

Mabon 2016 with Treibh na Tintean

“Harmony grows as we enter the dark.”

Prayer before dinner: *[Denise]* “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

Dinner and clean up *[Put small table with bowl of candles in front/center of meditation area. One larger, lit one there.]*

Meditation: *[Scott]* Tonight we remember the Second Harvest of fruits, nuts and vines. 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. 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.

- *[Richard]* Will the men (*bio and/or indentified?*) please step forward and extend a hand to bless these candles?

"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."

[Richard, ask a couple of people to hand out candles and light from a central Brigid candle.]

Process to circle with lit candles

Cleansing *[Danny]*

Casting *[With cornucopia and sickle.] [All]* Great Mother and Father, / we stand here in our home, / our temple, / our sacred grove, / surrounded by Your children. / We, Your children, / invite You to this place. / Though You never leave us, / our door is always open to You. / Live in our hearts / and we in Yours. / We dedicate this grove 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. / Blessed be.

Covenant: *[All]* As we gather here, in our sacred space, a circle is formed, and we are connected in spirit.

Directions: *[Each direction is encouraged to find a Treibh mate to call the direction with you.]*

East -- Celebrate here now together the spirit of Air, in the wind's low clear whistle, the rush of the gales through our hair, the wind's autumn dances that lighten the mind.

- OF WHAT WOULD YOU BE FREED?

- Think it, and let the cool breeze come to lift it away. And the winds of change will blow harvest gifts our way.

E & T – Though many, though different, we stand proud together and call out: Welcome to the East!

South – Celebrate here now together the spirit of Fire, in the crackling of logs and the leaf-smoke, so radiant and warm, the autumn bonfire that inflames the spirit.

- IN WHAT WOULD YOU TAKE HEART?

- Will it, and let the bright flames burn to brand it within. And the fires of fall will empower our harvest desires.

S & T – Though many, though different, we stand proud together and call out: Welcome to the South!

West – Celebrate here now together the spirit of Water, in the patter of raindrops, the damp crunch of the frost on the leaves, the September rains that soothe the heart.

- FROM WHAT WOULD YOU BE HEALED?

- Feel it, and let cool water flow to wash it away. And the waters of autumn will quench us like harvest's rich juice.

W & T – Though many, though different, we stand proud together and call out: Welcome to the West!

North – Celebrate here now together the spirit of Earth, in the scent of ripe wheat, the thudding of feet on firm ground, the harvest time fruits that nourish the body.

- IN WHAT WOULD YOU PLANT HOPE?

- Believe it, and let fertile earth nurture dreams to take root...that all the rich fields of plenty might yield enough harvest for all.

N & T – Though many, though different, we stand proud together and call out: Welcome to the North!

Spirit – Celebrate here now together the spirit of Center—the home of the Divine, the many faces and many names honored in so many ways. We search for the Divine in ourselves and in others. At Mabon, at the Equinox—the balance point of the year—we ask:

- WHO WILL HELP US FIND BALANCE?

- Call clear and proud the Name of the Goddess or God you choose to honor today:

[When the calling dies down, say:]

- And to the Divine immanent in the universe, we call:

Sp & T – Welcome, Spirit!

~mostly Kristin Madden

Invocations:

GOD – [V. Dave]

GODDESS – [Kathy]

The Work: [Sandy] *It's been a tough year—we have had to work hard for every bit of joy, and now—at harvest time—we know we need to be grateful for all that we have, for all that will carry us through winter. We have the time to harvest our crops and to find harmony with each other before the long dark. We have time to remember that when we reach out for the hands' of loved ones—they will be there, we are not alone.]*

[How do we do this? Here is the work of tonight's ritual:

- *We have two bowls of tokens, a bunch of sharpie markers, and some symbols for harvest and harmony.*
- *First, you will each come forward to one of these stations, pick up a token, and check out the symbols. Which one speaks to you? Which one do you want to take along into the dark?*
- *Mark the symbol of your choosing onto your token.*
- *Choose another token, and then go back to your spot in the circle.*
- *This will be a bit chaotic, just like life at this busy time of year.*
- *When all have returned to the circle, we will spend a moment gazing across the circle—there! That one! They are your partner in tonight's work. Go to them, or have them come to you.*
- *Talk: what is it you are harvesting? What are your concerns for the coming turn of the wheel?*
- *Remember those symbols? Discern which one your partner needs—which would help in their work?*
- *Draw that symbol on the second token you chose earlier. Gift it to your friend.*
- *If appropriate, make arrangements to check on each other now and then until the next Sabbat.*
- *Again, there will be chaos tendencies during this work!*
- *Now you have TWO tokens! Hold on tight, because now we spiral dance! We will dance ourselves into our intentions and into the dark.*
- *Chant: "Deep in the earth I go. Deep in the earth I go. / Deep in the earth I go. Deep in the earth I go. / Hold my hand sister, hold my hand. / Hold my hand brother, hold my hand."*

Full moon: [Jenna] As we take joy in our harvest and see the coming season with optimism, we need to acknowledge the energy of last night's full moon. We rejoice in the fullness, while remembering that banishing energy is available to us. Of all the plans we made last year, what is not coming to fruition? What plans are you letting go of, or putting off? Some things planted are not able to grow. Take a moment of thought and form your intention of a cone of power.

- *Chant*: “Ancient Lady, ancient moon, rising now above us—we gather in Your sacred grove, asking that You bless us.”

Communion: “Hail to Mabon; harvest, hail! Blessed be the Goddess’ fruit, Blessed be the hard travail; blessed be the living root!”

Thanking:

God—[*V. Dave*]

Goddess—[*Kathy*]

Spirit – We hover at the balance point of the year, our spirits set for harvest!

All – Thank you, Spirit! Blessed be.

North – The rich fields of plenty have yielded enough harvest for all.

All – Thank you, North! Blessed be.

West – The waters of autumn will quench us like harvest’s rich juice.

All – Thank you, West! Blessed be.

South – The fires of fall will empower our harvest desires.

All – Thank you, South! Blessed be.

East -- The winds of change are blowing harvest gifts our way.

All –Thank you, East! Blessed be.

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

V. Dave's invocation: The Hunter has stalked his quarry alone many times. But he seldom hunts only for himself. Many sharp eyes catch what one pair misses, and many quick hands save what one pair fumbles, so as the days grow shorter, the Hunter combines his skill and strength with that of his fellows that all may survive. For a successful hunt, they must band together and work in harmony, for they support the tribe that supports them in turn as the dark of Winter advances.

As the wheel turns once more, the Father gathers his family around the hearth. The home must be warm and welcoming as kinfolk come together, so the Father carefully ensures that no one is left out in the cold or would rather endure it alone. To survive through the darkness, the Father relies on not just a good stock of provisions, but of good cheer and fellowship, that all the family may breathe easy, knowing they have and are touchstones of harmony.

And over all, the Sage looks and takes stock of what remains. For as the seasons pass, so does much pass with them from our lives. The Sage has grieved for many passings in his time, but he knows what the turn of the cycle brings. He takes comfort in remembering the familiar, but welcomes the potential of the new. In the absence of what grows from the ground, he counsels that harmony grow from within us, so when the light returns, the new may become the familiar.

So seek out and gather support, as the Hunter must to survive in peace. Stoke up the fires of fellowship as the Father must to maintain peace. And cherish both the old that remains and the new that arrives in your life as the Sage must to endure in peace.