

**Yule, Sunday, 12/17/17, 1:30-5:39 P.M.**

Women arrive, place food and journals in house - Wendy directs everyone on mundane items. Women come to back patio for entering sacred space

Beth welcomes and blesses women while brushing with feathers. Susie offers scented oil to those who wish. Women come back from the VOID into sacred space at Oak Tree.

Women play bells and singing bowls while waiting for everyone to arrive in sacred space.

Directions are called in and sacred circle is open.

Beth -- talks about Oak Tree

We circle the Oak in honor of her strength and resilience, her roots that go deep and wide, her branches that reach the sky and show their green -- her seeds, the acorn so beautiful, so nourishing, so small but so mighty and powerful in its potential to create large life.

Song: My Roots Go Down

Beth -- talks about the significance of spiral

To ancient people the spiral was a symbol of the Goddess and her transformative powers. The spiral is a fundamental form in nature. It is a vortex of energy allowing us to connect with our deepest selves, the web of life, and the Divine. The spiral is a symbol of winter hibernation when during the cold months we turn inward for a time of reflection and to nourish our seeds of intention. But the same spiral that leads us downward and inward also leads us upward and outward to the light of spring.

Susie -- everyone circles around Oak Tree being led into the Spiral Dance

Song: Spiraling Into the Center

Break as everyone enters house.

\_\_\_\_\_ -- Poem -- Pulsing Indigo Now, by Cathy Caspar (2007)

Now pulses forward

Velvet black gives way to indigo, to lavender, to creamy blue

The events of the day nestled against themselves, so many petals tight in the bud

It's in the nature of stars to release heat and light in streaming bursts

It's in the nature of planets to circle and spin, to give and take in their turning journey

It's in the nature of plants to open and blossom, to close in seed, to release fragrance and beauty

It's in our nature to set up and take down, to act out and go deep within

To go deeper within to find the precious state of awareness to celebrate the pulsing now

Susie -- Poem -- The Shortest Day, by Susan Cooper - see attached

Wendy -- guided meditation through warm water to gain meditative head-space. Small blessing for insight and clarity

Susie -- Permission Slips (Beth and Wendy pass out permission slips)  
At this season of darkness, it can be a radical act to be optimistic. The natural world is devoid of color, of hope and light. We are asked to find the fire within to sustain ourselves. In coming together today to celebrate the solstice we remember the promise of the returning light, and of paying attention to our emotions and unspoken yearnings.

It's common for many of us to overextend ourselves with obligations to others, in terms of time, or financially or energetically. It is difficult to say no. But this solstice is the perfect time to slow down, to stop, to be alone with

our thoughts, recognizing our own desires. Right now, you have no one to please, nothing that has to get done.

We'd like you to take a moment to settle in, slow down your thoughts.

Forget your to-do list, who you're meeting when you leave here, what you must get done before the day is over. Wait patiently.

With lives full of responsibilities it's easy to skip doing things for ourselves because we're always so busy. It's as though we need permission to do what we want to do. To that end, Beth and Wendy are passing out permission slips.

We'd like you to take some time now to fill out your permission slips. I would encourage you to be as wild and carefree as you can. What's your heart asking of you? What is it you need to grant yourself permission to do this new year?

Wendy -- Candle wishes

Thanks Goddess for insight and clarity. Guides group through 3 wishes (clockwise).

Hecate -- black candle -- what is ending

Persephone -- white candle -- what is beginning

Demeter -- red candle -- what is our intention for the coming year

All red candles are placed on North alter to burn

Break

Beth -- Group sharing going clockwise around the circle using talking stick.

Closing directions and Songs

Wendy -- poem -- Let's Dance -- Music

Feasting

## **Calling in the Directions, Yule 2017**

(Wendy) North

Come ye spirits of the North, powers of Earth. Your bounty sustains us through the winter. Be with us as the silent cavern, a place of renewal. Be with us this Yule.

(Chorus) Be with us this Yule.

(Susie) East

Come ye spirits of the East, powers of air. Sail on crisp winter wings as you bring the golden dawn. Be with us as a clear night sky. Be with us this Yule.

(Chorus) Be with us this Yule.

(Beth) South

Come ye spirits of the South, powers of fire. Bring the heat of the flame to warm our hearts. Be with us as a welcoming hearth. Be with us this Yule.

(Chorus) Be with us this Yule.

(Susie) West

Come ye spirits of the West, powers of water. You nourish the Earth and bathe us in sweet rains. Be with us as a quiet snowfall. Be with us this Yule.

(Chorus) Be with us this Yule.

(Wendy)

Great Mother Goddess, provider of all Life. Lady of Heaven and Earth, bring forth you sun. Transform the light. Be with us this Yule.

## **The Shortest Day**

And so the shortest day came and the year died  
And everywhere down the centuries of the snow-white world  
Came people singing and dancing,  
To drive the dark away.  
They lighted candles in the winter trees;  
They hung their homes with evergreen;  
They burned beseeching fires all night long  
To keep the year alive.  
And when the new year's sunshine blazed awake  
They shouted, reveling.  
Through all the frosty ages you can hear them  
Echoing behind us --- listen!  
All the long echoes sing the same delight  
This shortest day.  
As promise wakens in the sleeping land:  
They carol, feast, give thanks,  
And dearly love their friends,  
And hope for peace.  
And now so do we, here, now,  
This year and every year.  
Welcome Yule!

*By Susan Cooper*

## **Closing Yule 2017**

(Wendy) Great Mother, who gives birth to the Light and gives our world form, thank you for your presence this Yule. We ask for your blessings as we return to the mundane. We bid you farewell.

(Chorus) We bid you farewell. Blessed Be.

(Susie) West - Spirits of the West, of waters that fill the rivers, lakes and oceans, thank you for your presence this Yule. We ask for your blessings as we return to the mundane. We bid you farewell.

(Chorus) We bid you farewell. Blessed Be.

(Beth) South - Spirits of the South, of fire that provides for new beginnings, thank you for your presence this Yule. We ask for your blessings as we return to the mundane. We bid you farewell.

(Chorus) We bid you farewell. Blessed Be.

(Susie) East - Spirits of the East, of air and the precious breath of life. Thank you for your presence this Yule. We ask for your blessings as we return to the mundane. We bid you farewell.

(Chorus) We bid you farewell. Blessed Be.

(Wendy) North - Spirits of the North, of Earth that sustains us. Thank you for your presence this Yule. We ask for your blessings as we return to the mundane. We bid you farewell.

(Chorus) We bid you farewell. Blessed Be.

(Wendy) As we close our circle this Yule, take time to reflect on the season and on your precious Light. As our Mother Earth turns through the cycles of the seasons so the cycles of our lives turn. May love and joy remain in your hearts as the warmth of the sun returns to us.