**SEF SABBAT Liturgy**

{Updated as of May 2008}

**Setup**

*- Create one main altar in either the North or the East*

 *- Mark the other Quarters as appropriate with candles/altars*

 *- Hang cloth or garland to block off entrance to the ritual space*

 *- Designate the two HPS & HP, the four Officers and a Cantor*

 *- Set up boombox and music, with someone to operate it*

**Pre-Ritual Talk**

**Gather and Ground**

 *- All gather in an area adjacent to the ritual space*

 *[OR around the perimeter of the Circle]*

 *- A very brief grounding/centering is given by one of the Elders.*

**Procession**

* *At the end of the grounding meditation [IF participants are processing in], Officers enter and process to the entrance to the ritual space, and move the garland or curtain to one side.*

* *HPS & HP move to altar for consecration. Officers stay by opening.*

**Circlecasting Positions**

*- HPS & HP move to the main altar, standing behind it*

*- The participants remain waiting outside the ritual area*

 *[OR stand around the perimeter of the Circle]*

 **Circle Casting**

*The first section of the Circle Casting is chanted by everyone either once (for small Circles) or two+ times (for larger Circles) to allow the HPS & HP to get around the Circle: This decision is up to the Cantor, who will lead the Circle Casting. All join in after the Cantor has begun.*

**CANTOR/ALL**: O Circle, from the first swirlings of the cosmos, ]

We summon you! ]

O Circle, from the dance of the stars, ] X 2

We invoke you! ]

O Circle, from the spinning earth, ]

We call you! ]

O Circle: Be for us a holy place,

Be for us a shield and a defense,

Be for us a temple to the Gods,

Be for us a gateway of loving souls!

In the names of the Lady and the Lord, So mote it be!

 **Elemental Blessings**

 *While performing the blessing, the* ***HPS*** *says:*

In the name of the Lady and the Lord,

I consecrate this salt and this water to our use:

Be Thou the blessed essence and blood of Life!

  *The* ***HPS*** *then mixes salt into the water, saying:*

 Earth and Water together shall purify the Circle.

 *While performing the blessing, the* ***HP*** *says:*

 In the name of the Lady and the Lord,

 I consecrate this incense and this flame to our use:

 Be Thou the blessed breath and heart of Life!

 *The* ***HP*** *then lights the incense, saying:*

 Fire and Air together shall consecrate the Circle.

**Welcoming**

***[If participants are waiting outside]***

*The* ***HPS*** *&* ***HP****, together with the Officers, take their Athames to the appropriate place in the room to cut a doorway in the Circle. One of the officers carries the salt/water and another carries the incense. After the HPS & HP have cut the doorway, they trade their athames for the elements carried by these two officers, and asperge/cense all participants as they enter the Circle. The other two officers act as shepherds, guiding participants into the Circle, being sure all are evenly spaced, etc. When all are inside, the HPS & HP trade the elements they’ve been using for their athames, and close the doorway. While the HPS & HP are doing this, all the other officers should return to the main altar, pick up the symbols of their elements, and head to the center of the circle.*

***[If participants are starting in the Circle]***

***HPS*** *&* ***HP*** *process the Circle, asperging, censing and welcoming each.*

**Gathering of the Elements**

*Once all the Elemental Officers are in place, and have visually confirmed this with each other, the Cantor begins the readings below. One-by-one they walk from their Elemental direction into the Center of the Circle. The speaking happens AS THE OFFICER WALKS. Both of the Officer’s hands should be on the Elemental object, holding it raised up before them.*

*All present join in saying the following lines after Cantor chants the first words:*

**CANTOR:** From the Breath of the Earth, **ALL:** We bring the purifying winds.

**CANTOR:**  From the Heart of the Earth, **ALL:** We bring the consecrating fires.

**CANTOR:** From the Blood of the Earth, **ALL:** We bring the cleansing waters.

**CANTOR:** From the Bones of the Earth, **ALL:** We bring the essence of life.

*When the Elements are gathered, the Officers raise them up together in the center of the Circle, still using both hands, and hold them there for a few seconds.*

*After a few seconds, the Officers process the Elements around the Circle one complete revolution, keeping pace with each other so that they remain 1/4 of the Circle apart. They then make another circuit, placing their Elemental Symbols back on the maim altar, then stopping in their original quarter.*

**Elemental Invocations**

*Each officer leads the quarter call for their own respective direction. Cantor leads* ***ALL*** *in the last line of each. The Officers draw the appropriate invoking pentagrams, starting at the beginning of the* ***ALL*** *line.*

**North:**  Let us all face North. *(pause while they do so.)*

Guardians of the North, Powers of Earth:

Bearers of Grounding and Stability:

From mountaintops and valleys deep we call You!

**ALL:** We invoke Your Presence into our Circle

To ask Your blessing upon our rite. So mote it be!

**East:** Let us all face East.  *(pause while they do so.)*

Guardians of the East, Powers of Air:

Transmitters of clarity, discernment and focus,

From the whispering winds and fierce gale we call you!

**ALL:** We invoke Your Presence into our Circle

To ask Your blessing upon our rite. So mote it be!

**South:** Let us all face South *(pause while they do so.)*

Guardians of the South, Powers of Fire:

Bringers of passion, inspiration and will,

From animal heat and the molten core we call You!

**ALL:** We invoke Your Presence into our Circle

To ask Your blessing upon our rite. So mote it be!

**West:** Let us all face West. *(pause while they do so.)*

Guardians of the West, Powers of Water:

Maintainers of wisdom, intuition and compassion,

From the placid pool & the raging deeps we call You!

**ALL:** We invoke Your Presence into our Circle

To ask Your blessing upon our rite. So mote it be!

***HPS*** *&* ***HP*** *step to the center of the Circle, and invoke upward.*

**Invocation of Deity**

**High Priest:** O most gracious and magnificent Lady:

You who are the beauty and the strength

of earth and moon and stars,

You Who are our Source and our Return,

We, Your people, are gathered in Your honor!

All: We ask Your blessing and presence among us

That we might celebrate Your rites

In love and joy and truth. So Mote It Be!

**High Priestess:** Great Lord, You who are the Sacred Spark,

Defender and Sustainer of the fertile earth,

You Who lead the Hunt,

and rule the quiet lands of death,

We, Your people, are gathered in Your honor!

All: We ask Your blessing and presence among us

That we might celebrate Your rites

In love and joy and truth. So Mote It Be!

***~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~***

***~ The main body of Sabbat ritual now takes place ~***

***~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~***

**Cakes and Wine**

*At the large Sabbats, four chalices and four plates will be used. For smaller groups, it will be determined beforehand how many chalices and plates are used. These should be completely prepared ahead of time, and tucked some place safe. [Under the main altar, on a separate table, etc.]*

***EITHER:*** *Elemental Officers pick up chalices and plates, and carry them to the* ***HPS*** *&* ***HP*** *to be blessed. After the HPS & HP bless all cups/plates, the Officers each carry one cup and one plate to their opposite Quarter. They stay in that Quarter, from there passing the cups/plates as is usual. Once the previous Officer’s cup/plate comes to an Officer, that Officer holds it until all have completed Cakes & Wine. Officers return chalices and plates to the altar, then go back to their quarters for the Elemental dismissals.*

***OR:*** *Officers remain in their quarters while HPS & HP bless wine in a large pitcher and cakes on a large plate. Then Officers come forward and wine is poured to chalices and cakes are distributed to plates. Cakes and wine are passed as above,* ***OR*** *distributed individually (if the Circle is very small).*

*Officers return chalices and plates to the altar, then go back to their quarters for the Elemental dismissals.*

**Blessing over Wine:**

As the Athame is to the Fires of Heaven,

So the Cup is to the Depths of the Sea,

And conjoined, they are One in Truth!

**Blessing over Cakes:**

Lady and Lord bless this food,

Symbolic of Your Bounty,

That in sharing it we affirm our Common Bond!

**Opening the Circle**

*Dismiss the Elements in each direction as below. Elemental Officers will stand in their respective quarters, and will draw banishing pentagrams as appropriate.*

**Officer:** Let us all face [direction]. (pause a second.)

Guardians of the [direction],

We thank you for your presence and blessing,

And as you return to your holy realm

We say “Hail and Farewell!”

**CANTOR and ALL:** Hail and Farewell!

*After all dismissals are finished, all present join hands and, led by the HPS, all say:*

**HPS:** The Circle is open,

**ALL:** but yet unbroken.

Merry meet, merry part, and merry meet again!

So mote it be!