

FESTIVAL OF AFFIRMATION

POLYCOX
CONFEDERATION

Reader

Gathered together in a community of concern, we turn
the vast reaches of the universe into home. Gathered
together in a community of care, we turn the black
spaces of the heavens into light. Gathered together
in a community of compassion, we turn the cold
brightness of distant stars into warmth.

Reader

To everything there is a season;
A time for every event under heaven.

Group

A time for breaking down, and a time for building
up;
A time to be silent, and a time to speak.

Reader

A time to lose, and a time to seek;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance.

Group

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to die, and a time to be born.

Song

Life, life's many, many seasons
Have their beauty, their beauty and reasons.
Links in a chain, a chain of days,
Promising tomorrows to yesterdays.

Links in a chain of days, in a chain of days,
Promising tomorrows to yesterdays, to yesterdays.
Promising tomorrows to yesterdays.
Promising, promising tomorrows to yesterdays.

Reader and Group

In this season, sun and earth, joined together in cosmic rhythm, bear witness to life's perilous nature.

In this season that sees the shortest days of the year, we have come together for the Festival of Affirmation.

Reader

Life's challenge and struggle are all about. We find everywhere boundaries that surround and limit. Uncertainty pervades existence, and risk lies in all things. Time and events flow beyond our control, sweeping us swiftly on a surging tide. The Sage truly speaks:

Humans born of woman
Are of few days, and full of trouble.
They come forth like a flower, and wither;
They flee also as a shadow, and continue not.

We seek the infinite, to be free of time and space. Yet our efforts to possess all we desire are confounded. Our bodies betray our wish for infinity; emotion lays bare our need.

Reader and Group

Yet though life's conflict between finite and infinite is our heritage, we need not despair. Also given is the strength of spirit to heal that which is divided. On this Day of Affirmation, we avow life's promise of meaning and celebrate its fulfillment within us.

Reader

So, writes the Sage (Ecclesiastes):

"Though one may live many years,
One should rejoice in them all;
Before the sun is darkened,
Along with the light, the moon, and the stars,
And the clouds return after the rain.
Before the silver cord is snapped asunder,
And the golden bowl is shattered,
And the pitcher is broken at the fountain
And the wheel falls shattered, into the pit,
And the dust returns to the earth as it was."

Reader and Group

The Festival of Affirmation declares our power to affirm life and respond with joy to the mysterious question of existence.

Reader

The Festival of Affirmation teaches that finite though we are yet we are potent, possessed of fire to light the darkness.

Lighting of Synverse Candelabrum

Reader

Thus do the heavens in this season point to Affirmation; Darkness does not prevail, light returns. May the memory of joys we have known and the prospect of pleasures to come give us courage to accept our place in the order of life, and warmth to be at home in the universe.

4.

Song

Winter is a cold thing,
But truth and hope are warm.
And liberty's a bold thing,
That can outlast the storm.

For love has its defenses
Where winter cannot blow.
And one is safe who senses
The spring beneath the snow.

