

## YULE RITUAL

The celebrants gather in a room apart from the ritual area. It is best if the ritual can be held in a room without lights and with no heat. Priest and Priestess may choose to cast the circle before hand and allow all to enter through a portal, or cast after the candle lighting. At the time for the ritual to begin, the warden and maiden lead all into the ritual area with only one dim candle to light the way which circles to the Southern tower and stays there. As all shiver in the darkness, the priest and priestess, at the Southern tower begin, alternating:

It is winter.  
It is night.

We await the Sun.  
We await the light.

In this darkness  
In this night,

We await the warmth.  
We await the light.

(Together:) And slowly it comes.

(As they have moved around the circle saying these things, the Priestess Widdershins and the Priest Deosil, they light candles which completely surround the circle. By the time they have finished, the room should be very bright.)

Circle is cast if not already. Salt and water. Fire and air. Quarters summoned in manner appropriate to the season.

God Invocation  
Priestess:

Horned God, Winter God, Father of the Sun, with frost upon your beard and the blazing of Yule fires in your eyes, you bless us with your presence. We greet you.

Goddess Invocation  
The Winter God (lighting the appropriate candles, which are held by women appropriately dressed):

White is for the Maiden, divine and joyous child. Fresh as the snow is her taper. I give greetings, Blessed One.

Red is for the Mother, warm embracing creation queen.

Scarlet as the winter sunset is her taper. I give greetings,  
Regal One.

Black is for the Crone, keeper of magical mysteries. Ebon as  
the stormy night is her taper. I give greetings, Wise One.

Queens of winter, Sister, Mother, Grandmother, I greet you  
and ask your blessings upon your people gathered here.

The three Goddesses, dividing the parts appropriately, invoke  
the Sun (the Maiden then crowns the God with a crown of  
candles or other appropriate crown, the Mother gives him a  
staff with a pine cone tip and the Crone gives him a kiss):  
Return, oh, return! God of the sun, god of the light,  
return! Darkness has fled -- Thou hast no enemies. O lovely  
helper, return, return!

Return to thy sister, thy spouse, thy mother who loveth thee!  
We shall not be put asunder. O my brother, my consort, my  
son, return, return! When I see thee not my heart grieveth  
for thee, mine eyes seek for thee, my feet roam the earth in  
search of thee! Gods and men weep for thee together. God of  
the sun, god of the light, return! Return to thy sister, thy  
spouse, thy mother, who loveth thee! Return! Return!  
Return!

The God raps three times on the altar with his wand

Sun King:

Newly born, am I. What wisdom says the watcher of the east  
to aid me and those gathered here with me?

East:

This is a time for entering wilderness and seeking its  
magical strengths. A time for standing alone and godlike,  
and seeing all things clearly. It is a season of joy!

Sun King:

What wisdom says the watcher of the south?

South:

This is a time of active seeking, both without in nature and  
within oneself. Eagerness and resolution shall concern  
mysteries and create results. It is a season of courage!

Sun King:

What wisdom says the watcher of the west?

West:

This is a time for devotion to the way of the wild places and

seeking the calmness of solitary locales. A time for finding understanding, and confiding only in trusted friends. It is a season of meditation!

Sun King:

What wisdom says the watcher of the north?

North:

This is a time to know the endurance of the hills, and to so grow in one's own inner firmness. A time for scrupulousness and thoroughness and considering all things. It is a season of confidence!

The Winter God:

Rich are these gifts of knowledge. Soon I will give way to my Son, but until that time mine is the feast and the season of joy. (The God blesses the feast as is customary for the group.)

Each Deity and Watchers is thanked and bid farewell as they were invoked.

The circle is released as is appropriate to the group.

Notes:

If anyone is crowned with a crown of candles, a veil helps with the dripping wax. Holly can be pretty uncomfortable, too, so ditto.

Portions of this are liberally stolen from the Magical Rites from the Crystal Well by Ed Fitch. It's great stuff and you may want to use it outright, rather than my mutilated version.

If you have enough people and candles, everybody may be naked by the end of this.

It's great to use your oldest male as Winter and your youngest male for the Sun (kids are great suns). Same for the Goddesses.

Obviously, this is just an outline that can be spindled, folded and mutilated any way you like. The opening part with the candles we have used for more than one Yule and it's really great.