



Galaxies
Evening Service
18 February 2007
Service by Pete Cowley
at Scorching Bay

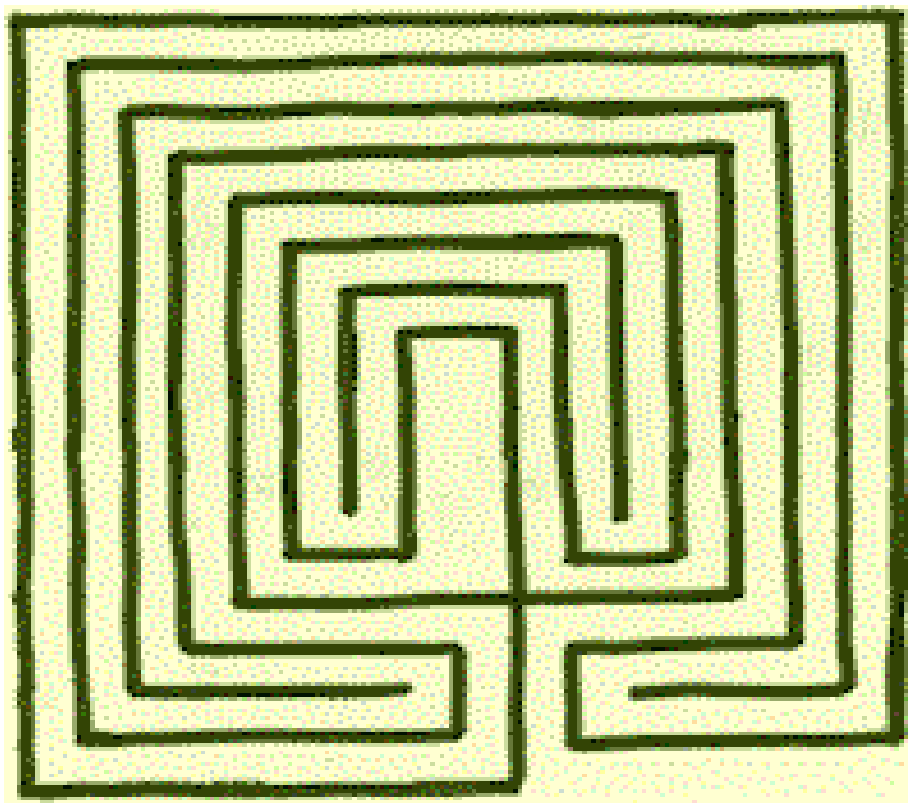


Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight

The Labyrinth: Walking a Sacred Path

Each of us, at some point in life, embarks on a journey. A quest for solace, for truth, for inner peace, for the real meaning of it all. A pilgrimage to find one's soul. Landmarks are hard to come by, and we can easily become disorientated. The labyrinth, a metaphor for one's life journey, can help show the way. The very act of walking the labyrinth encourages focus, assists in opening up the self, in creating a place deep inside where new insights and awareness can germinate, take root and grow. Each journey is unique.



7-circuit Celtic Labyrinth

Call to togetherness and sharing:

Leader: We are all part of the rhythm of life.
As we gather together to share food and our journey, may peace and love be with us.

All: **May we be makers of the peace and givers of unbounded love.**

Constructing and walking the labyrinth

Labyrinths are a potent symbol in many cultures, and have been for thousands of years. One traditional story tells us that the Labyrinth evolved from observations of the recursive swings of the planet Mercury. In one solar year, Mercury backwards three times and forward four. Seven-circuit labyrinths have been discovered within the ruins of cities of ancient Turkey dating back to 5,000 B.C.E. The Classic seven circuit labyrinth is round. The square versions are either Celtic or Roman. Other styles have been found in classical Greece, New Zealand, North America, and Southeast Asia. The earliest versions are found in pictographs, drawings upon stones.

The Great Goddess Inanna of Mesopotamia (5,000 B.C.E.) surrendered her seven symbols of identity as she entered the Underworld where, she encountered her Shadow Side, her Dark Sister Ereskigal. Inanna dies, is reborn, and returns empowered reclaiming her seven symbols. (Later, Ereskigal became the model for Lillith, the first wife of Adam.)

With Greek legend when Theseus killed the Minotaur, he defeated the beast at the heart of darkness - and created a myth that is still vibrant and evolving. Roman mosaics often depicted labyrinths as fortified cities. Romans placed symbols of the square labyrinth above doorways for protection.

Christian churches used the labyrinth for prayer and meditation as early as 350. In medieval Europe, the eleven-circuit labyrinth appeared. They served as alternate paths for pilgrimage after Jerusalem fell to the Moslems, and they symbolized the one true path to Christian salvation.

The design most popular within Christendom comes from [Notre-Dame de Chartres Cathedral](#) at [Chartres, France](#). It contains four 7-circuit labyrinth, making for a longer journey. Centuries before, this was a site very sacred to the Goddess and to the Druids.

Prayer for peace

All:

Mystery of Life, Source of All Being, we are thankful for the gifts of life and being, of love and connection. We are thankful for all the wonders of the world around us. We are thankful for each other and for all the members of our global family. May we have eyes that see, hearts that love and hands that are ready to serve in love and in kindness, with caring and with courage. Blessed Be.

AMEN

Departure blessing

Leader: Let us stop for a moment and calm our thoughts as we prepare ourselves:

- to act with peaceful, careful listening; even in the face of aggression
- to calmly and lovingly challenge duplicity, bigotry, prejudice and injustice wherever we encounter it.
- to accept people with loving-kindness in all our interactions.
- to share our joy and blessings freely with others.

AMEN

Notices