



Galaxies

Evening Service

3 February 2008

Service by Pete Cowley



Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight

The title of our service tonight is about enjoying the urban out-doors with a shared meal to start with in the Bolton St. urban park/cemetery.

We will also reflect on the Christian celebration of the Feast of St. John the Baptist which is celebrated in mid-June, for the summer -solstice in the Northern Hemisphere and supplanted the much older pagan/Wiccan summer-solstice celebration called "Litha". Since it was originally based on the Summer Solstice I thought we would look at it in our Southern Summer (even though the solstice was over a month ago now, Summer is still in full swing here!)



*St John the Baptist, circa 1620 to 1622,
painted by Diego Velazquez*



Pembroke dock (South Wales) midsummer festival

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.**

Contemporary Reflection - The feast of St. John the Baptist/Litha

We learn about the Christian feast of St. John the Baptist and the fact it supplanted the Pagan/Wiccan midsummer festival called Litha . It is an interesting story...



The excavated remains of the site where John the Baptist baptized Jesus in "Bethany beyond the Jordan". Photo by David Bjorgen

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