



Spring equinox celebration Welcoming the Newness of Life

*"There is no time like spring,
When life's alive in everything"
Christine Rossetti*



Setting

Chairs in a circle. Table in the center with colorful cloth. Symbols of spring on the table, bowl of water, pot of earth, packet of seeds, potted spring flowers. Candle in the center of the table.

Ritual

Presider: Welcome

We come together today to celebrate the Spring Equinox and the beginning of new life in our part of the world. We rejoice in melting snows, the crocus proclaiming new life, familiar songs of returning birds, and the smells of the earth that greet us in spring's arrival.

Lights a candle

Reader: Let us listen to a Chinook psalm celebrating Spring.



From the Chinook psalter:

Everywhere is the green of new growth.
The amazing sight of the renewal of the earth.
We watch the grass once again emerging from the ground.
We notice the bright green atop the dark green on the pine, the fir, the hemlock, the spruce, the cedar
The alder is already in leaf
The old plum trees blossom, leaf and give forth fruit
The locust is late as always
Everywhere and always the song of birds, bees raiding the orchard,
Raccoon prowling at nightfall, the earthworm tunneling the garden,
Chickens and rabbits pecking and nibbling,
The goats tugging to reach new delights,
All are the ubiquitous energies of life.

O God, may we today be touched by grace, fascinated and moved by this your creation,
energized by the power of new growth at work in your world,
May we move beyond viewing this life only through a frame but

Touch it and be touched by it,
Know it and be known by it,
Love it and be loved by it.

May our bodies, our minds, our spirits, learn a new rhythm paced by the rhythmic pulse of the whole created order.

President: We will take the time to [listen to the segment of Spring from Vivaldi's Four Seasons](#).

Play The Four Seasons by Vivaldi

Reflect on these questions:

- a) What was this past winter like for you on the outside?
- b) What was this past winter like for you on the inside?
- c) Are you aware of any shift taking place inside you now?
- d) Do you have a deep seeded hope for Spring?
- e) What seeds of new life would you like to plant this spring so that they might blossom in the summer?

Share your reflections in pairs or depending on the size of the group in the small group.

President: Let each person take a seed and plant it in the container with a hope or wish for spring.

After all have planted their seed, pray this prayer by Father Ed Hays.

Voice 1: Listen all you seeds in the earth,
Buried in your dark earth tombs,
As the flame of my spring candle
Penetrates the darkness,
May your tender stems pierce the earth
To dance in wind and rain
Just as this flame, like a tiny sun,
Now dances before me.

Voice 2: Father of fire, Mother of mystery,
Teach me the lesson of spring
As all creation comes alive-
Tree and bush, flower and plant
In the alleluia richness
Of the resurrection of creation,
Grant me the gift of O God
To do the same.

Voice 3: Teach me O glorious spring,
The lesson that nothing dies completely.



At the death of my body help me know
That I have not entered an endless winter,
But simply a stage in the the unfolding mystery
Whose name is life.

Voice 4: On this feast of the spring equinox
May I taste with delight
The freshness and vitality of new birth
And come forth from the womb of winter
Youthful with hope
And fully alive
In the Presence of my God.

Closing Song: [“Canticle of the Sun” by Marty Haugen](#) (1980 G.I.A. Publications) or some other hymn that brings you joy