

Goddess/Earth Circles, Sunday, July 24, 2022 at 1pm-2:30 on UUC Zoom.

Announcement for Sunday Service:

Goddess/Earth Circles meet July 24, 2022 at 1-2:30pm on UUC Zoom

Entering and gathering

Our Summer Connections, including annual remembrance of Phyllis Cudmore

Topic: Spiritual focus of Reproductive Wholeness. What terms describe various perspectives?

What hopes and concerns have arisen for you since we last met? How do we offer and accept support?

Bring drums, rattles, rain sticks

See UUC website: Church Life/Goddess: Meetings and Archives.

ENTERING Three Breaths.

In entering sacred space, let us be conscious of three breaths.

As you inhale the first breath, be aware of what you are *leaving behind*.

As you exhale, let go of that which would keep you from being here completely.

As you inhale the second breath, feel the *presence* of being here.

As you exhale, notice those who are here with you.

As you inhale the third breath, *step over the threshold* into the space where spirits meet.

As you exhale, let your spirit join with other spirits present.

SPIRITS OF THE DIRECTIONS, ELEMENTS, LIFE STAGES, RHYTHMS

May we find deep connection and renewal from

the spirits of the directions,

the energy of the elements,

the wisdom from our lives,

rhythm of the cycles of the universe

In the love of the Goddess with convergence into wholeness of being and spirit.

From the East may we receive Air, the Essence of Life itself. From the Maiden or Younger Woman may the spirit of beginnings be with us in the dawn of a new day, a new moon and spring.

From the South may we receive Fire, the Energy of life itself. From the Mother/Nurturer may we actualize our caring in the fullness of the day, a full moon and the summer.

From the West may we receive Water, the Flow of life itself. From the Crone may we acknowledge our own wisdom as we move toward afternoon, the waning moon and the harvest of autumn.

From the North may we feel the Earth, security itself. From the Sage may we understand what needs to be held, what needs to be let go, and what needs to be transformed as we move into the evening, the dark rest of the moon, and winter of gestation.

From the Center may we be in the love of the Goddess where our inner and outer truths converge, creating the "wholeness" that touches all corners of our being every day, in every stage of life, and every season. Amen and Blessed Be.

(Light candles) For this, we light a candle whose flame is shared as we are together.

SPIRIT OF DIRECTIONS	ENERGY OF ELEMENTS	WISDOM/LIFE STAGES	RHYTHMS: DAILY, MOON (MONTHLY), SUN (ANNUALLY)
East	Air-essence of life	Youth Maiden: Developing, beginnings	Dawn, New moon, Spring
South	Fire-energy of life	Nurturer/Mother: Actualizing	Full light of noon, Full moon, Summer
West	Water-flow of life	Crone: Acknowledging	Slowing of the afternoon, Waning moon, Autumn
North	Earth-grounding, holding	Sage: Holding and releasing	Evening rest, Dark moon, Winter
Center	Convergence	Wholeness of life	Inner/outer fusion

CASTING THE CIRCLE

Reach your hands toward the screen.

Feel the energy of the circle enter through your hands.

Feel the sky energy enter through your head, and the earth energy through your feet.

Feel your heart expand as you open to the spirit within.

As the energy builds around and through you, feel the flow intensify in the virtual circle, becoming stronger, binding us together for the time of this gathering.

You are invited to name of ancestors, goddesses or other beings whose presence you wish to call into the circle.

We welcome you all and thank you for being with us in spirit and inspiration."

The circle is cast as sacred space and time. We are between the worlds – the worlds of our lives as we came in and the world of our lives when we leave; the world of light and the world of dark, the physical world and the energy beyond the physical. What we do here between the worlds affects all worlds.

COVENANT FOR TIME TOGETHER

We value our time together and revere each being that is present. We share and we are silence to accept the sharing of others. We speak from our hearts and for ourselves only, without needing to respond or give advice. We hold our sharings in confidence within our circle.

PERSONAL SHARING: Summer Connections

Please **introduce yourself** as you speak. We may have newer participants and those joining on the phone. You are invited to share how things are with you today and what you might need from us.

What **instruments** are among us today? Drums, rattles, rainsticks, others
Suggest using these as spaces between sharings, alternating instruments.

Remembrance of Phyllis Cudmore who died in July 2022. Kay
“Beannacht / Blessing” by John O’Donohue (At end of this note.)

TOPIC Spiritual focus of Reproductive Wholeness

At our gathering in June, we shared statements from UUA and shared our feelings about the Supreme Court action.

We discussed bringing readings, prayers, and rituals that have that comfort in times such as these. Share the strength that you receive from the Goddess and other sources.

What terms describe various perspectives? (Quotes from *People Magazine*)

What hopes and concerns have arisen for you since we last met? How do we offer and accept support? How do you respond?

Descriptions: What do they mean?

Pro-abortion Anti-abortion Pro-Choice
Anti-Choice Pro-Life Life Haters

(Page from People magazine, July 2022)

Rachel Nix, 24, from Northern Virginia, held a sign outside the Supreme Court that read "Let this radicalize you rather than lead you to despair."

Not just for women getting abortions, but for every person, it's important to be able to make big decisions that can affect the trajectory of their life. Having a child is certainly something that changes your life permanently, and you shouldn't be forced to go through that if it's not something you want.

Congressman Andrew Clyde (R-Ga.) joined abortion-rights opponents outside the Court. I'm here to celebrate and say, "Good job, Supreme Court." It's a decision that will save, I believe, millions of lives. There will be some states that will still allow abortion, and we can hope that legislators in those states, people in those states, would recognize that is not right and it is murder.

Nora, 18, from Montgomery County, Md., rallied outside the Supreme Court. I don't know anyone who has had an abortion that wanted to have an abortion. It's something that is necessary—often medically and for one's own survival. It's not like we're pro-abortion. I took for granted having it as an option, and now that's gone, I'm concerned for my own safety and the safety of my friends and family.

Dr. Beverly Gray is founder of Duke Reproductive Health Equity and Advocacy Mobilization Team. A lot of people don't have the money to pay for an abortion, much less take a trip to another state, pay for a hotel to get care and then go home. For a lot of

people, that's enough to make it impossible to access care. People's lives are at stake.

Allan Dodd, 39, the Tampa protests. Personally, I'm against abortion. But my view is, only the woman knows her situation. It's none of my business. I don't want anyone to have an abortion, but it's not my choice. It's the woman's choice.

Elizabeth Nash is state policy analyst for the Guttmacher Institute. We know that the states that are banning abortion are the states with weak safety nets. They don't provide as much for health care, for pregnancy services, for child care, education. And so we'll feel the consequences of this very soon. This is a Critical moment in time. We need to be able to move towards a better future where people have the children they want and can live their lives and their futures.

A Malone, WS, Maryland bartender, went to D.C. to celebrate the ruling. I've been waiting for this for a long time. I guess there are a lot of people that hate life, but our laws shouldn't be based on that.

Kelly Read, 23, a Washington, D.C., spoke to Justice Clarence Thomas's written opinion that court decisions regarding the rights to contraception, gay marriage and same-sex relations should also be reconsidered. The slippery slope is a major concern. It's hard to think about that, but look what happened with Roe.

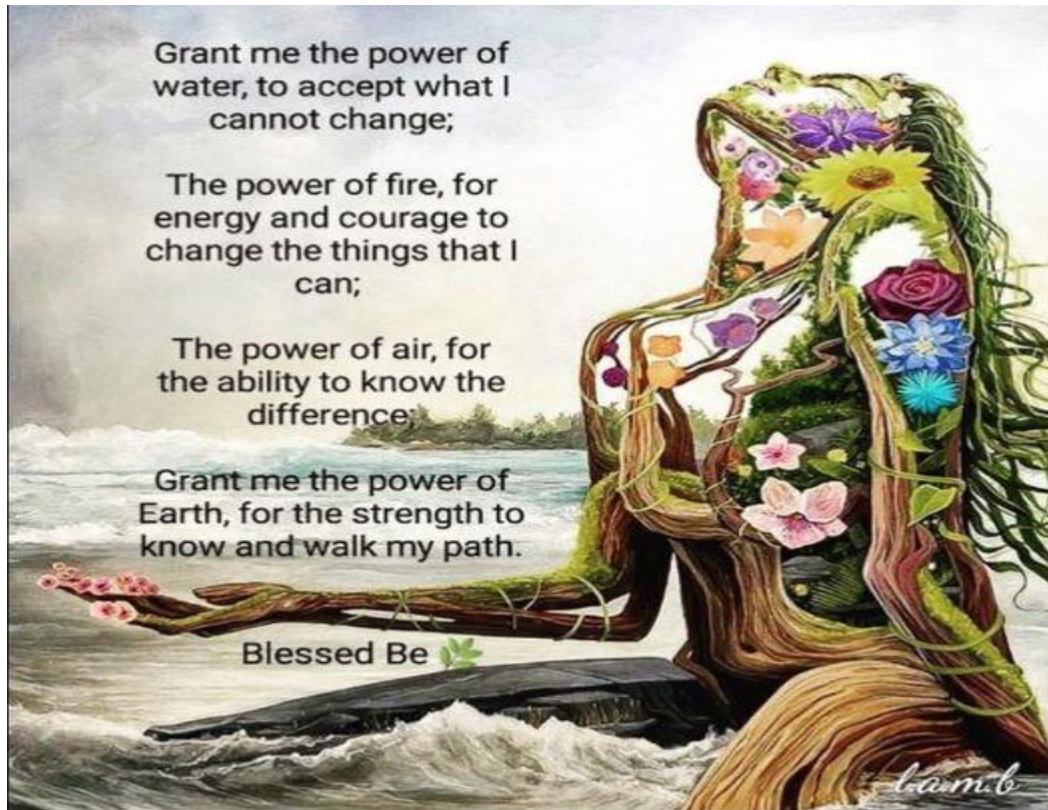
We have to be prepared to fight. This time they won, but it's hopefully temporary. I would love to see Roe codified into law by Congress. Anything that deals with how my body functions is health. I should have the right to go seek care. It's that simple.

Julie Cross, 20, a student in Tampa, demonstrated Sunday morning along the city's River Walk. Pro-life is a lie. I'm pro-self-determination. I don't walk around saying, "Hey, let's all get abortions"—I'm not an advocate. It's about having the choice to carry a pregnancy or not carry it.

Madeline Clarke, 22, also a student in Tampa, was at the same site for the other side. I heard what that

woman said. Being pro-life is not a lie! I support the sanctity of human life, including life in the womb. You can't get around the fact that abortion kills babies. All the Supreme Court said was: It's up to the states. And for that, women are screaming in the streets like they're the Ones being ripped from the womb.

CLOSING



Sent on Facebook, source not noted.

We extinguish the chalice moving the fire, a gift of our Sun, from our time together to our time this week. Take this gift with you, may it illumine your life this week, until we meet again. So we release the energy of the directions and open the circle. We return to the world changed by our time together.

To the spirits that have joined us, we thank you for your presence in our circle.

Go if you must, stay if you will.

Tis with great love and gratitude we bid you farewell.

The circle is open, but not broken.

Response: Unison

By the earth that is her body, And the air that is her breath,
By the fire of her bright spirit, And the waters of her living womb,
May the peace of the goddess be ever in your heart.
Merry meet, merry part, And merry meet again. Blessed be.

Beannacht / Blessing by John O'Donohue

On the day when
the weight deadens
on your shoulders
and you stumble,
may the clay dance
to balance you.

And when your eyes
freeze behind
the grey window
and the ghost of loss
gets into you,
may a flock of colours,
indigo, red, green
and azure blue,
come to awaken in you
a meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays
in the currach of thought
and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life.

from *Echoes of Memory* (Transworld Publishing,
2010)