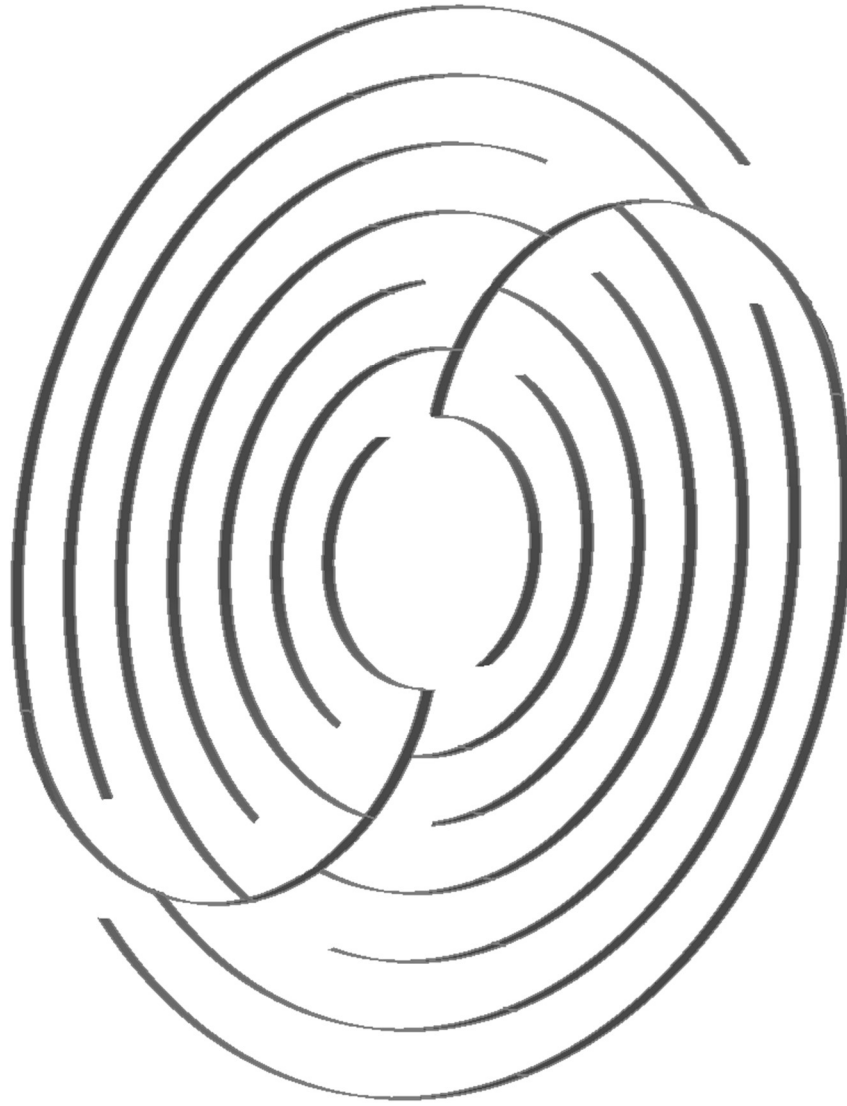


Ancient Sea Island Continuum



Samhain 2014: The Remembrance

With the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort

RITUAL SPACE PREPARATION

The Column of Memories stands in the center of the Labyrinth inside

Building A. Small card size pieces of paper with burned edges & a pen for writing names are on the table along with tacks. Folding chairs fill the corners of the room. More folding chairs fill the space between Building A & Building B. A public address system & lectern are in the front of the chairs. Outside, Guides & Quarters sit near front. If they haven't already done so, Welcomer advises worshippers as they enter the outdoor seating area to take a piece of paper, write down the name of a loved one to honor, & pin it to the Column of Memories before the service begins. A chalice ready to be lit sits on the railing.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcomer rings the singing bowl to center attention, then after a period of quiet, follows with UUFB welcome & announcements, then ...

Welcomer Today, Ancient Sea Island Continuum, the Earth-Centered Spiritual Affinity Circle of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort, presents *Samhain, The Remembrance*.

We begin with customary UU Fellowship practice. First, we will state our Mission, & enjoy a *Story for All Ages*. Next, we will listen to our brothers & sisters in community who have joys and/or concerns to share. Then, while we give & receive this morning's offering, the Continuum will prepare a sacred space in our labyrinth: a path symbolizing a walk we one day will all encounter. To fully engage our Nature-based patterns of worship, the Continuum asks you to consider the terms we use, such as spirits or compass directions, as declarations of energy. You may assume these energies are either psychological, cultural, or spiritual.

If you journey along with us today, whichever assumption allows you to trace this path, we ask that you do so warmly using the deepest convictions of your hearts, minds, & souls. Now, let us begin *Samhain, The Remembrance*. Please turn to your ASIC booklets & join me in reciting aloud our mission statement.

MISSION STATEMENT

Welcomer invites fellow worshipper to light UU chalice on sill.

All **Our mission is to create a joyful sanctuary for spiritual & intellectual growth, embracing all souls in a nurturing community from which we go forth as activists for social justice & as stewards of the natural world.**

STORY FOR ALL AGES

The Troll-Tear

D. J. Conway

CHILDREN'S SONG

In the Name of All Our Children

Sally Rogers

All **We will sing all together as the world turns round.
We will sing all together as the day is long.
We will sing all together growing wise & strong
In the name of all of our children.**

JOYS & SORROWS

Minister

Within our worship service, the ceremony of Joys & Sorrows reflects our community's belief: A pleasure shared is a pleasure doubled, & a trouble shared is a trouble halved.

OFFERING

Minister

Our Fellowship encourages all of us to grow more generous in spirit & in action. Let the fire of the longest days of the year inspire your generosity of spirit. If you are visiting us for the first time, please let the basket pass by. To the members of our Fellowship, I invite you to exercise generosity of spirit. With your offering that helps build this self-supporting church, we gratefully receive your gifts.

REMEMBRANCE

ASIC enters the labyrinth to prepare the circle.

Guide

Those of us left behind shall indeed mourn our loved one's death. May we also know in our hearts, that they are in some way made whole again, whether we sense that their spirits returns to the divine, sustaining source from whence they came, or only that their bodies return to the earth, to the simple elements from which they are made, to be born anew in other forms of earthly life.

We shall cry, but we shall also laugh, for we shall celebrate the Life that they lived. Let those who wish go forth into the Labyrinth, taking time to remember & respect the lives of those we have loved, & though these tears shall dry upon our face, know that our love shall live on, & they shall never be replaced or forgotten.

Draw their memory into your mind's eye. Draw their spirit, into your heart. Draw upon the power of your love, & the strength of your beliefs, whatever they may be.

The minister relates the meaning of the ceremony & the instructions for the journey. As the Fellowship enters the labyrinth, similar pacing & chanting takes place as on the evening before.

POEM

Forever & Always

Sue Lueck Carlson

Minister Why are you crying? Do you think that I'm gone?
I haven't left you. I'm where I belong.
Anytime you are lonely, anytime you are sad,
Anytime your heart breaks, anytime you are mad –
All you have to do is close your eyes
And I'll be there with you.
You see the world may take my body,
But that is all it can do.
Don't stop the memory of the time we shared,
It's God's way to help you through.
Take time to laugh when life gets hard,
The way we used to do!
A smell? A touch? The morning sun?
They all will help you see.
I'm still there, I never left.
Now smile once more for me.
Live each day. Keep looking up.
My life was not in vain.
I finished the task I was born to do.
That's why I couldn't remain.
Until I see you – I love you forever & always.

CALL & RESPONSE

Hymn #718

All Souls

May Sarton

POEM

The Rose Beyond the Wall

A.L. Frink

Near a shady wall a rose once grew,
Budded & blossomed in God's free light,
Watered & fed by the morning dew,
Shedding its sweetness day & night.

As it grew & blossomed fair & tall,
Slowly rising to loftier height,
It came to a crevice in the wall
Through which there shone a beam of light.

Onward it crept with added strength
With never a thought of fear or pride,
It followed the light through the crevice's length
And unfolded itself on the other side.

The light, the dew, the broadening view
Were found the same as they were before,
And it lost itself in beauties new,
Breathing it's fragrance more & more.

Shall claim of death cause us to grieve
And make our courage faint & fall?
Nay! Let us faith & hope receive--
The rose still grows beyond the wall,

Scattering fragrance far & wide
Just as it did in days of yore,
Just as it did on the other side,
Just as it will forever-more.

CALL & RESPONSE

Hymn #719

Those Who Live Again

George Eliot

POEM

Miss Me But Let Me Go

Unknown

Chris

When I come to the end of the road
and the sun has set on me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
why cry for a soul set free.

Miss me a little--but not too long,
and not with your head bowed low,
Remember the love that we once shared,
miss me--but let me go.

For this is a journey that we all must take,
and each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan,
a step on the road to home.

When you are lonely & sick of heart,
go to the friends we know.
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,
miss me--but let me go.



POEM

Memories Of You

Alan Pemberton

I had a drifting mood today
It stirred a thought or two
My mind went back to happy days
To memories of you

Our lives are like a tapestry
With two distinctive sides
The front a perfect picture
The back our secret hides

Our memories are built like this
Some are clear & real
Others travel in & out
With no specific feel

Life's phases too are tapestries
With textures of their own
Some we love & some we hate
From all of them we've grown

We gather wisdom from our pains
From torment we grow strong
Our spirit nurtured by mistakes
Still fated travels on

Perhaps one thing which stays the same
And will forever more
Is the love we hold for another soul
The people we adore

So I had a drifting mood today
It stirred a thought or two
My mind went back to happy days
To memories of you

SONG

The Rose

Amanda McBroom

All

Some say love, it is a river
That drowns the tender reed.
Some say love, it is a razor
That leaves your soul to bleed.
Some say love, it is a hunger,
An endless aching need.
I say love, it is a flower,
& you its only seed.

It's the heart afraid of breaking
That never learns to dance.
It's the dream afraid of waking
That never takes the chance.
It's the one who won't be taken,
Who cannot seem to give,
& the soul afraid of dyin'
That never learns to live.

When the night has been too lonely
& the road has been too long,
& you think that love is only
For the lucky & the strong,
Just remember in the winter
Far beneath the bitter snows
Lies the seed that with the sun's love
In the spring becomes the rose.



SONG

Hymn #123

Spirit of Life

Carolyn McDade

SONG

Let It Be

Paul McCartney

When I find myself in times of trouble,
Mother Mary comes to me,
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.
And in my hour of darkness
She is standing right in front of me,
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be.
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be.

And when the broken hearted people
Living in the world agree,
There will be an answer, let it be.
For though they may be parted
There is still a chance that they will see,
There will be an answer, let it be.

Let it be, let it be,

And when the night is cloudy,
There is still a light, that shines on me,
Shine until tomorrow, let it be.
I wake up to the sound of music,
Mother Mary comes to me,
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.

Let it be, let it be,

SONG

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Wallis Willis

Guide
(*a capella*)

Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, & what did I see?
Coming for to carry me home,
A band of angels coming after me,
Coming for to carry me home.

All

**Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.**

**If you get there before I do,
Coming for to carry me home,
Tell all my friends I'm coming, too.
Coming for to carry me home.**

**Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.**

**I'm sometimes up & sometimes down,
Coming for to carry me home,
But still my soul feels heavenly bound,
Coming for to carry me home.**

**Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.**

(Guide
repeats
stanza
a capella)

CLOSING

After all have journeyed through, ASIC quickly closes the circle & then reunites with the Fellowship outside. Meanwhile, the minister adds an inspiration before inviting everyone to participate in a final...

CALL & RESPONSE

Hymn #720

We Remember Them

Roland B. Gittelsohn

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

Minister Please join me in reciting *Extinguishing the Chalice*.

Welcomer extinguishes the chalice flame...

All **The chalice flame is extinguished until once again
ignited by the strength of our gathering in community
with a mission for justice & our hearts full of love.**

Guide Go forth with light & love into our new year,
May we all blessed be!

All **Merry meet, merry part, & merry meet again!**

Samhain

The name Samhain (pronounced 'sow-en') comes from the Gaelic word *samain*. *Sam* -summer & *fuin* -end. The early Celtic cultures believed the year was divided in a dark half & a light half.

Samhain marked the end of the light half & the beginning of the Celtic new year or the dark half. The holiday of Samhain is on November 1st, but the old celebrations did & still do, start at sunset on October 31st, on Samhain Eve.

During the day on October 31st, the fires within the home were extinguished. Families would clear out the old like a "fall cleaning" & make way for the new, starting the winter months with fresh & clean household items. At sunset on October 31, clans or local villages begin the formal ceremonies of Samhain by lighting a giant bonfire. The people would gather around the fire to burn crops & animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities. It was a method of giving the Gods & Goddesses their share of the previous year's herd or crops, as well as signifying the cleansing the old & preparing for the new.

During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, & danced around the bonfire. Many of these dances told stories or played out the cycles of life & death or commemorated the cycle of Wheel of Life. These costumes were adorned for three primary reasons.

The first was to honor the dead who were allowed to rise from the Otherworld. The Celts believed that souls were set free from the land of the dead during the eve of Samhain. Those that had been trapped in the bodies of animals were released by the Lord of the Dead & sent to their new incarnations. The wearing of these costumes signified the release of these souls into the physical world.

Not all of these souls were honored & respected as they would return to the physical world & destroy crops, hide livestock or 'haunt' the living who may have done them wrong. The second reason for these traditional costumes was to hide from these malevolent spirits.

The third reason was to honor the Celtic Gods & Goddesses of the harvest, fields, & flocks. After giving thanks & homage to those deities who assisted the village or clan through the previous year, the Celts asked for their favor during the coming year & the harsh winter approaching.

In addition to celebrations & dance, Celts believed a thin veil between the physical world & the Otherworld allowed communications between the living & the dead. Through this veil, Priests & Shamans attempted to tell the fortunes of individuals. For a people dependent on a volatile natural world, these prophecies brought comfort & direction during the long, dark winter to come.

As time passed, & especially during the resettlement of North America, the beliefs & customs of different European ethnic groups merged to form a different version of the holiday, Halloween. Today's celebrations of Halloween do not alter the spiritual significance of Samhain for modern Pagans. We honor our sabbat with the traditional reverence practiced by our ancient ancestors. For us, the main focus of Samhain remains the same: honor our loved ones who have passed on & communicate with them during this time when we feel the veil between worlds is at its thinnest.

Adapted from <http://www.paganspath.com/magik/samhain-history.htm>



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