

AIR I AM.....	3
ALL AROUND YOU.....	3
ANCIENT GODDESS.....	3
AS ABOVE AND SO BELOW.....	3
ASHERA.....	3
BACK TO THE RIVER.....	4
BEHOLD THERE IS MAGIC.....	4
BLESSED.....	4
BLOOD OF THE ANCIENTS.....	5
BODY.....	5
BURN FIRE.....	5
CARRY IT HOME.....	5
CAULDRON OF CHANGE.....	5
CHILDREN OF THE DIVINE.....	6
THE CIRCLE SHAPES US.....	6
CIRCLE OF LIGHT.....	6
COME FORTH.....	6
DANCE FEEL THE EARTH.....	6
THE EARTH IS OUR MOTHER.....	7
EARTH OUR BODY.....	7
ENTER THE CENTER.....	7
FAMILY OF FIRE.....	7
FANGA.....	7
FIRE, DANCE & DRUM.....	8
FOUR ELEMENTS CHANT (RETURN).....	8
FIRE OF CREATION.....	8
FIRE SONG.....	8
FIRE TRANSFORM US.....	8
FLY LIKE AN EAGLE.....	9
FOR EACH CHILD.....	9
FREE YOUR MIND.....	9
GAIA CARRY US.....	10
GENTLE.....	10
HEALING CHANT.....	10
HECATE.....	10
HELD IN THE HEART.....	10
HERNE.....	11
HIGHER AND HIGHER.....	11
HOOF AND HORN.....	11
HUMBLE YOURSELF.....	11
I AM LOVE.....	11
I AM THE EARTH.....	11
I AM THE FIRE.....	12
I GIVE THANKS TO THE FIRE.....	12
INFINITE SUN.....	12
INVOCATION.....	12
INVOCATION TO APHRODITE.....	12
I WALK IN BEAUTY.....	13
LET IT SHINE.....	13
LET THE WAY.....	13
LOOKING GLASS.....	13
MAKING A CONNECTION.....	13

MAY YOUR JOURNEY	13
MINSTRELS OF ETERNITY	13
MOTHER.....	14
MOTHERWAVE CHANT.....	14
A NEW WAY.....	14
NOTHIN GONNA TAKE MY LOVE.....	14
NUIT.....	15
THE OCEAN.....	15
OCEAN MOTHER.....	15
ONE SPIRIT.....	15
O MA MA MA.....	16
PEOPLE OF THE EARTH.....	16
POWER IN EVERYONE.....	16
PREPARE YOURSELF.....	17
RETURN AGAIN.....	17
RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.....	17
RISE WITH THE FIRE.....	17
THE RIVER IS FLOWING (Mother Carry Me).....	17
SACRED PLEASURE.....	18
SACRED WAY.....	18
SHE CHANGES EVERYTHING.....	18
SINGING IN THE CIRCLE.....	18
SWEET SURRENDER.....	19
TAKE ME HIGHER.....	19
THANK YOU.....	19
UNDER THE FULL MOONLIGHT.....	19
UNION.....	19
WALK IN BALANCE.....	20
WE ALL COME FROM THE GODDESS.....	20
WE ARE A CIRCLE.....	20
WE ARE A CIRCLE MOVING.....	20
WE ARE ALIVE.....	21
WE ARE AN OLD PEOPLE.....	21
WE ARE CIRCLING.....	21
WE ARE ONE.....	21
WE ARE SPIRALING.....	21
WE ARE SPIRIT.....	22
WE ARE THE ANCESTORS.....	22
WE ARE THE FLOW.....	22
WE GIVE THANKS.....	22
WEAVERS.....	22
WHEEL CHANT.....	23
YOU ARE MY FAMILY.....	23
YOU WERE BORN.....	23
OLD WOMAN.....	24
LIGHT IS RETURNING.....	25
OAKEN LOGS.....	25
FAIREST MAID.....	25
MAOZ TSUR.....	26
WINTER SOLSTICE SUNRISE.....	26
SEE THE SUN ARISING.....	26
THE FIRST SONG.....	27

AIR I AM Andras Corban Arthen

Air I am

Fire I am

Water, Earth and Spirit I am

ALL AROUND YOU

Open, open deep

There's magic all around you

Look, look within

There's beauty all around you

Listen, listen well

There's music all around you

ANCIENT GODDESS Abigail Spinner

Smiling Virgin, shining crescent

Waxing fullness, luminescent

Sickle of silver, reaper of bone

Maiden, Mother and Crone

Maiden, Mother and Crone

Ancient Goddess, daughter of moonlight

Ancient Goddess, mother of stone

Ancient Goddess, keeper of midnight

Maiden, Mother and Crone

Maiden, Mother and Crone

AS ABOVE AND SO BELOW Morganne

As above and so below

On the Earth and over the sea

The seeds of love I have planted and sown

Ready with thanks I now harvest to me

("love" can be replaced with other words – joy, peace, family, abundance, etc.)

ASHERA Morganne

Ashera of the sea

Mother come to me

Ashera of the tree

Strength grow in me

Giver of life, fertility

Wisdom and divine prophecy

Queen of Heaven look down on me

Keeper of the dark mystery

BACK TO THE RIVER Abigail Spinner

Back to the river
Back to the sea
Back to the ocean
Home to Thee

Back through my blood
Back through my veins,
Back to the heartbeat
One and the same

BEHOLD THERE IS MAGIC Abbi Spinner

Behold there is magic all around you (us) (x3)
Awaken, rejoice and sing!
(chorus repeated after each verse)

I am the Air around you
I am the breath of life within you
I am the wind blowing through you
I am all that I am

I am the Fire around you
I am the spark of life within you
I am the flame burning through you
I am all that I am

I am the Water around you
I am the pulse of life within you
I am the ocean flowing through you
I am all that I am

I am the Earth around you
I am the heartbeat within you
I am the ground below you
I am all that I am

I am the Spirit around you
I am divinity within you
I am the light shining through you
I am all that I am

Awaken, rejoice and sing!

BLESSED

All I do is blessed
All I see is blessed
All I am is blessed
Here and now, blessed

BLOOD OF THE ANCIENTS Ellen Klaver (ref Charlie Murphy)

It's the blood of the ancients
That flows through our veins
The forms change
But the circle of life remains

BODY Mz. Imani

Peace be in my body
And peace be in my heart
Peace be in my family
To truly help us grow
We are riding a wondrous rainbow
Into the Source
We are guiding the true destination
Of the earth

(In this chant the word peace is inter-changeable with many words i.e. - love, joy, trust. Sometimes even with words called out from around the fire.)

BURN FIRE ©1983, Deirdre Pulgram Arthen

Burn fire, burn bright
Pure vision come to me
Guide my path tonight
With your strength and light

CARRY IT HOME Bestsy Rose

Carry it home to your children
Carry in out on the street
Carry it on to the ones you know
And to the ones you meet
Carry it light on your shoulders
Carry it deep in your soul
For we have been blessed with magic
And the magic will make us whole

CAULDRON OF CHANGE Author Unknown

Cauldron of change
Blossom of bone
Arc of eternity
Hole in the stone

CHILDREN OF THE DIVINE Mz.Imani

We are children of the divine,
We are children of love.
We are children of the divine,
and we work on the earth plane now.

Blessings to our mother earth,
Blessing to our father,
Blessings to our children,
As we work on the earth plane now.

THE CIRCLE SHAPES US Deirdre Pulgram Arthen

The circle shapes us
Body and mind
Heart and soul are one

CIRCLE OF LIGHT

Oh sister we love you
Oh sister you help us to grow
Oh sister we love you
Oh sister we want you to know
There's a circle of light around you
There's a circle of love in your heart
There's a circle of family around you
There's a circle of you inside us

(The word "sister" can be replaced with "brother" or a person's name)

COME FORTH Christopher Hatton

I come forth by day
into the dawning of the morning
I come forth by day
into the world
that You have made new
Oh Ra

DANCE FEEL THE EARTH

Dance feel the Earth beneath your feet
Feel the strength that is Hadit
Wrapt in the wings of Ra, Hour, Khuit
Through the body of Nuit

THE EARTH IS OUR MOTHER (Hopi)

The Earth is our mother, we must take care of her
The Earth is our mother, we must take care of her.

Hey yana, ho yana, hey yan yan,

Hey yana, ho yana, hey yan yan.

Her sacred ground we walk upon, with every step we take
Her sacred ground we walk upon, with every step we take.

EARTH OUR BODY

Earth our body,
Water our blood,
Air our breath,
And Fire our spirit

(In this chant 'our' is sometimes replaced with 'your' or 'my'.)

ENTER THE CENTER Abigail Spinner

Enter the center
Where all is One
All are welcome
All is One

FAMILY OF FIRE Abbi Spinner

Awaken the mystery of the fire circle shrine,
This holy golden moment, a gift from the Divine.
Awaken the mystery of the fire circle shrine,
This holy golden moment, a gift from the Divine.

Secret fire, sacred burning
Ageless and endless, eternally turning
Together we kindle the spark of desire
The embers remember the Family of Fire.

Secret fire, sacred burning
Ageless and endless, eternally turning
Lead into golden sunlight in your eye
We are the phoenix reborn; we are the Family of Fire.

FANGA

Fanga alafia, ashe, ashe
Fanga alafia, ashe, ashe
Ashe, ashe, Ahse, ashe

FIRE, DANCE & DRUM by Bram Larrick

Gaze into the fire,
It's a window looking back in time,
Dance with me through the night,
We'll turn golden in the morning light

FOUR ELEMENTS CHANT (RETURN) Native American

The Earth, the Air, the Fire, the Water
Return, return, return, return

FIRE OF CREATION Abigail Spinner

It starts very quietly
It starts with a spark
It starts in the center
It starts in the heart

Fire of creation
Fire of purification
Fire of transformation
Fire of illumination

FIRE SONG Starhawk

We can rise with the fires of freedom,
Truth is a fire that burns our chains,
And we can stop the fires of destruction,
Healing is a fire running through our veins.

FIRE TRANSFORM US

Fire transform us
Bring us to our passions
Fire transform us
Bring us to our passions!
We choose life - YES!
We choose courage
We choose life - YES!
We choose courage
To dance among the flames
To dance among the flames

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE

Fly like an eagle, Fly so high
Circling the universe
On wings of pure light

Hey witchy tai tai
Witchy tai-o
Hey witchy tai tai
Witchy tai-o

Fly like a butterfly. Fly so low
Circling the Mother Earth
On wings of rainbow

Hey witchy tai tai
Witchy tai-o
Hey witchy tai tai
Witchy tai-o

FOR EACH CHILD

For each child that's born
A morning star rises and sings to the universe
Who we are
For each child that's born
A morning star rises and sings to the universe
Who we are
We are our grandmothers dreaming
We are our grandfathers prayers
We are the breath of our ancestors
We are the Spirit of love

FREE YOUR MIND

Free your mind from judgment
Free your heart from fear
Releasing expectations
Bringing spirit here

GAIA CARRY US Abigail Spinner

Gaia, carry us home
Mother, we are one
Remember the God,
Remember yourself
Remember the Goddess
Remember

GENTLE

I will be gentle with myself
I will love myself
I am a Child of the Universe
Being born each moment

HEALING CHANT Alisa Starkweather

Oh Mother, we are calling
Your Children, we need healing
Oh Mother, we are calling
Your Children, we need healing
Power, power
Our love is our power
Power, power
Our love is our power

HECATE Patricia Witt

Hecate, Cerridwen
Dark Mother take us in
Hecate, Cerridwen
Let us be Reborn

HELD IN THE HEART Abigail Spinner

We are here, we are held
We are holy, we are home
Here in the heart of this holy moment
Held in the dark of the womb
Held in the hands of our sisters and brothers
Here in the light of the moon

Here in the heart of this holy moment,
Held in the light of the sun
Held in the hands of our sisters and brothers
Here in the heart of the One.

HERNE (Circle in the Greenwood)

Herne horned one
Hunter 'neath the Northern sun
Watcher at the gates of winter
Flame on the wind

HIGHER AND HIGHER Windsong

Mother I feel you under my feet,
Mother I hear your heart beat,
Hey yun a ho yun a hey yun yun,
Hey yun a ho yun a hey yun yun,
Father I see you when the eagle flies,
Spirit's gonna take me (us) higher and higher!

Mother I can feel you under my feet
Mother I can hear your heart beat
Father I can see you where the Eagle flies
Spirit gonna take us higher and higher!

HOOF AND HORN Ian Corrigan

Hoof and horn, hoof and horn
All that dies shall be reborn
Corn and grain, corn and grain
All that falls shall rise again

HUMBLE YOURSELF

You got to humble yourself in the eyes of your sisters (brothers)
You got to bend down low and humble yourself
You got to know what she (he) knows and
We shall lift each other up
Higher and higher
We shall lift each other up

I AM LOVE Samina

I am love, I am lover
I am freedom, I am free
I am part of the beauty that is all around me
My feet are firm upon the ground, my hands raised to the sun
I am strong in my power and with all I am one

I AM THE EARTH Christopher Hatton

I am the earth moving under you
I am the air flowing over you
I am the fire in your loins and in your soul
I am the ocean of love.

I AM THE FIRE Abbi Spinner
I am the fire and the union of opposites
I am the mystery
I am calling you in your dreams
I am bringing you home to me

I GIVE THANKS TO THE FIRE

I give thanks to the fire,
For warming us through the night,
I give thanks to the spirit of the drum!

(Community adds words of thanks, replacing Fire)

INFINITE SUN Native American

We are one with the infinite sun
Forever and ever and ever

INVOCATION

Soaring eagle on the wing
From your lair new visions bring
Lift our voices as we sing
Enter us powers of the East

Mighty loin of the sun
Burn my heart and will as one
Flaming strength and passion
Enter us powers of the South

Ancient serpent of the deep
In your waters let us weep
Wave your mysteries here to sleep
Enter us powers of the West

Dark bull of the mother earth
Winter cave that gives us birth
Feed our knowledge of your worth
Enter us powers of the North

Hear us, Spirit

INVOCATION TO APHRODITE Ahriana Lightningstorm

Strong like the ocean,
Gentle like rain,
River wash my tears away
Aphrodite

I WALK IN BEAUTY Traditional Navajo

Now I walk in beauty
Beauty is before me
Beauty is behind me
Above me and below me
Around me and within me.

LET IT SHINE Morganne

My body is sacred, let it shine
My beauty is sacred, let it shine
My love is sacred, let it shine
Let it shine, bright and full, let it shine

LET THE WAY Abbi Spinner

Sing through my voice
Play through my hands
Let the way be open.

LOOKING GLASS Mz. Imani

What do you see when you gaze in to the Looking Glass?
What do you see when you gaze in to the night?
What do you see when you gaze in to the Looking Glass?
What do you see when you gaze in to the night?

MAKING A CONNECTION Author Unknown

Making love is making a connection
Making a connection is making energy
Making energy is making magic
Making magic is making love

MAY YOUR JOURNEY

May your journey be safe may your worries be few
May the gods always watch over you
May your grow like a flower straight toward the light
Grounded in the mother earth

MINSTRELS OF ETERNITY Author Unknown

Free souls are we
Minstrels of eternity
Situated on the land we love
Beyond the immortal sea

MOTHER Morganne

Back to the river back to the sea
Mother your child I will always be
Back to the river back to the sea
Mother, mother can you carry me

Mother, mother can you take my fears
Mother, mother, wash away my tears
Mother, mother can you take my pain
Mother, this child wants to live again

MOTHERWAVE CHANT Morganne

Mother she is laughing
Mother she is loving you
Mother she is healing
Mother she is holding you
Mother she is waving
She is calling you home
Mother she is waving
She is calling you home

A NEW WAY Mz. Imani

We bring a new way to walk on the earth
We bring a new way to walk on the earth

Balance and freedom, respect for all life
Kindness and gratitude, respect for your life

We bring a new way to walk on the earth
We bring a new way to walk on the earth

NOTHIN GONNA TAKE MY LOVE Wendy Colonna

Nothing gonna take my love from me, no, no
Nothing gonna take my love from me, no, no
Nothing gonna take my love from me
Not fear, not greed, not jealousy
Nothing gonna take my love from me, no, no

May my eyes be bright and may my heart be light
May my hands be filled with grace
When the shadows fall let me light them all
Let me smile in trouble's face

NUIT Hyland

Growing, learning, laughing, yearning,
Down my path with passions burning;
All the time, my heart is held high
Connected to Nuit, my Infinite Sky.
Grounded as I gently birth
The lessons brought forth from upon this earth.

SLIGHT CHANGES FOR SONG

Growing, learning, laughing, yearning,
Down my path with passions burning;
Grounded as I gently birth
The lessons brought forth from the earth.
All the time, my heart held high
Connected to Nuit, my Infinite Sky.

THE OCEAN Delaney Johnson, Starhawk

Call: The ocean is the beginning of the Earth
Response: The ocean is the beginning of the Earth
Call: All life comes from the sea
Response: All life comes from the sea

This song is a call/response, with the Response part beginning on the last word of the Call part, creating an "echo" effect.

OCEAN MOTHER Inanna Arthen

Call	Response
Ocean mother healing	She is the healer of the Earth
Ocean mother crying	She is the mourner of the Earth
Ocean mother laughing	She is the brightness of the Earth
Ocean mother birthing	She is the cradle of the Earth

ONE SPIRIT

One spirit in the dark
Like a candle wavers
Many spirits joined as one
Burn with the power of the blazing sun
There is strength in community
The circle empowers you and me
The circle binds and sets us free
As we will so shall it be

O MA MA MA Abbi Spinner

O ma ma ma

O-o ma ma ma

O ma ma ma

O-o ma ma ma

(repeat above chorus after each verse)

The earth is a circle, O ma ma ma
The earth is a mother, O ma ma ma
The earth is turning, O ma ma ma
The earth is dancing, O ma ma ma

The sky is a circle, O ma ma ma
The sky is a father, O ma ma ma
The sky is turning, O ma ma ma
The stars are dancing, O ma ma ma

The year is a circle, O ma ma ma
The seasons are a cycle, O ma ma ma
The year is turning, O ma ma ma
The seasons are dancing, O ma ma ma

PEOPLE OF THE EARTH Mz. Imani

We are people of the earth
We come from many nations
We are sculpted and formed
By the hands of time

We are circle, skin and bone
We come from different places
We are sculpted and formed
By the hands of time

POWER IN EVERYONE Starhawk

We are the power in everyone
We are the dance of the moon and sun
We are the hope that will never hide
We are the turning of the tide

PREPARE YOURSELF

Prepare yourself
Prepare yourself
Open the way
Prepare yourself
Prepare yourself
Open the way
Breathe now, Be now
Open the Way
Breathe now, Be now
Open the Way

RETURN AGAIN

Return again, Return again
Return to the land of your Soul
Return to who you are
Return to what you are
Return to where you are
Born and reborn again

RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW Abigail Spinner

The moment we have been waiting for is here
Right here, right now!

RISE WITH THE FIRE Starhawk

We can rise with the fire of freedom
Truth is the fire that burns our chains
We can stop the fire of destruction
Healing is the fire running through our veins.

THE RIVER IS FLOWING (Mother Carry Me) Author Unknown

The river is flowing
Flowing and growing
The river is flowing
Down (Back) to the sea,

Mother (Moon will) carry me
(Her) Child I will always be
Mother (Moon will) carry me
Down (Back) to the sea.

SACRED PLEASURE Shawna Carroll

I am the Goddess
I am the Mother
All acts of love and pleasure are my rituals

SACRED WAY Abbi Spinner

We are going to a sacred place.
We are now in sacred space.
We are living in a state of grace.
We are loving in a sacred way.

We love you, be-loved.
We love you, be-loved.
We love you, be-loved.
We love you!

SHE CHANGES EVERYTHING Starhawk

She changes everything She touches
And everything She touches changes

SINGING IN THE CIRCLE Abigail Spinner

We are singing in the circle
Singing towards the center
We are singing through the midnight
and the moonlight
hand to hand, heart to heart, on and on

We are dancing in the circle
Dancing towards the center
We are dancing through the midnight
and the moonlight
hand to hand, heart to heart, on and on

We are drumming in the circle
Drumming towards the center
We are drumming through the midnight
and the moonlight
hand to hand, heart to heart, on and on

SWEET SURRENDER Sophia

We are opening up in sweet surrender
To the luminous love light of the One
We are opening, we are opening

We are rising up like the phoenix from the fire
We are rising up spread your wings and fly higher
We are rising up, we are rising up

TAKE ME HIGHER Morganne

Connect me to the source of my power
Fill me with purest heart and vision clear
That I may answer destiny's call
Take me higher Take me higher

THANK YOU Morganne

I want to thank you for emptying my cup
What I didn't know then but I know right now
Is I'm ready to be filled up
I want to thank you for bringing me to this
What I didn't know then but I know right now
Is I'm ready to find my bliss

UNDER THE FULL MOONLIGHT

Under the full moonlight we dance
Spirits dance we dance
Joining hands we dance
Joining souls rejoice

This is in 5/4, an unusual time signature. Can be done as a round

UNION Morganne

I am the ocean breaking waves
I am the fire burning bright
I am the sun and I am the moon
I am the union of dark and light

WALK IN BALANCE

We must learn to walk in balance
sacred steps to take
Weaving peace and understanding
through all that we create

The tapestry of love and light
finest threads of gold
sacred flame ever burning bright
through all that we behold

When we learn to walk in balance
the healing will take place
the healing of earth our mother
the healing of the human race

WE ALL COME FROM THE GODDESS

Deena Metzger, Magnus McBride, Z. Budapest, Leonard D. Rosenberg

Isis, Astarte, Diana, Hecate, Demeter, Kali, Innana

We all come from the Goddess
And to her we shall return
Like a drop of rain
Flowing to the ocean....

Mithras, Osiris, Cernunos, Apollo, Hunuman, Wotan, Chango

We all come from the Sun God
And to him we return
Like a spark of flame
Rising to the heavens.(Floating to the heavens)

WE ARE A CIRCLE

We are a circle
Within a circle
With no beginning
And never ending

WE ARE A CIRCLE MOVING Author Unknown

We are a circle moving
One with another we are
Moving together
We are one
I am spirit and I flow in you
You are spirit and you flow in me

WE ARE ALIVE Rose May Dance and Starhawk

We are alive, as the Earth is alive,
We have the power to create our freedom
If we have courage, we can be healers
Like the Sun we shall rise
If we have courage, we can be healers
Like the Moon we shall rise

We are alive, as the Earth is alive,
We have the power to create our freedom
We have the courage, we are the healers
Like the Sun we shall rise
We have the courage, we are the healers
Like the Moon we shall rise

WE ARE AN OLD PEOPLE Morningfeather, Will Shepardson

We are an old people
We are a new people
We are the same people
Stronger than before

WE ARE CIRCLING

We are circling, circling together
We are singing, singing our heartsong
This is family, this is unity
This is celebration, this is Sacred

WE ARE ONE Andras Corban Arthen

We are one with the soul
Of the earth, Mother Earth

WE ARE SPIRALING

We are spiraling into the center
The center of the wheel
We are spiraling into the center
The center of the wheel
We are the weavers, we are the woven ones
We are the dreamers, we are the dream
We are the weavers, we are the woven ones
We are the dreamers, we are the dream

WE ARE SPIRIT

We are spirit wearing skin
We are spirit deep within
We are spirit dancing bones
We are spirit standing stones.

descant

I am the air and I am blowing
I am the fire and I am glowing
I am the water and I am flowing
I am the earth and I am growing

WE ARE THE ANCESTORS Mz. Imani

We are the ancestors of the ones yet to be
And we are the paper of the previous trees
May everything we think and do
Make it all come round right, for....(repeat)

WE ARE THE FLOW Shekhinah Mountainwater

We are the flow and we are the ebb
We are the weaver, we are the web

WE GIVE THANKS

We give thanks for unknown blessings
Already on the way
We give thanks for unknown blessings
Already on the way

WEAVERS ©1994, Deirdre Pulgram Arthen

Weavers, Weavers
We are weaving the web of life.
Weavers, Weavers
We are weaving the web of life.

Spirit weaver, Bone weaver
Breath weaver, Stone weaver
We are weaving the web of life.

WHEEL CHANT

The seasons of our lives are spinning in the wheel
Learning returning, great mystery revealed
A circle of spirit formed, by opening the heart
The spinning of the wheel, in love meet in love part

YOU ARE MY FAMILY

You are my family and you are healing me
I am your family and I am healing you
Together we are one we are one
Together we are one we are one

YOU WERE BORN

You were born to dance with the fire
You were born to reach up so high
You were born to dance with your feet on the ground
And your heart in the sky

OLD WOMAN

Old woman is watching
Watching over you
In the darkness of the storm she is watching
She is weaving, mending, gathering the fragments
She is watching over you

So weave and mend, Weave and mend
Gather the fragments safe within the sacred circle
Sisters weave and mend
Weave, and mend
Old woman, weave and mend

Old woman is weaving
Gathering the threads
Her bones become the loom, she is weaving
She is watching, weaving, gathering the colors
She is watching over you

So weave and mend, Weave and mend
Gather the fragments safe within the sacred circle
Sisters weave and mend
Weave, and mend
Old woman, weave and mend

For years I've been watching
Waiting for old woman
Felling lost and so alone, I've been watching
Now I find her, weaving, gathering the colors
Now I find her in my self

So weave and mend, Weave and mend
Gather the fragments safe within the sacred circle
Sisters weave and mend
Weave, and mend
Old woman, weave and mend

WINTER SOLSTICE CHANTS

LIGHT IS RETURNING Charlie Murphy

Light is returning
Even though this is the darkest hour
No one can hold back the dawn

Let's keep it burning
Let's keep the light of hope alive
Make safe our journey through the storm

One planet is turning
Circles on her path around the sun
Earth mother is calling her children home

OAKEN LOGS (Circle in the Greenwood)

Oaken logs will warm you well that are old and dry
Logs of Pine will sweetly smell, but the sparks will fly

Birch logs will burn too fast, Chestnut scarce at all
Hawthorne logs are good to last, cut them in the fall

Holly logs will burn like wax, you may burn them green
Elm logs like to smoldering flax, no flame to be seen

Beech logs for the winter time, Yew logs as well
Green Elder logs it is a crime for any man to sell

Pear logs and apple logs, They will scent your room.
Cherry logs across the dogs, Smell like flowers of broom.

Ashen logs, smooth and grey, Burn them green or old;
Buy up all that come your way, Worth their weight in gold.

Oaken logs will warm you well, That are old and dry.

FAIREST MAID (English Women's Carol)

Now sing we of the fairest maid with gold upon her toe
And open up the Western door to let the Old Year go
For we have brought fresh holly all from the grove so near
To wish you and your company a joyful healthy year

Now sing we of the fairest maid with gold upon her chin
And open up the Eastern door to let the New Year in
For we have brought fresh ivy all from the grove so near
To wish you and your company a joyful healthy year

MAOZ TSUR (Light in Darkness)

Light in darkness let us sing
Brightness is returning
House of Prayer once dark and cold
Now with candles burning
When the lamp seemed empty
And its fire forever spent
Then the flame sprang up anew
For our hearts deep yearning

(Sung to the tune "Rock of Ages")

WINTER SOLSTICE SUNRISE Arianna Lightningstorm, Dierdre Arthen

We are the Earth
We are the Moon
Come rising Sun
Lead us from the tomb

The frozen Earth,
The pale, cold Moon,
Come, Solstice Sun,
We are reborn

This longest night,
This darkest hour,
Come bring the dawn,
We wait for you

SEE THE SUN ARISING Deirdre Pulgram Arthen

See the sun arising,
See the sun arising;
Darkness is gone!

THE FIRST SONG

A tale of how Yule got its name

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This is the story of the very first song; it is a true story, as all stories are, if you believe in them. This story begins a long, long time ago, when the Earth and Sun gave birth to the first beings-the very first plants, and animals, and people. It was springtime, and the Sun shone warm and bright from his high perch above, and Earth, proud mother that she was, held and fed her newborns and relished them with tenderness and love. It was a time of joy, it was a time of great delight.

The Moon waxed and waned time and again in the night sky, and the children of the Earth grew well and strong through summertime. They played and danced, and Earth and Sun watched over them.

Then autumn came, and the Earth began to sleep much longer every day. She grew tired and pale, she could no longer feed her children, and had no strength to grow new life. High above, the Sun grew distant, and took longer to return each morn. The nights grew longer, and cold winds blew where none had blown before.

And then, one day, Earth went to sleep and never did wake up. She wrapped herself in a blanket of snow, and rested her tired head on pillows of dried leaves, and she did not wake up, Her children could do nothing to rouse her from her slumber. They prodded her, they called to her, but she would not awaken. In the sky, the Sun was nowhere to be seen, and the children of the Earth felt fear, and also felt despair. This was the longest night that they had ever known.

"What shall become of us?", they pondered. "Earth Mother sleeps, and Father Sun is oh so far away that we can barely see him in the sky. He is much too far to hear our call. What shall we do?"

So they brought their questions and their fears to the Moon, the sister of the Sun, for they knew not where else to turn. She closed her eyes, and took a slow, deep breath, and looked within herself, and awoke thoughts that had never been awakened until then.

She opened her soft eyes, then said, "When hope is lost, the best way to get it back is with a song. Climb you the tallest trees, the biggest hills, the highest mountains, and yule a song to reach the Sun". (Now, yule is a word from one of the most ancient tongues. It is related to words like yell or yodel, and it means to call out in a song).

But the first beings had never heard a song, so once again they sought the Moon's advice. "How shall we yule?", they asked. "How shall we sing a song?"

"Take the best of what you have", she said, "the best of what you are. Take what you love, take what you cherish most. Take your joys, your dreams, your fondest hopes, and weave them all together in a sound."

And so they did. They climbed atop the tallest trees, the mountains and the hills. They stood on all the places that would bring them closest to the Sun. They shut their eyes, and thought and felt the best of thoughts and feelings, and dreamt the finest dreams. And, as they did, their voices rang and made a bridge of song across the sky, to reach the distant Sun.

He heard, and turned, and smiled, and wrapped himself in all his light and warmth, and sped to where the yuling voices called. As he drew near, the sleeping Earth did stir, and dreamed a dream of spring. The wheel of life made its first round, and hope and joy prevailed. And ever since, that time of year has been called Yule, in honor of the song.

But the first song did not end. It had such power, such eldritch allure, that the first beings kept singing it throughout. And then the second beings born of the Earth took up the song, as did the third. And so it ever since has gone, through seasons and through years, until this very day.

At times the song is very soft, and scarcely can be heard above the din and clatter of our lives. But when Yule comes, it rises and it swells in memory of that night when the Sun heard, and light and life were spared.

And so do we, upon this longest night, gather with those we love and who love us, and stand upon the body of slumbering Earth, and light the log with last year's coal, and lift our voices soaring to the Sun, and join the song that first was sung so very long ago.

We sing our thanks to those who went before, and sing our fondest wish to those who come behind. We bask in the returning light of reawakened hope, and welcome Yule.