

**BALANCING DARK AND LIGHT: A CELEBRATION OF THE SPRING EQUINOX**

**March 24, 1996**

**Prairie Unitarian Society**

"If you stand facing the sunshine, you can't see your shadow."

Helen Keller

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERGENERATIONAL STORY: "Amaterasu, the Japanese Sun Goddess" - -

SPECIAL MUSIC                    *"Amaterasu"*                    Nancy Vedder-Shults

INTRODUCTORY REFLECTIONS: "Why Ritual?"

CALLING THE 5 DIRECTIONS                    Joan Goodwin and Nancy Vedder-Shults  
*"Spirit of the East..."*                    Star Williams

INVOCATION OF THE GODS AND GODDESSES  
*"Rise Up and Call Her Name"*                    Nancy Vedder-Shults

LIGHTING THE CHALICE (Do you usually light a chalice?)

CONTINUED REFLECTIONS: "Exploring Darkness"

OFFERTORY HYMN                    *The Dark" (see insert)*                    Mary Grigolia

RESPONSIVE READING                    #628

DEVOCATION OF THE GODS AND GODDESSES

DISMISSAL OF THE DIRECTIONS                    Nancy Vedder-Shults  
*"The Earth, the Air, the Fire, the Water"*

HYMN                    *"I am the light in the darkness"*                    Nancy Vedder-Shults

BENEDICTION                    May Sarton

OPENING THE CIRCLE

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

### The Dark by Mary Grigolia, Copyright 1988

*Dm* *F* *Gm* *Dm*

I sing to the light that I see out the door, and it's  
I sing for the pa- tience to learn how to spin, and it's  
I sing for the friendship that seems to have died, and it's  
I sing to the void that em- braced me with love, and it's  
I sing to the cur- tain sur- roun- ding my fear, and it's

*Dm* *Am* *Dm* (*Dm*) *F*

dark, dark in- side. I sing for the chal- lenges this  
dark, dark in- side. I sing to re- mem- ber that  
dark, dark in- side. I sing for forgive- ness, God  
dark, dark in- side. The one who en- folds me be-  
dark, dark in- side. I'm breathing the grief I've been

*Gm* *Dm* (*Dm*) *Am* *Dm*

path (-) has in store, and it's dark, dark in- side.  
still small voice within, and it's dark, dark in- side.  
knows how hard I tried, and it's dark, dark in- side.  
low (-) and a- bove, and it's dark, dark in- side.  
hol- (-)ding for years, and it's dark, dark in- side.

Chorus: *Gm* *C* *F* *Dm*

Oh the darkness takes cour- age, the dark- ness takes time,

*A7* *Dm*

living in the dark-ness brings a different state of mind, the

*Gm* *C* *F* *Dm*

dark- ness knows heal- ing, the dark- ness knows change,

*A7* *Dm* *Bb*

Oh, Mo-ther darkness I re- turn to you again.

### I AM THE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS by Nancy Vedder-Shults

I am the light in the darkness,  
I know how to sing.  
I'll teach you how to dance and shout,  
Many gifts to you I'll bring!

I am the still small voice,  
My words to you are true.  
Quiet, center, still your thoughts,  
I will heal and comfort you.

I am the fire in the shadows,  
My flame will ever rise  
Out of the pain and aching doubt.  
My spark, it never dies.