seas, hear our beckoning. Join us at this Lammas Feast, partake of our breads and meats as we partake of your love. With your cleansing power, hold this circle against the world of those who would misunderstand and hate. Let us never forget where we come from and to whom we return, so mote it be!
- NORTH:** Oh, Guardians of the North, old Gnomes of the Earth, divine spirits of the planet, hear our call. Join this circle with your guiding presence. Ground our energies in the firm clay, dirt and stone of your realm. We welcome your company at this feast of Lugh. As we ask your protection, so mote it be!

Casting the circle - Closed may this circle be / under the protection of the Goddess and the God / Protect and guide us, O Great Ones / For all who are within / Shall be between worlds / Until such time as it be opened. / Great Goddess and God / We invite You to be with us / And ask that You bless us and the first fruits with Your presence at this rite.

Covenant - ***As we gather here in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are joined in spirit.***

Invoking the God – Harvest Sabbat, first of three, first of fruit, and first of grain; we the reapers and trustees, transfiguring the God’s domain, we hail the Lammas, loaf and fruit! The Green God’s death for life salute! He falls to the blade and is remade in seed and flour and bread; no need for grief, He’s reborn from the sheaf! By His life, our lives are fed.

Invoking the Goddess (of Willendorf) – Once I ate Your flesh, Mother. Once I drank Your blood. That was the time of no hunger. That was the time of no thirst. Your cannibal child was happy; Your vampire child, content. Give me back Your heartbeat, Mother. Give me back Your blood. This time I’ll harvest You like grain. This time I’ll pluck You like ripe fruit.

An Invitation to Resolution –

(This is the first of three Harvest festivals that we celebrate; but, there is still time to “weed the garden” before the new year at Samhain. Perhaps we have sown unintentionally some seeds this year that have been harmful to ourselves and others; perhaps we have tossed our seeds onto unfertile ground with intentions not clearly stated. Where are the weeds in your garden? We will pass out paper and pencils for you to write down what you would like to weed out before the new year, or to write down what you would still like to harvest. Keep the note short, and—when you are ready—toss it into the fire with these words: ***I harvest the corn, my hopes are reborn.***)

All: ***The Wheel rolls more, and Autumn returns; cooler the rain; the Sun lower burns. The coloring leaves presage the Year; all things move into harvest’s sphere. I vow to savor fruits first picked; not into grief shall I be tricked. I vow to offer what once I spurred, and face the Turning reassured.***

Blessing the necklaces - (Hold your creations towards the middle of the circle with one hand, extend the other in benediction of all the others).

God and Goddess have given us what we need,
from the meat of the stag to the crop from the seed.
We have toiled and labored now all through the wheel,
bless this proof of our labor revealed.
Let us not fear the God’s passing, for it is nature’s trend;
For every beginning, there is an end.
So we mourn not, but rejoice in the feast,
and pay homage to You, Lord of the Beasts.

(Now you can wear your necklaces, leave them hanging in the circle, take them home, or whatever you deem appropriate.)

Communion – Grain to kernel, wheat to flour; life from death at harvest’s hour. Red the fruit and gold the meal; rebirth begins in commonweal. Hail the wine! And hail the cake! Hail the life we cannot take!

Thanking the God – Harvest God, Lugh of the Sun, we thank You for Your last show of strength in this turning of the Wheel. Your sacrifice feeds us and guides us in love. May we learn from Your example and love our community well. Go if You must, stay if You will. Blessed Be!

Thanking the Goddess – Mother, it is Yourself that feeds us and makes our hearts beat. Thank You for the sustenance, thank You for the love. May Your love sustain us throughout the turning. Go if You must, stay if You will. Blessed Be!

Thanking the Directions –

EAST: Ancient Powers of Air, Old Gods of the East, I thank thee for thy attendance this night. Go if ye must, stay if ye will. By light of day or dark of night, always shall I honor thee.

SOUTH: Ancient Powers of Fire, Old Gods of the South, I thank thee for thy attendance this night. Go if ye must, stay if ye will. By light of day or dark of night, always shall I honor thee.

WEST: Ancient Powers of Water, Old Gods of the West, I thank thee for thy attendance this night. Go if ye must, stay if ye will. By light of day or dark of night, always shall I honor thee.

NORTH: Ancient Powers of Earth, Old Gods of the North, I thank thee for thy attendance this night. Go if ye must, stay if ye will. By light of day or dark of night, always shall I honor thee.

Opening the Circle – They ripen fruit; They ripen seed; the God and Goddess fulfill our need. This circle is open, but unbroken. May we harvest the corn, our hopes reborn. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again! (Woo-hoo!)

Dessert and Drinks!