

YULETIDE CELEBRATION RITE

YULE 2009

LED BY MAX DARKSTORM

CAST: High Seer (HS)
High Priest (HP)
Bard (Turquoise)
Fire Tender (Orange)
Candle Keeper (Purple)
Sage Anointer (Lemongrass)
4 Quarter Callers & Minions
(Green-Yellow-Red-Blue)

PROPS: 8 Rainbow Colored Candles
100 Participants Candles
Torches for Main Alter, Quarters & Entryway
Ruins or Divination Cards
Sacred Yule Bonfire
Salt, Water, Sage stick, Fire
Shortbread (Cake) & Apple Juice (Ale)
Powdered Creamer

GATHERING:

BARD by UU Lanai

BARD: “Hear ye - hear ye. Be it known that the ritual is about to begin.” *(When all assembled say)*
“Let none be here but of their own free will. Be it known that the practice of our ritual involves secrets. Even in this, the Outer Court, share with no one the names of those gathered here tonight. Some of us here prefer their identity remain private.”

“Please silence ALL Cell phones and Pagers or answer to The God and The Goddess”

THE BARD REMEMBERS – *Winter Solstice Tale-“The Cosmic Battle of Oak and Holly”*

“Do you all enter this ritual space in perfect love and in perfect trust?” *(Pause for a response)*
“Any Nay Sayers?
Then, follow me down the mystic path this night and enter this Sacred Winter Solstice Rite!”

(Play Music - Drummers drum something dark)

(Main Courtiers will lead the participants through the Garden of the Shadows (in NWSE order-cross quarters in front). Quarter teams will form an Arch of Pine and all who enter will be anointed and cleansed. Participants receive candles as they enter the Circle. Bard will lead the participants around the circle as the HS and HP stand by the torches)

CLEANSING OF CIRCLE

HS: “As this Circle is cleansed, may it be cleared of any harmful energies.”
(Cleanse the site widdershins starting at the North.) (Use Torch and Sacred offerings)

“Physical Ailments gone depart this Rite, Cast away those demons into Darkest Night;
Banished you are by torches light, Take this our offering and leave our sight.” *(north to west)*
“Emotional Woes depart from this Rite, Cast away those demons into Darkest Night;
Banished you are by torches light, Take this our offering and leave our sight.” *(west to south)*
“Spiritual Doubt depart from this Rite, Cast away those demons into Darkest Night;
Banished you are by torches light, Take this our offering and leave our sight.” *(south to east)*
“Mental Haze depart from this Rite, Cast away those demons into Darkest Night;
Banished you are by torches light, Take this our offering and leave our sight.” *(east to north)*

(Ring the gong three times slowly)

HS: “Hear me ancient ones. We come before Ye on this sacred eve of the darkest night to give observance and remembrance. We honor the return of the sun who dwelled for a time in the great darkness and who brings forth light out on this – the longest of nights.”

(Hand torch to Firestarter who lights the sacred fire)

HS: “I call upon the highest to impart thy essence into this most sacred flame.” *(Drummers drum wildly.)*

HP: "And now, let us begin."

HS: "You are on a journey during the darkest of nights.
In a place that is not a place.
And a time that is not in time.
You have not arrived here by chance,
but have put yourself on this Course long ago.
Tonight we shall travel some of it together.
We are a Miracle, a Mystery, a Joy;
We are quicksilver, A distant sound
A fleeting shadow, Our path has no bound
Beyond which you cannot pass
We live in music, A flash of color,
In the wind And in the sparkle of a star.
We grow in brilliance and brightness
Following the cycles of Sun and Moon,
Glowing in Divine Radiance."

(Vibrating Gong increasing in volume)

(Get sword from Alter)

HS: "Let us now cast our Circle."
(HS holds sword above head)

(HP cast Circle with sword. Drummers drum.)

Chant: "We cast this Circle round and round, by its magick we are bound."

(HP returns to alter.)

HS: "The circle is cast and We freely stand within to greet the Lord and Lady. *(Gong)*

CONSCRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

HS: "It is time to leave behind all that troubles us in the old year. The Darkness has the power to draw it out and cleanse you. Focus now, as we clear this circle and all those present. We conjure ye, spirits of the four elements, by the powers of this sacred blade. Hear me now and attend."

HP: "Cleanse our Circle with Water and Salt."
(HS places point of athame in salt and adds three portions of salt to the water and hands it to Alter#1.)

HS: "Cleanse our Circle with Smoke and Fire."
(HP lights cauldron of sage, lets it flame and smothers it. Alter#2. takes up cauldron and both proceed around Circle.)

(Drummers drum.)

HS: "Let us chant the following."

Chant: "By Water and Salt, Cleanse this place,
Join Smoke and Fire, Creates Sacred Space."

(Alter #1 returns to Alter.)

HP: "We now proclaim to everyone that this, our Ritual, has begun." *(Drumming and Gong)*

HS and HP – *(Flip up Masks)*

QUARTER CALLS:

HP: "My fine people it is time to call the quarters, starting in the North. Let the drums sound!"
(The North Caller walks around the circle and up to the high altar. North Minion approaches the main altar.)

HS: "Let the words be spoken!"

NORTH:

"We call upon the Guardians who dwell in the Earth
Join us in our Gathering of Mirth.

Northern elements witness this rite

Protecting the circle, this magical night.

Hear me ancient ones, Hail and Welcome !!!"

(North Caller and troop return to their station.)

HP: "And now the East. Let the drums sound!"

(The East Caller walks around the circle and up to the high altar. East Minion approaches the main altar.)

HS: "Let the words be spoken!"

EAST:

"We call upon the Guardians who dwell in the Sky
Join us in our Holiday Cry.

Eastern elements witness this rite

Protecting the circle, this enchanted night.

Hear me ancient ones, Hail and Welcome !!!!"

(East Caller and troop return to their station.)

HP: "And now the South. Let the drums sound!"

(The South Caller walks around the circle and up to the high altar. South Minion approaches the main altar.)

HS: "Let the words be spoken!"

SOUTH:

"We call upon the Guardians who dwell in the Fire
Join us by our Yuletide Pyre.

Southern elements witness this rite

Protecting the circle, this sacred night.

Hear me ancient ones, Hail and Welcome !!!!"

(South Caller and troop return to their station.)

HP: "And finally the West. Let the drums sound!"

(The West Caller walks around the circle and up to the high altar. West Minion approaches the main altar.)

HS: "Let the words be spoken!"

WEST:

"We call upon the Guardians who dwell in the Sea
Join us in our Festivity.

Western elements witness this rite

Protecting the circle, this mystical night.

Hear me ancient ones, Hail and Welcome !!!!"

(West Caller and troop return to their station.)

(Draw the Cosmic Lemniscate with the wand over the Alter.) (Set down wand and raise athame in both hands overhead:)

HS: "Hail to the Elementals! Welcome Lady and Lord to this rite. We stand between the worlds with love and power all around!"

(Ring the gong three times slowly)

HP: “We are here to conjure the essence of Mithra (Master of Renewal) and Hecate (Mistress of nocturnal Prophecy). Mighty spirits of the season, known within the legends of the World. Bring to us your Joy and Merriment.”

HS: “Blessed are the Lord and the Lady who turn the mighty Wheel. Welcome The Yule for the turning point of Winter is here at last. The end of the Solar Year has come, and a New Solar Year begins. The Dark God departs as the new Light God is born; the Crone delivers Him. Hail the Mystery of Sage and Babe, of Crone and Mother!”

Statement of purpose:

HP: “This day is a new beginning, and We send our power forth into union with the energies of the Sun God, that the Sun’s rekindles our strength as the rays rekindle the warmth of the earth.

This new fire is lit to bid farewell to the Dark Lord of the Solar Night and greet the Lord of Light, seen in the rebirth of the Invincible Sun. May our power be added to the strength of the newborn Lord, and His to us.”

HS: “Hail to the God of Light and Joy! Hail to the movement of Time Eternal! The Lord of Light brings us gifts for all as symbols of His love.

HP: “As a symbol of His gifts, we will now light the eight candles representing the diversity of Light, each having a gift to share with the world. Remember as each gift is given, one is also received. What we send, returns to us.”

HS: “Candle Bearers if you will please gather at the Sacred Fire so it may bestow Lights’ divine gifts on you and in turn that you may than share it with us.”

(Drummers drum.)

YULETIDE RITUAL

(All 8 candle bearers will proceed forward to the main bonfire with candles held high-drummers drumming softly. In unison, circle to the left and walk one full turn around bonfire. Red will lead the rest to the main altar lining up in rainbow order. Then each candle bearer will light their candle while reading their part before returning to their area and start to light the candles in their color group/area beginning with the person directly behind them)

(As each sections candle is lit, pass the flame from candle to candle until reaching the next color area)

**“We light the RED candle for RESPECT:
We Respect the importance and dignity of every being
Respect your World, Respect your Neighbor, Respect Yourself.”** *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

**“We light the ORANGE candle for OFFERING:
We Offer our skills and assistance to those in need
Offer your Help, Offer your Talent, Offer Yourself.”** *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

**“We light the YELLOW candle for YEARNING:
We Yearn to improve our lives and well-being
Yearn for Peace, Yearn for Happiness, Yearn to improve Yourself.”** *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

**“We light the LEMONGRASS candle for LOVE:
We Love the divine and the blessing that are given
Love your Gifts, Love your Spirit, Love Yourself.”** *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

**“We light the GREEN candle for GROWTH:
We Grow each day as we journey through life
Grow within your Limitations, Grow within your Challenges, Grow within Yourself.”** *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

**“We light the TURQUOISE candle for TRUST:
We Trust in the strength of the immortal soul
Trust your Feelings, Trust your Friends, Trust Yourself.”** *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

**“We light the BLUE candle for BELIEF:
We Believe in the ability to change the future.
Believe in Ideas, Believe in Dreams, Believe in Yourself.”** *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

**“We light the VIOLET candle for VALUE:
We Value the kind and fair treatment to all
Value your Freedom, Value your Life, Value Yourself.”** *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

Energy-channeling-releasing (Waves Of Light-Dancing Fire)

HS: “Let us now create in unison a wave of light. Candle Bearers surround the Sacred Flame so that all may see a demonstration of our Spiral Dance of Light.”
(Candle Bearers go to the Fire and raise and lower their candles one at time circling the fire 3 times)

HS: “Now, as I point to you, please raise and lower your candle-Slowly.”
(HS slowly circles the crowd sunwise and points to the crowd spiraling closer to the fire each time around)

HS: “Feel the essence in this holiday wreath of energy we have created. Let us raise it up and send it forth into the universe. Let us now dance around the fire. When you are ready, cast your candle into the fire and send out an intention for the New Year.”

(Dance music)

**HS: “May this Yule Fire bring light to all the world. Good Health, Good Cheer and Good Fortune in the coming year!
That as We will, So Mote It Be!”** *(Lots of Drumming and cheering)*

HS: “The God of Light 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. God of Light and Joy, held within the Mother’s arms, the radiance of thy face lifts our spirits in the dark of Winter, and brings us comfort and peace.”

(Ring the gong)

CAKES & ALE

HS: "We affirm the joy of the Divine Union and acknowledge Their blessings unto us. We know our needs and offer our gratitude to that which sustains us. May we ever remember the blessings of our Lady and our Lord of whom both dwell within us."

HS: & HP:

"I am He and I am She;
We are One, who dwell in thee,
Lord and Lady, live or dead;
Light and Dark, bound and wed.

Call us Earth, or Call us Sky;
Male or Female, live and die,
Call us Moon, or Call us Sun;
Symbols of the seasons run.

Grace and Power is our name;
We are two, and yet the same,
Eternal essence, start to end;
Dance apart and then re-blend.

Rites of passage mark the way;
Human souls in earthen clay,
Birth through life, and then beyond;
Swimming round the spiral pond.

Life to life and on it flows;
Energy learns and then it grows,
Souls with need may be reborn;
Time is timeless in our form."

HS: "As this Cup is to the Chalice;"

HP: "So is this Knife to the Blade,"

HS & HP: "Sacred is this union; We both have made."
(HS holds the chalice. The HP places his athame in the goblet.) (The bell is rung three times.)

HP: "And now it is time for cakes and ale. Quarter teams please approach the altar."
(Cakes are distributed by Quarter Teams. Each team concentrates only upon their own quarter.)

HS: "Great Lady, our thanks to you.
We give you back what is your due." *(HS pours a small amount of ale onto the earth.)*

HP: "Great Lord, our thanks to you.
We give you back what is your due." *(HP picks up one cake from the altar and crumbles it to the ground.)*

*(HP picks up a cake in each hand and feeds one to HS.) (HS shares the Chalice and separates the goblet.)
(Both salute the visitors and drink.)*

HP & HS: "Eat, drink, and be merry, as delighted as we.
Share and give thanks. So mote it be."

(Drumming. HS & HP steps to fire. All toss cups into the fire.)
HP: "Paper cups into the fire!" *(More Drumming.)*

HS: It is now time to bid farewell to our Holiday Spirits.

HP: Spirits, Thank you for joining us with your presence here in our Circle this evening. Go if you will, Stay if must.

HS: **Let the drums sound!** WHAO !!!

HP: And now, it is time to bid farewell to the elementals, starting with the North.

HS: **Let the drums sound!**

(North Caller and troop circle to high altar.)

HS: Let the words be spoken!

(North Caller) "Farewell, Guardians who dwell in the Earth,
We thank you for attending our Gathering of Mirth.
Go if you will, stay if you must this night,
Blessed be to all attending this rite.
So mote it be! "

(North Caller and troop return to their station. West Caller and troop circle to high altar.)

HS: Let the words be spoken!

(West Caller) "Farewell, Guardians who dwell in the Sea,
We thank you for adding to our Festivity.
Go if you will, stay if you must this night,
Blessed be to all attending this rite.
So mote it be! "

(West Caller and troop return to their station. South Caller and troop circle to high altar.)

HS: Let the words be spoken!

(South Caller) "Farewell, Guardians who dwell in the Fire,
We thank you for warming our Yuletide Pyre.
Go if you will, stay if you must this night,
Blessed be to all attending this rite.
So mote it be! "

(South Caller and troop return to their station. East Caller and troop circle to high altar.)

HS: Let the words be spoken!

(East Caller) "Farewell, Guardians who dwell in the Air,
We thank you for attending our Joyous Fair.
Go if you will, stay if you must this night,
Blessed be to all attending this rite.
So mote it be! "

(East Caller and troop return to their station.)

HS: Merry did we meet, merry do we part, and merry will we meet again.

The Circle is cleared and The ritual is ended!

Blessings have been given, and blessings have been received.

So Mote It Be!

HP: Merry Yule to All and to All a good night. Come now Bard and lead us in a song to complete this rite.

(Sung)

HP and All: "May the Circle be open, but unbroken
May the peace of the Goddess be ever in your heart,
Merry Meet and Merry Part, and Merry Meet again."