

## SOLSTICE '04

### WELCOME

### INTRODUCTION

SMUDGING - welcome the return of the light! (get white candle)

ANNOINTING - stop at the bench before you enter the circle.

### CALLING THE DIRECTIONS -

The Goddess has given birth to the reborn Sun.  
She has brought forth the Child of Promise.  
There is hope again in the land.  
The wheel has turned.

WEST - Watchtowers of the West, Powers of Water--frozen lakes and rimed streams; we summon, stir and call you; please guard our circle and witness our rite.

All - Hail and welcome!

NORTH - Watchtowers of the North, Powers of Earth--tundras and snowy mountains; we summon, stir and call you; please guard our circle and witness our rite.

All - Hail and welcome!

EAST - Watchtowers of the East, Powers of Air--clear, sharp and cold winds; we summon, stir and call you; please guard our circle and witness our rite.

All - Hail and welcome!

SOUTH - Watchtowers of the South, Powers of Fire--far deserts and warm seasons; we summon, stir and call you; please guard our circle and witness our rite.

All - Hail and welcome!

Powers Above: we summon, stir and call you; please guard our circle and witness our rite.

All - Hail and welcome!

Powers Below: we summon, stir and call you; please guard our circle and witness our

rite.

All - Hail and welcome!

Powers of our hearts Within: we summon, stir and call you; listen and learn; witness and guard our rite.

All - Blessed be.

### CASTING

(Moving to the right) Oh Hearty God of Frost whose beard is of shining ice and whose staff turns all to crystal. Your art is not of these worlds. We ask you to be with us. Give us of your sharp joy, the crackling of your laughter, your wisdom and magic! So mote it be.

(Moving to the left) Oh Most Regal Queen of Snow whose glistening jewels glitter about us, and whose sorceries turn all to sparkling white. Shining Empress, your crown is the stars, your mantle is the icy fire of the borealis. We ask you to be with us. Give us of your cold and distant beauty, your wisdom and magic! So mote it be.

COVENANT - (all) As we gather here in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit.

THANKING THE DARKNESS - The darkness is still here. Hold your hand upon your chest--know that darkness will always be within. A darkness of rest. A darkness of promise. A darkness of gestation. A darkness of yet-to-be, of just-before. Do not rush me away so quickly. Take your time.

WELCOMING THE LIGHT - (ring bell) The Holly King departs. (step forward and remove mask) (ring bell) The Oak King is born (step forward and don mask). Farewell to the Dark Lord of the Solar Night. Greetings to the Lord of the Light. May my power be added to the strength of the newborn Lord, and His to mine. Hail to the movement of Time Eternal!

All - Hail! The Holly King leaves with gifts for all as symbols of his love. He rests in the realm of Snow and Ice, awaiting the next turning of the Solstice Wheel. (retreat into circle)

The Oak King comes to us; let us hold His promise in our souls. Through the stages of life, death and rebirth are we shown the Mystery, for there is no death, only passage, and the God holds the torch to light the way for us. Hail to the turning of the Wheel!

All - Hail! God of Light and Joy, held within the Mother's arms, you lift our spirits in the dark of Winter, bringing us comfort and peace. (retreat into circle)

SOLSTICE WISHES - go around the circle and light candles and set in sand while we chant to raise power:

The candle burns, the light returns

When the cone is ready, and we are putting energy back into the ground of our circle, make your Solstice wishes--put them right into the earth where they will be able to "spring up" when their time has come.

COMMUNION - pass the chalice and the bowl with the words, "Welcome back the light!"

RELEASING THE DIRECTIONS -

WEST - We thank thee, Watchtowers of cold lakes and streams; give our blessings to your far realms. Blessed be!

All - Blessed be.

NORTH - We thank thee, Watchtowers of snowy hills and forests; give our blessings to your far realms. Blessed be.

All - Blessed be.

EAST - We thank thee, Watchtowers of icy wind and storm; give our blessings to your far realms. Blessed be.

All - Blessed be.

SOUTH - We thank thee, Watchtowers of far deserts and warm places; give our blessings to your far realms. Blessed be.

All - Blessed be.

Powers of Above, Below and Within--we thank you and bless you for your witness and protection. Blessed be.

All - Blessed be.

May the log burn

may the wheel turn  
may evil spurn  
may the Sun return.  
(ring bell)

The circle is open, but unbroken. Merry meet and merry part, and merry meet again!