

Finding Easter in the Cycle of the Year

~ a talk by Mary Stewart Adams & 2 lecture readings ~

Readings: Wednesday, March 24, & Thursday, March 25 – 7:30pm

Talk: Friday, March 26 – 7:30 pm

The Branch Festivals Group, Greater Washington Branch of the Anthroposophical Society



Christ-Spirit — Iris Sullivan

Because the Vernal Full Moon does not occur on the same date in the calendar until 19 years have passed, the date of the Easter festival is continually changing from one year to the next. But it is not just the Moon that causes this change, it is our experience of the festival itself that changes, ideally by deepening and maturing. In his *Cycle of the Year* lectures of 1923 (Dornach, Mar. 30-Apr. 4), Rudolf Steiner describes how we can become “festival creating” by *thinking with* the course of the year, such that we can find the festival not merely by looking at a calendar or falling back on tradition, but by knowing where the Earth is, and where we are, in relation to the cosmos.

Wednesday & Thursday, March 24 & 25, 7:30 pm –

Since we cannot gather in person, we will begin to explore our topic by reading at home, physically distant yet united in spirit. We will read the **first two lectures of *The Cycle of the Year***, available on the Rudolf Steiner Archive [here](#) (for March 24) and [here](#) (for March 25). Our reading will be a deed we each carry out in the knowledge that others in the community

are also reading. We suggest you let us know that you plan to participate; on the day of each lecture-reading, we will email those who have responded, so that you can be mindful of your reading companions and have a sense of connection. To respond, please email nfoster14thst@gmail.com.

Friday, March 26, 7:30 pm – In her presentation via Zoom, **Mary Stewart Adams** will share the celestial picture that stands behind the Easter festival each year, and how it comes to unique expression from one year to the next through the changing relationship between Sun and Moon and Earth. Included in this talk will be a consideration of the events of the Holy Week, day by day; how these events relate to the planets that lend their names to the days of the week; and how these events culminate in the sayings from the Cross on Good Friday, as a way to awaken to how we turn from the lunar revelations to the sun revelations that take place at this time of year.

To receive the Zoom link for this talk, please respond to Nancy Foster at nfoster14thst@gmail.com.



Mary Stewart Adams is a Star Lore Historian and host of the weekly public radio program and podcast “The Storyteller’s Night Sky.” Through her research in spiritual science and her education in literary arts, Mary has developed a unique, humanities-based approach to understanding our relationship with the stars. Her work is further augmented by an extensive knowledge of ancient mythologies and fairy tales, which she relates to the research and ideas of contemporary astronomy in order to understand the new star wisdom of astrosophy.

Mary has traveled extensively in fulfillment of her mission to safeguard the human imagination by protecting our access to the night sky and its stories, and has received numerous honors for her work advocating for dark skies. As a global advocate for starry skies, Mary led the team that established the 9th International Dark Sky Park in the world in 2011, which later led to the State of Michigan protecting 35,000 acres of state land for its natural darkness.

