

Whispering Lake Grove
ADF



Beltaine

May 1, 2011
6:00 PM

PREPARATION

GROVE ATTUNEMENT (Grollwynn)

Closing your eyes, take a few deep cleansing breaths.

Breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth.

In through your nose and out through your mouth.

As you breathe, lay aside the worries, troubles and woes of the mundane world. *(pause 4 count)*

We now stand between Earth and Sky

Feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth

Know that below us flows the primal waters

Cold, dark and chaotic; filled with the potential of all life.

Allow the primal waters to enter your being.

Feel the coolness of the waters as they pool within your belly, within your heart and finally, within your head. *(pause 8 count)*

Reaching high into the sky above

Feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens

Know that above us burns the primal fires

Warm, light and ordered; filled with the spark of all life.

Allow the primal fire to enter your being.

Feel the warmth of the fires as they illuminate your mind, your heart and finally your spirit. *(pause 8 count)*

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky as they surge through you, lending strength and energy to your being. *(pause 8 count)*

Now join your hands, your hearts and your minds as one people.
(All participants join hands)



Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky as they surge through us, lending strength and energy to one and all.

As we open our eyes, know that we assemble as one folk to worship with a common purpose.

PROCESSION

(Raven)

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 have offered nine sacred woods as sacrifice as we lighted our sacred fires this day. The Ancients, our Ancestors, would purify themselves, in, between and over these fires to prepare for the season of fertility. We no longer purify ourselves within the fire, but we invite you now to dance between the fires in celebration of the coming season.

Participant will be led into the ritual area and through the bale fires for purification. Once in the Nemeton the snake dance will begin between the bale fires as we continue the chant.

In Song (Carrion)

*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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Repeat until all participants have entered the worship area.



OPENING PRAYERS

(Jim)

Musical Signal- *A drum beats 9 times.*

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

Earth Mother & Sky Father (Isaura)

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 to honor you this night!

An offering of corn meal and oil is made to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.

Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our offering!

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

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration

Bardic Inspiration (Grollwynn)

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 placed in the offering bowl for Brighid.

Lady Brighid, accept our offering!

All: Brighid, accept our offering!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (Carrion)

Tonight we gather at the center of all worlds.
To worship and honor the Earth Mother and Sky Father.
We shall sing their praise and make our sacrifice.



As we seek their blessings in return.

We gather to celebrate the Feast of Beltaine.
Enjoying the fertility of the world around us.
We celebrate the sacred union of the Earth and Sky,
As we prepare for the work that lay before us.

May all who gather this eve be welcome among us!

CONSECRATION OF SPACE & PARTICIPANTS

(Raven)

Weaving the Druids Mist

THE SACRED CENTER

Affirmation of Unity

(Grollwynn) Let us now raise our voice as one people.

In song

*Building Bridges Between Our Divisions
I reach out for you, as you reach out for me
With all of our voices and all of our visions
Brothers we could make such a sweet harmony
Sisters we could make such a sweet harmony*

Author Unknown

Repeat chant 3 times

Establishing Sacred Time (Carrion)

In the beginning and so too in the end; there was but the fires of the Sky and the waters of the Earth. And between them lay a fertile land.

In the South the old Fir Bolg King, dreamed of birds, the sky grew dark as the great flock approached the shore.

From the North through smoke and mist came beings of great



might and magic, the vast army of the Tuatha to overtake the land.

Bringing with them four treasures that would assure their victory.

Reaching the shore, the Tuatha burnt their ships and a great battle for the land began. Great numbers of the Fir Bolg fell as the armies of the Tuatha swept across the land. In defeat the Fir Bolg retreated to the lands of the Fomorians and the Tuatha De Danann lay claim to Ireland.

FIRE, WELL & TREE (chant) (Grollwynn)

By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky

We stand like the World-Tree rooted, deep, crowned high.

By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky

We stand like the World-Tree rooted, deep, crowned high.

Come we now to the Well, the eye and the mouth of Earth,

Come we now to the Well, and silver we bring.

Come we now to the Well, the waters of rebirth

Come we now to the Well, together we sing.

CHORUS

We will kindle a Fire, Bless all, and with harm to none,

We will kindle a Fire, and offering pour,

We will kindle a Fire, a light 'neath the Moon and Sun,

We will kindle a Fire, our spirits will soar.

CHORUS

Gather we at the Tree, the root & the crown of all

Gather we at the Tree, below & above,

Gather we at the Tree, together we make our call,

Gather we at the Tree, In wisdom and love.

CHORUS

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Eld Nathr will offer silver to the well, incense to the fire and cense and asperge the bile during the song.



COMPLETING THE COSMOLOGY

To Land, Sea & Sky (Isaura)

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

OPENING THE GATES

(Grollwynn)

Weaver of the Gray Mists; Warder of the Way.

Join us at the center; walk with us this day.

(Carrion)

Rider of the Maned Waves; Otherworldly Guide.

Hold the gates before us as we stand in sacred time.

(Raven)

Magician of the Shoreline merge your magic with my own.

Part your mist before us; Great King without a throne.

Irish whiskey is offered to Manannan

Manannan MacLir, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, accept our offering!

(Carrion) Let us raise our voices in song to the Gatekeeper!

All in song

Gatekeeper open the portals,

Between the Gods and mortals,

Power freely flows, as our magic grows!



Repeat chant three times

© *Liafal*

Opening the Gates

(Raven)

Manannan, 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.

(Grollwynn)

World Tree join the heavens with the earth.

(Raven)

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.

(Grollwynn)

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!

(Raven)

By the sky above us!

(Raven)(Carrion)(Grollwynn)

Let the Gates Be Open!

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

(Raven)(Carrion)(Grollwynn)

Manannan, we now stand at the center of all worlds!



GENERAL OFFERINGS TO AND INVOCATION OF THE SPIRITS

(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!

(Isaura)

Allies of the Middle Realm!
Bright and shining messengers to the Otherworld
Elves, Sprites, and Faeries of the Hollow Hills
Protectors of this sacred ground.
Noble Ones, join us in celebration!

Seed is offered.

Nature Spirits, accept our offerings!

All: Nature Spirits, be welcome among us!

(Grollwynn)

Wise Ones of the Realm Below!
Beloved Dead of blood and spirit; Ancestors of flesh and bone
Great Cu Chulainn, Maeve and Finn
Heros of myth and legend
Mighty Ones, join us in celebration!

Alcohol is offered.

Ancestors, accept our offerings!

All: Ancestors, be welcome among us!

(Raven)

Eldest and Brightest of the Realm Above!
Bringers of life, death and rebirth.
Deities of Might , of Magic and those of the Mist.
Blessed Children of Danu!
Shining Ones be welcome among us!

Alcohol is offered.



(Grollwynn)

*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
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HONORING THE DEITIES OF THE RITE

Earth Mother Invocation (Carrion)

I am the blossoms in the springtime
And the ground beneath your feet.

I am the valleys and the woodlands
And the waters of the streams.

I am the caverns deep within
And the vessel of rebirth.

I am the chaos of potential
And the sovereignty of the earth.

Great Goddess of Sovereignty,
Your children call you near,
An offering of flowers and milk is made.
Earth Mother, accept our offering!
Earth Mother, accept our offering!

Sky Father Invocation (Raven)

I am the spark of all creation
And the clear sky overhead.

I am the rain that falls to Earth
And the first among our kin.



I am the ruler of the sunshine
And the law upon the land.

I am the order of the cosmos.
And the fire deep within.

Great Father of the Clear Sky,
Your children call you near,
An offering of incense and oil is made.
Sky Father, accept our offering!
Sky Father, accept our offering!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

(Carrion) At this time you may bring forth your offerings of praise to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

(Raven)

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;
We honor the Earth Mother and Sky Father.
Through communication with the Otherworld;
We receive their guidance, inspiration and insight.
Tonight we call out from the crossroads to our honored guests!
As we prepare to make our final sacrifice.
The final sacrifice is prepared.

FINAL SACRIFICE

A slow drum beat begins. Other participants will take up shakers, and other instruments or participate in dancing and intoning to raise magical energy for the Beings of the Occasion. The Seer



will collect and direct the energy raised through the gate and communicate with the being of the occasion. He/she will take an omen to determine the acceptance of our sacrifice. The assembled company will raise energy until the final sacrifice has been accepted. The Seer will then conclude the energy raising with “Our Sacrifice has been Accepted” followed by Earth Mother and Sky Father, give us the waters!”

THE OMEN & BLESSING OF THE WATERS

(Raven)

The Seers takes up the blessing cups and infuses them with the power returning from the gateway. Once the blessings have been infused he/she will raise the cups and pronounce “Behold the Waters of Life” all assembled will echo “Behold the Waters of Life”. *The waters will be passed.* An officiate **(Grollwynn)** will then say that these cups contain the blessings of the Earth Mother and Sky Father and ask.... *Do you wish to receive their blessings?* Participant’s response. *Do you wish to receive their blessings?* Participant’s response. Then let us share all they have to offer us. While the blessings are being passed the Seers will be taking an omen to determine our blessings.

The omen will be pronounced for the folk. Each of the three runes drawn will be pronounced one at a time. The first will be pronounced, the meaning and interpretation given. Carrion will then lead the company to intone the runes. The second will be pronounced, followed by its meaning and then intonation etc. Any final interpretation will be offered by the Seer.



THANKING THE BEINGS

(Isaura) Mighty Kindred of land, sea and sky, Eldest, Wisest and Mightiest of the realms. May you continue to protect, guide and bless us as we walk this path. Kindred we thank you for the knowledge 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.

All: Kindred, we thank you!

(Grollwynn) Lady Brighid, Great Mother of Song and Music. We thank you for your blessings of inspiration and eloquence. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Brighid, we thank you!

CLOSING THE GATES

(Grollwynn) Manannan MacLir, Weaver of Gray Mists; we thank you for your protection.

(Carrion) Manannan, we thank you for your guidance.

(Raven) We thank you for your magic as the worlds converged this night.

(Grollwynn)(Carrion)(Raven)

(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!

(Raven) Manannan Mac Lir, Great Guardian of the Threshold, we now ask that you close the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more.

(Raven)

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.



(Grollwynn)

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, become but wood.

(Raven, Carrion & Grollwynn)

Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

(Carrion) Great Earth Mother and Sky Father, we thank you for the continuing strength and support you have given us. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

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

Unmerging, Regrounding & Recentering: Meditation

(Grollwynn) Good folk, join me once more as we close our eyes; breathing deeply in through your nose and out through your mouth **(pause for a 2 count)**.

As the mighty oak is part of the forest, we are all part of the great circle of life. Remember the blessings we have received together this night **(pause)**.

As we stand between Earth and Sky

Once more feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth

Know that below us flows the primal waters.

Once more feel the coolness of the waters that have pooled within your belly, within your heart and finally, within your head. **(pause 4 count)**

Reaching high into the sky above

Feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens.

Know that above us burns the primal fires.



Once more feel the warmth of the fires that have illuminated your mind, your heart and finally your spirit. *(pause 4 count)*

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky surging through you, as they have given strength and energy to your being. *(pause 4 count)*

Keep of this power what you need, sending what remains forth from our beings into the Great Lake **(pause)**. See this energy heal and protect her as we conclude our worship.

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

(Jim)

Musical Signal- *A drum beats 9 times.*

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 Song

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

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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Repeat until all participants have entered the worship area.



Special Thanks To:

All who attended, participated and shared in our Beltaine celebration.

Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants

Come the Lord of the Greenwood, Portal Song and Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe.

Liafal for the The Gatekeeper Chant

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

Abbi Spinner for the chant Back to the River

The unknown author of Building Bridges





Whispering Lake Grove, ADF

Beltaine Ritual

2011

*Ritual text written by
(Unless otherwise credited)*

Rev. Raven & Rev. Carrion Mann

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