

**“Samhain: The Final Harvest”**  
**The Unitarian Church of Lincoln**  
**October 16, 2016**

***Gathering of the Community***

**Ringling of Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** “Samhain Hymn” trad. Welsh  
words by Leigh Ann Hussey  
The UCL Choir

***Stating Intent***

**Call the Quarters:** by Susan Wulfkeuhler

**Chalice Lighting:** G. Woods

**Opening Song:** #73 “Chant for the Seasons”  
Vs. 1 & 2

**Reflection/Introduction:** “Samhain: the Final Harvest”  
read by Jesse Metcalf

***Time for all ages***

**Grain Communion**

**Offering and Offertory:** “Loch Lomond”  
Scots Folk Song arr. David Lantz III

***Deepening***

**Honoring Our Ancestors**

**Interlude I:** “It’s the Blood of the Ancients”

**Moving into the Dark/the Cycles of Life:** Meditation

***Returning to Community: the work of the people***

**Body Prayer**

**Interlude II:** “We All Come From Our Mother”  
by Z. Budapest

**Postlude:** “Monster Mash” by Picket/Capizzi

arr. By J. Funk

**Closing Words:**

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***Stating Intent***

**Call the Quarters: by Susan Wulfkeuhler**

Read by Gretchen Woods

Welcome to this celebration of Samhain, the Celtic new year. We invite you to join us in inviting the presence of the four directions and the center into our circle, symbolic of the universe, and life never-ending. You're invited to stand and face each direction, starting with the east.

**North** – Evelyn Weymouth

As the cold winds of winter come to cleanse our minds and spirits, we bring our awareness to the North, Place of the turning of the day and the year, of elders and infants, of the trees and rocks, the Earth that bears us upon her body. Gathering on the blessed morning of Samhain, We seek lessons of purity that embraces the whole of our beings, honesty that is compassionate, integrity that strengthens our presence for others, and leadership in this community that send gusts of blessing throughout this world, thus blessing it beyond our imagining. **East** -

Chelsea Krafka

As the breeze awakens the dawn, we gently call our awareness to the East, place of new beginnings, spring and childhood, our winged brothers and sisters, the breath of life. Gathering on this blessed morning of Samhain, we seek lessons of mind, intellect, and understanding To guide us in the choices we make for our lives. **South** – Jesse Metcalf

As the power of the full sun of summer, We enthusiastically call our awareness to the South, place of fulfillment and action, summer and adolescence, our four-legged brothers

and sisters. Gathering on this blessed morning of Samhain, We seek lessons of passion and power, reproduction and sexuality, creativity that produces gifts for the world To guide us in our every act. **West** - Rich Little  
As the reflection of light on water at dusk, We pensively bring our awareness to the West, Place of introspection and meditation, autumn and adulthood, our relatives of water and womb. Gathering on this blessed morning of Samhain, We seek lessons of emotion, of being able to both offer and receive healing, of being present to the deepest feeling possible in our lives to enrich and inform all we do.

**Chalice Lighting:** G. Woods

As mystery that links and holds all things in love, We call our awareness to the center, the heart of life, Place beyond words and within all that we are. Gathering on this blessed morning of Samhain, we kindle the flame of our Unitarian Universalist Faith and open to experiences of silence and wonder.

**Opening Song:** #73 "Chant for the Seasons"

Vs. 1 & 2

**Reflection/Introduction:** read by Jesse Metcalf

"Samhain: the Final Harvest"

Samhain is the Celtic name for the holy day honoring the earth's entrance into the winter cycle of death and darkness. In the secular culture of the United States we know this day as Halloween, from the British All Hallows Eve. Hispanic people celebrate this time as El Dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, as we did here last year. The Celts marked the end of the warm season of the year by returning the herds that had been driven into the high pastures to their home pens. The strong animals were kept for breeding and the weaker ones were slaughtered for food.

Since the agricultural year closed with the end of the harvest, Samhain was the beginning of the Celtic New Year.

Trading and warfare were suspended, land leases renewed, and tribal assemblies convened. It was also a day to honor the dead of the previous year.

So We gather this morning to honor the depth of our relationship to the earth and its cycles.

The cold winter weather of the Prairies creates a natural end to the harvest here. Gathering grain for food has been practiced for generations, perhaps millennia, and has sustained us through many cold winters. Nebraska farmers grow wheat, barley, oats, other grains and legumes, all making Nebraska a “breadbasket for the world,” by feeding so many people and livestock. We celebrate a successful harvest of these fruits of the earth as we celebrate Samhain.

***Time for all ages***

**Grain Communion: read by Gretchen Woods**

We offer not a communion, but a gift. A blessing of the fruit of our local farmer and researcher, Rich Little. We offer to each of you a grain of this wheat to contemplate as we pass the grain around.

As you receive the grain, consider what is fulfilled in your life and what has yet to germinate. What successes are to be celebrated right now and what dreams have yet to grow. Now begins the fallow time, when we quietly let the dark of winter break open the grain and allow new fruits to gestate. Let us be intentional about what and how we grow our lives through the seasons of the year.

Let us continue to contemplate what we need to give and receive from our church as we give and receive our morning offering from and to one another.

**Offering and Offertory: “Loch Lomond”**

Scots Folk Song arr. David Lantz III

## ***Deepening***

### **Honoring Our Ancestors: read by Jesse Metcalf**

This is the time when many cultures believe the veil is thin that divides the worlds. We ask for the presence and wisdom of the ancient ones, our grandmothers and grandfathers who have gone before us. We remember our loved ones who have died and those things that have died in our lives this year. We invite you to speak those names into our circle of caring concern.

### **Calling of Names**

We rejoice in knowing that they live on in our hearts, and we give thanks to the blessed circle of life. Thank you for your presence.

### **Interlude I: "It's the Blood of the Ancients"**

### **Moving into the Dark/the Cycles of Life: Meditation**

Read by Gretchen Woods

Samhain is the beginning of the Celtic new year. We begin it in the dark and cold, where all life begins and ends. Crossing the Celtic threshold means welcoming the dark as a time to become more closely woven with the inner dimensions of our lives. The growing darkness invites us to gather inside for reflection and renewal.

This is a time of refreshing rest in the continuous turning of the spiral dance that goes and returns, yet ever moves on. We move with the dance unperturbed. Love gives strength, give to gain.

We celebrate the dance of life to death to new life and the balance of the cosmos in our lives. The last harvest is gathered and stored for the dark months ahead and the wheel has turned to the time of rest. So let us share in a stationary dance and body prayer together.

## ***Returning to Community: the work of the people***

### **Body Prayer**

**Interlude II: "We All Come From Our Mother"**  
by Z. Budapest

**Closing Words/Releasing the Quarters:**

**Gretchen**

**We release our awareness of the center, knowing you  
are always with us: Go if you must, stay if you will.  
Merry meet and merry part.**

**Rich**

**We release the west: Go if you must, stay if you will.  
Merry meet and merry part.**

**Jesse:**

**We release the south: Go if you must, stay if you will.  
Merry meet and merry part.**

**Chelsea:**

**We release the east: Go if you must, stay if you will.  
Merry meet and merry part.**

**Evelyn**

**We release the north: Go if you must, stay if you will.  
Merry meet and merry part.  
And merry meet again.**

**Postlude: "Monster Mash" by Picket/Capizzi**  
arr. By J. Funk