

All participants will be equipped with an unlit candle to carry.

Lay the fire pit in advance so that it can be lit quickly

All enter the circle before the fire is lit and gather round the fire pit. Attendant is ready to light the fire.

Off1 or East: Now is the Great Darkness in the Cave of Night

We have withdrawn to this place and eluded our enemies:
Oppression, Want, Unearned Authority and Unrestrained Avarice.

Here we will rest and light a small fire

Off2 or South: Here in the darkness, we will rest and take our ease and our wounds will be healed, our weariness will be washed from us, our broken hearts will be eased. For in the long night there is healing and comfort.

Off1 or West: In this Darkness, we will abandon the burdens that have slowed us, leave behind Fear, and Despair, Undeserved Guilt and Self-Hatred. These things we will burn in our fire. The Enemy may find their ashes, but our tracks will be lost in the dark and snow. He will not find us.

Off2 or North: In this Darkness, we are as unborn children in our Mother's womb. In the morning, we will walk out as new people: warriors of the Dawn, tricksters, wonder-workers, builders and healers.

The Enemy will not know us.

Attendant lights the fire

East: Out of the brisk swift Air

From the White Winds and the rising of the day,

From the fleeting bright maiden and dawn, I come to open the East.

By the Lord Merlin, May nothing disturb our rite here.

Lights candle

South: Out of the warm Sun's Light

From the green vasty jungles and white stone Temples

From the half-known Gods and day, I come to open the South.

By the Lord Arthur, May nothing disturb our rite here.

Lights candle

West: Out of the chill still Water

From deep blue oceans and the setting of the sun

From the wave-washed Mother and dusk, I come to open the West.

By the Lady Morgan, May nothing disturb our rite here.

Lights candle

North: Out of the frozen cold Stone

From the black sky of stars and the snow covered lands

From the lone oldest Woman and night, I come to open the North.

By the Lady Gwynhyfar, May nothing disturb our rite here.

Lights candle

OFF1: We stand now between the worlds, before the veil of the mysteries:

East: On this, the shortest day of the year, we celebrate the life that lives within each of us.

South: We celebrate the power that we raise in this circle to honor the turning of the year.

West: We celebrate the friendship that is stretched over many miles of this Earth, and yet does not break.

North: We celebrate the death of the Sun and his rebirth, on this longest Night.

All: The death of the Sun, on this longest night.

Powerful Song **

Dm G

Powerful song of radiant light

Am Em

weave us the web that spins the night

Dm Am

Web of stars that holds the dark

Am G Am Dm

Weave us the Earth that feeds the spark

Descant:

Strand by strand, hand over hand

Thread by thread we weave our web

******- Pandora, Starhawk, Rose May Dance

All: And the Sun's rebirth, on this longest night.

The Simple Feast.

Off2 (passing the cakes): Take, and eat. This is the bread of the morning, the food baked before dawn.

Off1 (passing the wine): Take, and drink. This is the wine of the evening, the drink pressed after dark.

Now all return to the central altar. A number of small candles are placed there

(everyone should bring some!) One by one, the candles are lit by the celebrants, going clockwise from the North. As each candle is lit, say:

"Light is my promise for the New Day."

Or some other phrase of your own devising.

OFF1: And so the Shortest Day came and the Year died,

And everywhere down the centuries of that snow white world came people

Singing, Dancing

To drive the Dark away.

They lighted candles in the winter trees

They hung their homes with evergreens

They burned beseeching fires, all night long

To keep the Year alive

And when the new Year's sunshine blazed awake, they shouted

Reveling!

Off2: 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 awakens in the sleeping land

They carol, feast, give thanks, and dearly love their friends,

And hope for peace.

And so do we, here, now

This year and every year: Welcome Yule!

All: Welcome YULE!

Magic or stories or other Magick

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The Circle is opened:

North: Thanks be to the stone and snow and stars

West: Thanks be to the sea and the shells and the dusk.

South: Thanks be to the fire and the trees and the day.

East: Thanks be to the air and the winds and the dawn.

OFF1: The circle is open, yet never broken. Merry meet, and merry part,
and merry meet again.