

Whispering Lake Grove, ADF

Presents



Beltaine

April 30, 2017

6:00PM

Prior to the ritual, all participants will need to write on a piece of paper those things they wish to rid themselves of or purify themselves from so that they can be placed in the ritual fire as they pass through them.

Ritual participants will gather in the garden through the musical signal and will process up the path from the garden through the fires to the ritual area above.

SPIRITS OF THE LAND (JAEME)

*Following **Jaeme's** invocation, **Syruss** will offer cream and honey to the Spirits of the Land around the ritual area above the garden as all gathered sing "We Approach the Sacred Grove".*

ATTUNEMENT & PURIFICATION (MAGGIE THE BAKER)

Joining our hands and closing our eyes, breathe deeply, (pause) feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth, (pause) in your mind's eye see the Sky that stretches above us, (pause) and feel the presence of the Sea that surrounds us. (pause) We stand together in the Middle Realm, the world that we share with the Spirits of Nature in this time of fertility to celebration the season of creation!

(CARRION)

As we stand together this day, look deep within yourself. For within each of us dwell forces that bring chaos into our lives, those influences that pollute our hearts and minds. (*pause*) These powers also dwell within the worlds, realms and among the Kindred. They threaten our world, our work and our lives. Let us remember the influence and beings that stand against the Gods and Man. Let us remember the strife that they bring. (*pause*) Let us recognize their power and influence; their purpose. As we pass through the fires of Beltaine this day and place those things that dwell within us in the fire...that they may be burned away and may our fires light stand as

boundary of protection from the outside sources that would wish us ill. This day we seek to end our unhealthy relationships with all those things that stand against us!

(CHRIS)

Feel that land that supports you once again and see the sky that stretches above you. Turn your attention to that which lies below the land...below our world...seek the Underworld realm of our Ancestors and the sacred source of the primal waters. Reaching far beneath you seek the primal waters. Let us call to them as they rise to meet us, 'sacred waters flow within us.' **All:** 'sacred waters flow within us'. Feel the waters as they enter your being filling the cauldron within your belly, (pause) within your heart (pause) and finally within your head. (pause) Feel the creative potential that flows throughout your being. See the waters as they rise from deep below to fill our well for our work.

(MAGGIE THE BAKER)

Tuning your attention skyward, know that above us stretches the Heavens, realm of the Gods and home of the first fire. Reaching far beyond the sky seek the primal fire. Let us call upon this sacred spark of the first fire, 'sacred fire burn within us'. **All:** 'sacred fire burn within us'. See the illuminating radiance of the sacred fire as it shines upon you igniting the potential that flows within you. See the flames of the first fire ignite the cauldron within your head, (pause) the cauldron within your heart (pause) and finally the cauldron within your belly. (pause) See the fires of the sky as they merge with the flames of our fires making them sacred and connecting them to the Heavens.

(CARRION)

Feel these primal powers as they surge through you. Your heart beats with the very pulse of all worlds. The fire and water that flows through our veins connects us to the worlds, the realms and the Kindred and prepares our sacred center for this work. As we open our eyes let us be one in this place!

Musical Signal: A drum sounds 3X3 times **(CHRIS)**

HONORING THE GROVE PATRON (CHRIS)

Guardian of the Blessed Isles, the Land of Promise,
Land of the Living and of Eternal Youth,
Walk with us as the land grows green around us!
Great Son of the Sea, Master of Illusion and Ruler of Time,
Join us at our hearth's fire once again!
Weaver of the Grey Mist, Warder of the Way, Enchanter.
Cloak us within your protection!
Patron, Companion and Friend,
Aid us to bring fertility and magic to our work!
An offering of Irish whiskey is made to Manannan.
Manannan Mac Lir, accept our offering!
All: Manannan Mac Lir, accept our offering!

PROCESSION & BLESSING /OFFERING TO FIRE & WATER

MORRIGHAN & NATHAN will leave the garden following the attunement to be on the hill in the ritual area for the following invocations.

(MORRIGHAN)

Theshold to the Otherworld
Window to the Soul
Cauldron of Inspiration
Sacred shrine of old.
Ford of cleansing Water
Vessel of rebirth

An offering of silver is made.

Sacred waters flow within this well...

The waters for asperging are collected for asperging and Morrighan takes her place before the fires.

Honoring the Sacred Fire

(NATHAN)

In ancient times the need fires dotted the hill tops on May Eve. The Beltaine fires of old were kindled of nine sacred woods. In honor of these ancient fires we offered nine sacred woods to our fires this night. Our Ancestors purified themselves, in, between and over these fires to prepare for the season of fertility. Fire not only forges, but it also transforms. Tonight we will pass between two such sacred flames to be purified, forged and transformed each according to our own destiny as we enter our Nemeton.

A drum beat begins as does the processional chant, participants circle the ritual area through the bale fires for purification. Participants will be asperged before they pass between the fires. Waters to be sprinkled by Morrighan.

Processional Chant

Hal-an-toe, Jolly lum-alow

We were up long before the day-o

To welcome in the summer, to welcome in the May-o

For Summer is a-comin'in and Winter's gone away-o.

OPENING BLESSINGS

Honoring the Earth Mother & Sky Father (MAGGIE THE WEAVER)

Primal Mother of the Earth and Father of the Clear Sky,
Forever, Mother and Father of all that was, of all that is and all
that will be. Your children come before you in love and respect
and ask that you uphold and bless our gathering!

An offering of bread and incense is made.

Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our offering!

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our offering!

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration (NATHAN)

Goddess of Inspiration & Poetry

Great Mother of Song & Music

May our words echo in the sacred well

May our hearts and minds burn with your eternal flame

May our songs resonate upon the wind

May you grant us the gift of inspiration and insight

An offering of cream & honey is made

Lady Brighid, accept our offering!

All: Brighid, be welcome among us!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (CHRIS)

Children of Earth and Sky, today we gather in this sacred place to keep the Feast of Beltaine. The fires of purification have been kindled and we are renewed within their warmth and light. On this day we shall celebrate fertility and honor the Lord of the Greenwood! Join with me now as we keep the Old Bargain, receiving the blessings, wisdom and guidance of our honored guest in return. May fertility fill our hearts, our minds and our hearths! May all who gather be welcome among us!

ESTABLISHING THE SACRED CENTER & RECREATION OF THE COSMOS

To the bile/maypole (JAEME)

Mighty oak of the ancient grove

Roots burying deep within the Underworld

Wise teacher of traditions old

Branches reaching into the heavens.

Keeper of sacred knowledge

Pillar joining Earth and Sky; spanning the three worlds

Road to all realms;

Sacred tree, Let all who walk this way walk in your wisdom.

The bile is asperged with water from the well and censed with incense.

(MAGGIE THE BAKER TO LEAD ALL PARTICIPANTS)

The waters support and surround us...

The land extends about us...

The sky stretches above us...

And at the center burns a living flame.

Let us pray with a good fire.
May all the Kindred bless us.
May our worship be true.
May our actions be just.
May our love be pure.
Blessings and honor and worship to the holy ones.
*Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith, modified by Rev.
Carrion Mann.*

INVOCATION TO THE GATEKEEPER

(Carrion)
Oh, Ancient Ones of Might and Magic,
(Morrighan)
We call to Eldest and Wisest of the Worlds,
(Chris)
We seek a Priest of the Sacred Fire...
(Carrion)
To aid us in our work...
(Morrighan)
To join their magic with our own...
(Chris)
And open the way between the worlds.
Alcohol is offered.
(Carrion, Morrighan & Chris)
Fire Priest, accept our offering!
All: Fire Priest, accept our offering!

(Carrion) As the worlds converge within this place let us raise our voices in song to the Gatekeeper!

All in song

*Sing through my voice,
Play through my hands,
Let the way be open!*

Repeat chant three times

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OPENING THE GATES

(Morrighan)
Fire Priest; let us stand at the center of all worlds!
Sacred Fires ignite the waters of the earth.
(Carrion)
Primal Waters, feed the order of the cosmos.
(Chris)
World Tree, join the heavens with the earth.
(Morrighan)
Striking a sigil over the fire.
Let these flames carry our praise and sacrifice to the Shining Ones.
(Carrion)
Striking a sigil over the well.
Let these waters carry our praise and sacrifice to the Mighty Dead.
(Chris)
Striking a sigil upon the tree.
Let this tree connect the worlds as they become one in this place.
By the land before us!
(Carrion)
By the seas about us!
(Morrighan)
By the sky above us!
(Chris)(Carrion)(Morrighan)
Let the Gates Be Open!
All: Let the Gates Be Open!
(Chris)(Carrion)(Morrighan)
We now stand at the center of all worlds!

KINDRED OFFERINGS

(Carrion)
Now that the world of the living and that of the spirit are one, we call out from the crossroads to the Mighty Kindred.

KINDRED OFFERINGS

(MAGGIE THE WEAVER)

We call to the Mighty Kindred of the land, sea and sky.

We call to those of the Middle realm, of the Underworld and of the Heavens!

We seek an alliance with the Spirits of Nature, who share the Earth with us!

We seek the wisdom of our Ancestors, who walk this Land before us!

And we seek the aid of our Gods and Goddesses, who bless our work and our world!

Noble, Mighty and Shining Ones stand with us as we honor the Lord of the Greenwood.

Oil is offered to the Kindred.

Mighty Kindred, accept our offering!

All: Mighty Kindred, accept our offering!

All in song

Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe

Powers of Earth and Sky and Sea

By Fire and Well, by Sacred Tree

Offerings We Make to Ye

Repeat 3x

Kindred, accept our offering!

All: Kindred, accept our offering!

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KEY OFFERING (Carrion)

On Beltaine the Children of Earth call to...

The Heart of the Ancient Forrest!

To the May King; Crowned with Antlers...

Enthroned at the base of the Worldtree;

In the Holiest of Sacred Groves!

We seek the Ancient One beneath the Sacred Oak!

For many are his names and guises!

All: Lord of the Greenwood, hear our call!

We seek the First Child of the Earth Mother!

The Guardian of the Greenworld...

All: Lord of the Greenwood, hear our call!

We seek the Primal God of Nature and Fertility!

The Leaf Covered Greenman...

All: Lord of the Greenwood, hear our call!

We seek the Shape-shifting God of the Hunt!

The Great God of the Wildwood...

All: Lord of the Greenwood, hear our call!

We seek the Horned God of the Animals!

The Protector of the Wilderness...

All: Lord of the Greenwood, hear our call!

Oh, Jack-in-the-Green...

Hear our call within your Holy Grove!

Join us as we celebrate Beltaine in your honor!

An offering of herbs, bread and oil is made upon the fire.

Lord of the Greenwood; accept our offering!

All: Lord of the Greenwood; accept our offerings!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS (Carrion)

Children of the Earth and Sky bring forth your offerings of praise to the Lord of the Greenwood.

All are given an opportunity to make personal offerings of praise.

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE (Chris)

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;
We honor the Lord of the Greenwood in this season of Fertility. It is through our work and sacrifice that we receive his guidance, wisdom and blessings. Tonight we call out once more from the center of all worlds to the Protector of the Growing Green that he may bless our work, our world and our lives, as we prepare to make our sacrifice.

Let us dance together upon the Earth and beneath the Sky and let the power we raise here this day strengthen and sustain the patron of this rite.

Participants take up their ribbons to dance, take up instruments to raise energy and the Maypole dance begins.

Chant (All)

In Song

*Come the Lord of the Greenwood, Greenwood
Come the Lord of the Greenwood, Greenwood
Come the Lord of the Greenwood, Greenwood
And court the Lady Fair*

*In the heat of their passion, passion
In the heat of their passion, passion
In the heat of their passion, passion
The corn will rise again
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THE OMEN (CHRIS)

Chris takes the omen as **Carrion** leads all who have assembled to direct their energy through the gate. When the omen has been drawn **Chris** will pronounce the omen.

BLESSING OF THE WATERS

The following words will be spoken over the pitchers.

(Chris) As in the ways of old we have given our gifts freely and as in the ways of old a gift is given unto us in return.

(Carrion) We will drink deep of the Cup of Inspiration. May the blessings of health, wealth and wisdom be ours.

(Chris) Lord of the Greenwood, give us the waters!

All: Lord of the Greenwood, give us the waters!

(Carrion) We gather with you between Earth and Sky. We are proud to call ourselves your people.

(Chris) Once again, Lord of the Greenwood, give us the waters!

All: Lord of the Greenwood, give us the waters!

(Carrion) We have brought our offerings. We have made our sacrifice.

(Chris) One last time, Lord of the Greenwood, give us the waters!

All: Lord of the Greenwood, give us the waters!

The pitchers are lifted saluting the fire, well and tree.

Hallowing the Waters

(Chris) Behold the Waters of Life!

(Carrion) Primal God of Nature and Fertility, hallow these waters of life.

(Chris) Bless our world, our work and our lives with the magic of fertility.

lifts the pitchers before the participants.

(Chris) Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

Affirmation of the Blessing

(Chris) Now Children of the Earth and Sky, do you wish to receive the blessings of the Lord of the Greenwood? _____. Then we shall drink deep their blessings!

As the blessings are passed by **Alicia & Nathan-Chris** will lead the chant, "Blessings of the Holy Ones".

Blessing of the Waters

The Blessings of the Holy Ones

Be on me and mine

My blessings on all beings

With peace on the and thyn.

The fire, the well, the sacred tree

Flow and flame and grow in me.

By Ian Corrigan

THANKING THE BEINGS

(Carrion) Lord of the Greenwood, Mighty God of the Wildwood, we thank you for your protection in this season of fertility **(A final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Lord of the Greenwood, we thank you!

All: Lord of the Greenwood, we thank you!

(Maggie the Weaver)

Mighty Kindred of land, sea and sky, Eldest and Brightest of the Worlds. We thank you for the guidance, wisdom and blessings you have shared with us **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Kindred, we thank you!

All: Kindred, we thank you!

(Nathan)

Brighid, Great Goddess of Inspiration, Mighty Mother of Song & Music, we thank you for the inspiration and eloquence that you have shared with us this night **(a final token is offered)** May you continue to inspire our hearts and minds. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Lady Brighid, we thank you!

All: Lady Brighid, we thank you!

(Carrion) Mighty Priest of the Sacred Fire, we thank you for tending our fire and warding the way between the worlds with us. **(A final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Fire Priest, we thank you!

All: Fire Priest, we thank you!

Ancient Priest of the Sacred Fire, we now ask that you aid us in closing the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more.

(Morrighan)

Let the fire burning towards the heavens once more become, but flames.

(Carrion)

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld once more Become, but water.

(Chris)

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, become, but wood. By the land before us!

(Carrion)

By the seas about us!

(Morrighan)

By the sky above us!

(Chris) (Morrighan) (Carrion)

Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

Thanking the Earth Mother and Sky Father

(Maggie the Weaver)

Earth Mother and Sky Father we thank you for the blessings of fertility you have shared with us. May you continue to support and sustain us, upholding and blessing our work and world **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Earth Mother and Sky Father, we thank you!

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, we thank you!

(Carrion)

We now return all that has gone unused to the Earth and the Sky, may they continue to support, surround and sustain us. All offerings that remain are burnt in the fire or scattered upon the Earth.

STATEMENT OF ENDING (Chris)

Once more take a few deep cleansing breaths as we reaffirm our center (*pause 4 count*). We stand together at the center of all worlds, upon the land, beneath the sky, surrounded by the sea. We span the worlds, connecting earth and sky and the Kindred as one (*pause 4 count*).

Remember that below us flows the primal waters filled with the potential of all life. It is these waters that surge through your very being. (*pause 8 count*)

(Maggie the Baker)

Remember that above us burns the primal fires filled with the spark of all life. It is these powers that have illuminated the waters that surge through you. (*pause 8 count*)

The primal powers of fire and water unite within us bringing new life and balance to our beings. Our hearts beat with the very pulse of all worlds (*pause 8 count*)

(Carrion)

Remember that we share these worlds with the Spirits of Nature, with the Ancestors and with the Gods. As they bless us, offer their wisdom and guidance let us forever remember the old bargain.

Remember the powers of earth and sky, the sacred fire and waters, that flow within you... take what you need to maintain balance and release back to the earth and sky all that has gone unused. Know that the fire and water that flows from us helps

to sustain the worlds, the realms and the Kindred as we conclude our worship.

May all that is be what was, that it may be again!

(Chris)

Manannan, we thank you for aiding us in our work, join us at our hearth and walking with us as we journey upon our paths. (*a final token is offered*) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Manannan, we thank you!

All: Manannan, we thank you!

Musical Signal- A drum beats 3X3. (Chris)

(Jaeme)

Thank you to the Spirits of the Land.

(Carrion)

All: We will keep the faith until the sky falls upon us and crushes us; until the earth opens and swallows us; until the seas arises and overwhelm us.

Recessional Chant

(Carrion) Once more may we now raise our voices in song as we leave our Nemeton.

CHORUS

The sky fuels the waters

And the waters sustain the skies

We walk together from this place

With the honored as our guides

Strong in our purpose

We balance and survive

From many wells of fortitude

Our spirits are revived

CHORUS

*Joyous in our sharing
We honor dead and alive
With voices of sacred wisdom
We travel the path of our lives*

CHORUS

*Fulfilled in our learning
Our souls will always thrive
In our varied hearts and minds
We keep the sacred for all time*

CHORUS

(lyrics by Isaura; music by Raven of the Sorrows)

Beltaine Ritual 2017

*Ritual text written by (Unless otherwise
credited)*

Rev. Carrion Mann

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