

## The Solstice and Equinox

The Church of Reality celebrates both solstices and both equinoxes. These are days that we think about and teach our children about astronomy. This is the longest day of the year, or the shortest day of the year, or we are half way in between the longest and the shortest days. We think about people in the opposite hemisphere and on the equator and on the poles. We wonder what it would be like to have six months of daylight and six months of night.

Children are taught about the seasons and about the universe. Our planet - our solar system, our galaxy. We teach them about different time zones and day light savings time. How many hours difference between San Francisco and Melbourne? What is the International Date Line? And if they are a day ahead of us, then why can't they tell us about the future?

We also think about the passing of time. The cycles of life. We move from one season into the next, another summer, another fall, another winter, another spring. This is our time. It is a celebration of The Sacred Moment, and being Real in the Scared Moment. We are thankful for being alive, for being aware. We think about the generations that have come before us and the generations that will follow.

These four days are community days. People come together to do things as a community. It is a day for parties, to play music, to dance, to plan events, big events with lots of people. These are good days for weddings too, to begin a new life at the begriming of a new season. It is a day we all have fun together. We make sure everyone is included and bring out people who are socially isolated. We celebrate the Sacred Principle of Inclusiveness on these four days.

We also think about ecology on these four days. Our relationship with nature. Our planet - our biological heritage. We think about the natural world and how we fit into it. We celebrate evolution and how our evolution affects other species' evolution with whom we share the planet. The theme of these four days is that we are one planet, we are all here together, and we are going to make it work. It is a celebration of life, peace, and joy.