*Spring 2017 Ritual: Each woman was blindfolded and led into a “womb” by 2 of the facilitators. Facilitators alternated reading these.*

4 Blessings:

**1st**

Now the dark half of the year is passing.
Now do the days grow light and the Earth grows warm.
That which has slept in darkness, awakens, stirs, and swells

The Gate of the South is open. Its passionate flame warms Earth’s womb to quicken her seeds.

**2nd *(fan the women as you do this one)***

You are part of the great rhythm of life.  As the Mother is reborn in spring, so are you.

Breathe in the lushness of your aliveness, your power and vitality.

The Gate of the East is open blowing its sacred air, tickling into awareness the freshness of new beginnings, new possibilities, new life.

**3rd:** *(water on their hands and throat)*

You begin with the wisdom of your crone self and the wisdom of all crones that came before. This wisdom flows through your umbilical cord to guide you to this new day, new journey. With love, compassion and playfulness, the Gate of the West opens to send its cleansing waters to nourish and hold you in the buoyancy of her amniotic fluid. From this you receive essential nourishment to grow and thrive.

**4th:**

Know that your own body holds all the wisdom of the earth.  You and she are always connected. From this knowing you have the power to gather to you, your family of Now. The Gate of the North is open providing a secure foundation to plant your roots and grow.

*After she is lying down and the sheet is over her…*

You are in your womb. Relax and ask yourself, who are you attached to? Who is in your family of Now? Who do you love? Who do you trust? What possibilities can grow and thrive surrounded and nurtured by these loved ones?

*If we do this last part after they lie down, the woman next to her will keep hearing the questions.*