

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 21, 2016

Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

Chorus: Oh, the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower,
And when the Sun is newly born,
'Tis at the darkest hour.

The holly bears a berry
And blood-red is its hue,
And when the Sun is newly born,
It maketh all things new.
The holly bears a leaf
That is forever green,
And when the Sun is newly born,
Let love and joy be seen.

The holly and the ivy
The mistletoe entwine,
And when the Sun is newly born,
Be joy to thee and thine.
Chorus: Oh, the rising of the Sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

Call to Worship- Reading "The Shortest Day" by Susan Cooper
read by Kathryn Ellis Moore

Sing-along *Solstice Carol* by Diane Benjamin

Casting the Circle/Calling the Directions led by Liz Davis-Chaffin

Song (adopted) *Hallelujah* by Leonard Cohen
Singers: Kathryn Ellis Moore, Kira and Lara Hill

Music reflection *The Huron Carol* arranged by John Sarantos.
Played by Sue Beers

Candle Pass

All are invited to pass the candle and share a word or two.

What has been a light in your life?

Candle Pass Closing Words-

All: *Light is the power to chase away the darkness.*

Reading "Winter's Litany" (anonymous) read by Amy Grosso

We welcome thee, Winter.

Come bring us your blessings....

Bring darkness for Mystery

Bring snow's blanket to nourish the sleeping flowers

Bring fire to warm our bones

Bring evergreen to bless the door

Bring holly and ivy for cheer

Bring fox and wren for company

Bring frankincense and myrrh for sacredness

Bring oil for the lamps

Bring recollection for our memories

Bring hope for our futures

Bring healing for our hearts

Bring peace to our families

Bring renewal to our spirits

Bring generosity for others

Bring comfort to the lonely ones

Bring mercy for the hurting ones

Bring patience for the difficult ones

Bring LOVE for all to share

~Blessed Be!

Round *Longest Night* by Jim Scott- led by Dave Hill, & choir folk

Reveling Play *"Rebirth of the Sun"* adapted by Starhawk
Native American flute tunes transporting the Sun

Opening to Storytelling --Zuni Sunrise - Traditional

Maiden Dance-Lakota Courting Song –Traditional

Mother Dance- Kiowa Love Song – Traditional

Crone Dance/Night - Anasazi Love Song

by Steven De Ruby arr. By Ami Sarasvati

Night Sky and New Sun Dance --Whippoorwill - by R. Carlos Nakai

Narrator –Lindy Hanninen and Native American flute music by
Sue Beers

Players- Maiden Sun- Marisa Benson, Mother Sun-Kathy Parliment

Benson, Wise Woman/Crone Sun-Melinda Stewart

Night Sky-Bailey Chaffin and New Sun-Jaiya Valentin Chase

Postlude Lord of the Dance (Simple Gifts)
Joseph Brackett, Jr. 1848, arr. By Clint Goss

HAPPY SOLSTICE!

A Warm Welcome to All! Thanks for joining in the Winter Solstice reveling! *"We are a community seeking to deepen spiritually, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world."*

Blessed Be!

Music Fun Facts

I have been playing the Native American Style Flute since 2010; I bought my first flute of this type at Bryce Canyon in Utah. My flutes are made of cedar and walnut and come in different keys: Em, Gm, and F#m. The EZ reach Anasazi flute that I use was made by Stephen DeRuby.

R. Carlos Nakai, the most widely known Native American flute player in the world, has been a major source of inspiration, and I hold immeasurable gratitude for my NASF teacher Ami Sarasvati from Manchester, NH.

–Sue Beers

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



"Light is the power to chase away the darkness"

"LONGEST NIGHT"

LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS' FIRES
BURNING BRIGHT WE DREAM OF
THE SPRING THIS WINTER'S NIGHT
SURELY THE EARTH IS TURNING, IS
TURNING, FROM DARK TO LIGHT
GATHERED FRIENDS IN
REV'RENCE HERE TO CELEBRATE
THE LONGEST NIGHT

-Jim Scott