

CIC Celebration Template

5:00 Walking Music: (choose your own or ask Ryan for a suggestion. Musicians will lead this. You can cue Ryan when you are ready for the walking music to end)

CIC members generally walk in a circle during the walking music, as a way of bringing ourselves into the present moment (although some people sit and chat!)

5:05 Welcome and Introductions: (all say their name into the circle)

There are often latecomers, so after we've gone around the circle, ask if we have missed anyone

5:10 Call and lighting of the 3 candelabra candles

(invite children to light candles, adults will support them)

*We come together
To celebrate the seasons of life
To study and practice wisdom and compassion
And to encourage the spiritual work of each person
For the sake of the whole world.*

Invite people to sit

Present the Begging Bowl: (identify someone ahead of time, or ask for a volunteer right then)

5:15 Children's Time: Generally, childrens' time is tied to the theme of the adult celebration and includes a discussion, a story (from a book or simply told), or a simple dance.

5:25 Children are excused

Transition song: (choose your own or ask Ryan for a suggestion.)

5:30 Begin adult program

Leaders elucidate the night's theme in any of a variety of ways: through monologues, full group discussion, small group discussion, guided meditation, writing, poetry, music, ...once we even ate satsumas meditatively! Talk with your celebration assistant for guidance.

6:00 End adult program

timing is flexible, but if there is going to be a dance, this is a good time to transition to that

6:00 Dance (optional; choose your own or ask Jo, Evie or Ted for a suggestion and to lead the dance. This time can also be used for continued discussion, meditation, etc.)

6:15 Candle lighting

Leader lights the last candle at the end saying "This is the last candle holding all the unspoken wishes, sorrows, celebrations and thoughts." or something to that effect in your own words.

6:25 Sing Buddhist Blessing

May all beings be well,

*may all beings be happy,
peace, peace, peace*

6:25 Announcements (we stand for announcements, and remain standing for the benediction. Some folks have trouble standing, so we often say "stand as you are able")

6:30 Benediction (Ryan will start this off)

*May the long-time sun shine on you
All love surround you
And the pure light within you
Guide your way home (2x)
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen (2x)*