

Circle Castings

Circle Casting 1

Based on a ceremony by Maphis (Samuel Wagar)

West:

As the sun sets
So our friend has left us
The water of our tears like the salt water of the sea, and
the water of our mothers' womb, blesses this Circle.

South:

As life is a day
So our friend has passed into the night
The fire of our life, the passion and courage, the
strength given to us by our friend blesses this Circle.

East:

As the wind blows
So our friend has gone.
The breath in our lungs like a gentle breeze, and
like the memories of our dead, blesses this Circle.

North:

As the Earth forms us
So our friend shall return to the earth
Our Mother feeds us, and clothes us. She gives us
everything and in the end she takes our bodies back.
And thus Earth blesses this Circle.



Circle Casting 2

From Transitions creating Pagan funerals <http://www.pagan-transitions.org.uk/rituals/burial.htm>

West:

Spirits of the West, Powers of Water, we call you. Open our hearts, let our tears and love flow. Bring us healing and renewal. Remember *Name* who loved life, loved his/her friends and his/her magical family. Blessed be!

South:

Spirits of the South, Powers of Fire, we call you. Keep the fire of our love for *Name* alive – in the memory of this lover of the sun and of Helios. Blessed be!

East:

Spirits of the East, Powers of Air, we call you. Bring us bright memories of our beloved *Name* and of the *Music* or *similar as appropriate* that surrounded him/her. Blessed Be!

North:

Spirits of the North, Powers of the Earth, we call you. From you we come; to you we return. Bring us Strength. Remember *Name* to whom you gave strength and wisdom and embraced in his/her passing. Blessed be!

**Circle Casting 3**

A Pagan Blessing for the Dead on About Religion

<http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/wiccanandpaganrituals/a/FuneralPrayer.htm>

Center:

Take me now, take me now
for to face the Summerlands.
By the earth and wind and the fire and rain
I'm on my way, remember me.

West:

Take me now back to the water
from which we spring and then return.
I shall cross over, now it is my turn.
I am not afraid Remember me.

South:

Take me now back to the fire
from which we spring and then return.
I shall cross over, now it is my turn.
I am not afraid Remember me.

East:

Take me now back to the air
from which we spring and then return.
I shall cross over, now it is my turn.
I am not afraid Remember me.

North:

Take me now back to the earth
from which we spring and then return.
I shall cross over, now it is my turn.
I am not afraid Remember me.

Family blessing:

(Touch each family member with your athamé as you say the following)

Blood of my blood
Bone of my bone
Flesh of my flesh
Keep my soul alive
I will live on.



Circle Casting 4

Circle Casting and closing for Funeral rite

Note: I have placed the quarters according to my tradition (1734) feel free to move them to reflect your traditional placement.

Casting the circle

Most likely you will have everyone remain seated and the participants in the casting will stay up front and simply turn to each quarter. If you are doing this for a small group you can do a more traditional casting with everyone gathered in a circle and the quarters being called around them.

This rite is written for one HP and one HPS but it could be easily adapted to either use less or more people.

Make sure everyone is settled before you begin.

HP - Intro

Hold hands with your neighbor to remind you that we do not mourn alone. Also if you wish you may participate in this rite by repeating "help us to heal."

In a moment we will cast a sacred circle. Let us gather together therein so each of us can feel what we need. To rejoice that we knew _____ and to grieve our separation.

HPS - West / Water / Blue

To the West I call.
Let tears like rain fall
to heal our hearts.

Water reflect our emotions
help us to heal.

HP - North / Air / Yellow

To the North I call.
Let eulogies like wind stir
to heal our minds.

Air inspire memories
help us to heal.

HPS - East / Fire / Red

To the East I call.
Let determination like a flame grow
to heal our lives.

Fire inspire action
help us to heal.

HP - South / Earth / Green

To the South I call.
Let community like flowers bloom.

Earth ground us
help us to heal.

Both

To Spirit I call.
Let _____ continue to inspire us.

Spirit uplift us
help us to heal.

SO MOTE IT BE

You may let go of your hands.

Opening the circle

HP – Intro

In a moment we will open the sacred circle. You may participate by repeating “we thank you for your healing.”
Let us go forth from this rite together strengthened to heal.

HPS – West / Water / Blue

To the West I call.
Thank you for tears
that heal our hearts.

Water that reflects our emotions
we thank you for your healing.

HP – North / Air / Yellow

To the North I call.
Thank you for eulogies
that heal our minds.

Air that inspires memories
we thank you for your healing.

HPS – East / Fire / Red

To the East I call.
Thank you for determination
that heals our lives.

Fire that inspires action
we thank you for your healing.

HP – South / Earth / Green

To the South I call.
We thank you for community.

Earth that grounds us
we thank you for your healing.

Both

To Spirit I call.

_____ will continue to inspire us.

Spirit that uplift us
we thank you for your healing.

SO MOTE IT BE.

Merry Meet and Merry Part and Merry Meet again.