

WINTER SOLSTICE '05 with Treibh na Tintean (try-vna tin-tawn)

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION – Richard, “Why some trees are evergreen”

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

WELCOMING YULE -

North: The Goddess has given birth to the reborn Sun. She brings forth the Child of Promise.

East: There is hope again in the land. The wheel has turned. And so the shortest day came and the year died.

South: And everywhere down the centuries of the snow-white world came people singing, dancing to drive the dark away.

West: Let's all say it together, “Welcome Yule!”

(All): WELCOME YULE!!!

CALLING THE DIRECTIONS

CASTING – We cast this circle, time out of mind, to create a sacred space. Under stone and bone, in the earth to wait rebirth, we open our hearts to the return of the Light.

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

INVOCATION - Queen of Heaven, Mother of all, hear us as our voices call. Send Your fire back to Earth as we will the Sun's rebirth. Sacred fire, kindled bright, lead us back into the light.

Boy Child of Promise, come to us out of the tomb, out of the womb. While our candles burn, let Your Light return!

READING 1 – (North and South)

Reader one: The Winter Solstice is the time of people's rebirth from darkness.

Reader two: The old sun dies and the Goddess rebirths the new sun with the new year.

One: Persephone leaves Hecate in the underworld and is reborn to Demeter.

Two: Yemaya creates the world anew again from her fertile womb.

One: Light comes from darkness, growth comes from barrenness.

Two: Spring comes from the depths of Winter.

All: We are here to bring light to the world.

READING 2 (East and West) – birthwatch night of sun / from darkness light / west becomes the east / freezing becomes fire / Goddess Mother Moon / she births the sun / she births the earth / she labors for / the sea and sky / death is granted life / so mote it be.

READING 3 – (East and West) -- circle closes / circle opens / and the oak fire strikes / bright the earth and sun / bright the newborn sea / bright the infant stars / her glowing earth / winter set aside / with new year naming / “everything she touches changes” / as above us so below.

THANKING THE DARKNESS – (North and South) The darkness is still here. Hold your hand upon your chest--know that darkness will always be within. / It is a darkness of rest; a darkness of promise; a darkness of gestation; a darkness of yet-to-be, of just-before. Do not rush it away so quickly. Take time.

DARKNESS, LIGHT and the PEOPLE

SOLSTICE WISHES - go around the circle and light candles. Hold candle in right hand, put left hand on the shoulder of the person next to you 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!"

THANKING THE DIRECTIONS -

May the log burn
may the Wheel turn
may evil spurn
may the Sun return.

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