

OSTARA '13 w/ Treibh na Tintean

WELCOME: *[Mike]* We come from many different traditions and follow many different paths. Together we can turn the Wheel of the Year in harmony and know that diversity brings growth and new knowledge. Welcome to everyone who comes and walks the path in peace.

[Sandy] “Through the weeks of deep snow we walked above the ground on fallen sky, as though we did not come of root and leaf, as though we had only air and weather for our difficult home.

[Janet] But now as March warms, and the rivulets run like birdsong on the slopes, and the branches of light sing in the hills, slowly we return to earth.”

MEDITATION *[Katie plays the dulcimer.]*

TUNNEL OF REBIRTH *[Questions: Earth—what lies at the center of the labyrinth? Water—what is the secret of the serpent? Fire—what is the kiss of fire? Air—what is whispered on the wind?] [Line up: Sandy and Scott, Joe and Janet, Denise and Richard with Mike handing out the ribbons and ensuring that all folks walk between the sticks of incense.]*

CALLING THE QUARTERS

EAST-- Air that blows idea-songs, / breath of Gaia’s sing-along, / the world exalts with voices ringing. / Air! Take our spirits winging!

SOUTH-- Fire at grow time’s blazing heart, / quickening every living part, / we who dance to fan the flame, / ask Fire! Let partner be your name!

WEST-- Water shining in rain and river, / nourishing one and comfort giver, / we ask of you, oh, mother of flowers, / gentle floods of life-stream power.

NORTH-- Earth, you are both bird and nest, / with spring-song filled and new life blessed. We who call you are living eggs. Earth! Hatch and hold us happily, we beg.

SPIRIT-- Spirit that gives the world its form, / the seeds of life are now reborn / as sacred dark and radiant light. / Spirit, bless this sacred rite.

CASTING: *[All]* We cast this circle as sons and daughters, / spinners and weavers, / tool makers, potters; / as dancers and dreamers, / fixers, changers, / singers and screamers. / We cast this circle with our ancestors and guardians, / God and Goddess too, / you who teach and who speak true, / who plant, who reap, / who soar, who creep, / who cook, who drum, / who have been and yet to come, / unreasonable women, / unmanageable men. / We cast as pagan, druid and witches, / loving hearts or furious bitches. / We are sweet water, we are the seed; / we are the storm wind to blow away greed. / Into this circle we bring to birth the love that reclaims our earth. / So mote it be!

INVOCATION: *[All]* May the strength of the old enter into the new. / Great Lord and Lady, / make all things strong and giving of new life. / Awake! All creatures in the realm of Earth, awake!

Greet the Maiden and her Lover / who herald the coming of spring. / Lady, come to us as the Maiden; / Lord, come to us as the Lord of the Forests. Come help us cast off the darkness of winter! / So mote it be!

SEED CEREMONY: *[Scott]* Spring time is when we sow the seeds; it is the time for us to plant what we want to grow. This is the season of hope and joy, expectation and inspiration. Our lives are brought into balance and we are reborn, resurrected, renewed as is the Earth.

[Mike] What is it you want to plant for the grow time? Write your intention on the piece of paper. *[Pass out paper and pencils, then when all are ready...]*

[Denise] Lady and Lord, let this soil be prepared and fertile to receive the seeds of our desires, to grow and prosper, ripen and bear fruit, as our ideas reach maturity and fruition. *[Pass out peat pots and sticks; take God and Goddess candles around to light "ideas" from flame. Each person drops burning ashes into peat pot, then each person mixes ashes into soil with stick.]*

[Joe] Let the seeds be planted in the ready soil. Blessed be the Wand of Spring and blessed be the Earth that receives it! *[Pass out seeds. Everyone plants her/his own.]*

[Janet] Let's charge these seeds planted in the Mother's womb to be part of the Earth, of Life and of us!

CHANT: Seeds to bury, / plants to rise; / life is born / from that which dies!

[Richard] Let these seeds and what they represent grow to manifestation, as we will it. So mote it be!

COMMUNION: *[Sandy]* The blessings of our Lady and Lord / be upon these eggs / - emblems of the Divine Creatrix, / microcosms of the Cosmic Womb.

THANKING

NORTH-- Spirits of North, bird and nest, thank you for your presence. Give us your blessing as you depart. May there be peace between us now and forever. Blessed be.

WEST-- Spirits of West, rain and river, thank you for your presence. Give us your blessing as you depart. May there be peace between us now and forever. Blessed be.

SOUTH-- Spirits of South, blazing heart, thank you for your presence. Give us your blessing as you depart. May there be peace between us now and forever. Blessed be.

EAST-- Spirits of East, idea songs, thank you for your presence. Give us your blessing as you depart. May there be peace between us now and forever. Blessed be.

SPIRIT-- Spirit, our balance of sacred day and radiant night, thank you for your presence. Give us your blessing as you depart. May there be peace between us now and forever. Blessed be.

GODDESS & GOD—*[All]* We have placed our thought seeds willingly into the hands of the Lady and Lord. Thank you for witnessing our rite and aiding in manifesting our dreams. Blessed be!

[All] Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!!!