

## MABON - or - HARVEST HOME Picnic '06

*(On the altar are a white and a black candle.)*

**Priestess:** We praise the Earth who feeds us / and raise the Harvest Home. / the stag with light steps leads us / to dance the season come. / Ash links the worlds entwining / our realms with Gods and Elves. / The bonfire blesses, shining / our food, our drink, ourselves. ~Leigh Ann Hussey

**Priest:** Today we celebrate the Second Harvest of fruits, nuts, vines and new friends. We also remember our neighbors who struggle without. We accept the gifts of the Lady and Lord, we remember that what was sown is now reaped. This is a time of offerings, payment of dues, and enjoyment of rewards. We also need to share what we have with those who have need. The Wheel of the Year is ever turning from life to death to life again.

**Priestess:** The God guides us in the dance of balance and harmony. He travels the path of Nature so that we Know and not Fear the cycles of our being, for balance and harmony are His truths. Now is the time when the God prepares to leave the Goddess and enter the Underworld. He will be reborn at Yule for He is the Sun.

**Both:** "Now the darkness is descending. Light our way, oh love unending. From his dance, let life be reborn, for his death is a beginning. For his dance is just beginning."

**Cleansing:** Toss your pinch of herbs into the cauldron and smudge yourself! Say, "I welcome the dark!"

**Directions:** Let's give thanks on this Harvest Home by recognizing the directions:

WEST - Raging river running wild, / grotto's pool of deepest green, / ocean crashing on the shore, it's hidden depths yet to be seen, / Powers of water rise up with us. Blessed be!

NORTH - Mountains rising to the sky, / fir and cedar, oak and thorn, / ravines deep-green in forest's night, / dusty path old and worn, / Powers of earth rise up with us. Blessed be!

EAST - Rising wind and cool night breeze, / hurricane and vaporous clouds, / the tingling hint of dawn's first light, / mist boiling in a milky shroud, / Powers of air rise up with us. Blessed be!

SOUTH - Balefire crackling on the hill, / ritual fire on an autumn night, / the flickering light of candle's flame, / the glimmering of sunlight, / Power of flame rise up with us. Blessed be!

**Casting:** Great Mother and Father, / we are here creating a sacred space, / surrounded by

friends new and old. / Though you never leave us / our door is always open to you.  
Live in our hearts / and we in yours. We dedicate this circle in your honor / as a  
sanctuary of your mysteries / as a dwelling place for perfect love and trust. / As we will  
it / by your grace / and with harm to none / so mote it be!

**Covenant (Dirs.):** As we gather here in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are  
connected in spirit.

*(Light the white candle.)*

**Invokation:** O Lady of the autumn woodlands / Earth Mother / Crone / keeper of the  
seeds,  
womb of being, / Lord of the Otherworld / Guardian of the Gates / friend and  
healer, / bring harmony and fruitfulness into our circle. / We give thanks for our  
harvest, / for food and shelter, / strength, / warmth and friendship.

*(Light the black candle from the white candle.)*

**All:** We welcome the dark.

*(Extinguish the white candle.)*

**Realization:** Link hands and dance clockwise. Shout out one key goal that has been realized.

**“Shedding”:** Then, dance counterclockwise. Shout out the one thing you would like to  
get rid of!

**Affirmation:** Dance clockwise. Shout out the one issue you want to work on this winter!

**Communion (Dirs.):** Oh great and timeless God and Goddess / we give thanks for this  
season of the Harvest. / We can give nothing / that is not already yours, / yet accept / with our  
love / our offerings. / At this time of joy and thanks, / let us drink to each other / and to the God  
and Goddess / "Harvest Home, my friends / Oh, work until we're done / Soon comes rest to all /  
who labor 'neath the sun / Fill right up / the Vintage cup / and toast the new-made wine. /  
Harvest Home, my friends / for 'tis the Harvest Time!"

*(Pass the cup with these words, "Thanks for Harvest Home.")*

**Devokation:** We thank the God and Goddess for their gifts of love. Hail to Mabon; harvest  
hail! / Blessed be the Goddess' fruit! / Blessed be the hard travail, / and blessed be the living

root. / Bless the furrow, bless the blade; / bless the God, for he must wane. / Bless the table all a-lade, / and bless the Wheel that turns again.

**Thanking the Directions/Elements:**

WEST - Powers of WATER / thank you for the gentle flow / that helps maintain calm / and emotional balance / in relationships. Blessed be!

NORTH - Powers of EARTH / thank you for the steadfastness / and help / in maintaining the home / health / work and comfort. Blessed be!

EAST - Powers of AIR / thank you for the inspiration / that helps with learning and understanding. Blessed be!

SOUTH- Power of FIRE / thank you for the energy / that helps with the drive / and ambition needed to accomplish goals. Blessed be!

**Reader:** May the peace of the Goddess and the God be ever in your heart. The Circle is open, but unbroken...

**All:** Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!