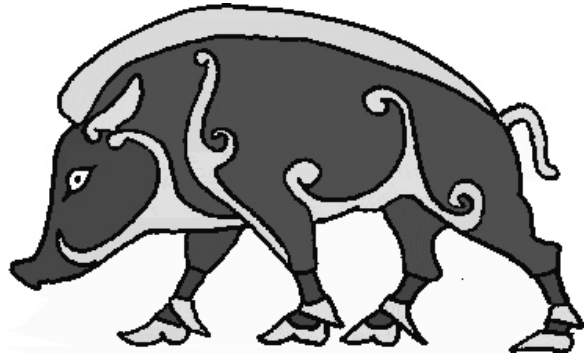


Whispering Lake Grove ADF

Presents



Harvest Tide
September 21, 2008
6:00 PM

PREPARATION

Honoring Our Grove Patron (Grollwynn)

Manannan Mac Lir

The Children of Earth we call you here.

Manannan Mac Lir

Help us to see with vision clear.

Lead us as we ride the waves.

Guide us as we cross the veil.

Lead us as we ride the waves.

Guide us as we cross the veil.

(Words and music by Emerald)

Repeat 3X

A member of Whispering Lake Grove will prepare a special offering for the Grove Patron and give the offering at this time.

An offering is made to Manannan.

Manannan, Mist Weaver, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, be welcome among us!

GROVE ATTUNEMENT (OUR JOURNEY BEGINS) (Isaura)

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)*

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
you, lending strength and energy to your being. *(pause 8 count)*

(Carrion)

As we begin our journey among the Alfar, we shall do so with
the protection of the Earth, the guidance of the Sky and with the
support of the Sea that surrounds us.

The sun is beginning to set; casting shadows among the trees that
lie before you. In the distance you see the entrance to a pathway
through the trees. The spirits of Nature call to you, their many
voices gently whispering upon the wind beaconing you to
approach.

You slowly approach the head of the path and begin to follow the
trail until it opens into a small clearing amidst the trees. As you
enter the clearing, the setting sun feels warm upon your back....

Before you a hill rises to meet the setting sun. This mound is
covered in a blanket of green and obvious signs of fall's approach
are visible in the remnants of summer's once brilliant flowers.
The mound rises high above your head, you can see the side of

the hill and what lies above it; but what lies unseen and hidden
within.

As we open our eyes, know that we now journey as one folk with
a common purpose.

PROCESSION

In Song (Carrion)

*Through time and tide, through waters wide
by blood and bone, by stock and stone
by breath and breeze, by fire that frees
(Words by Diana Paxson, Music by Frigga Asraat)*

Repeat until all participants have entered the worship area.

OPENING PRAYERS

(Carrion)

Musical Signal- *A Thor's Hammer strikes the anvil 9 times.*

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

Earth Mother (Isaura)

Nerthus, Primal Mother of Earth
First and Eldest of the Van
Cradled us within your protection!
Guide us beneath your mantel this night!
May the Earth never open and swallow us!
Nerthus, accept our offering!

An offering of white bread is made.

All: Nerthus, All Hail and Welcome!

Sky Father (Grollwynn)

Tyr, Ancient Mystery of the Sky
Boldest and most courageous of the Aesir
Illuminate our path into the darkness!
Grant us the courage to face our Wyrd!
May your sky never fall upon us and crush us!
Tyr, accept our offering!

An offering of clarified butter is made.

All: Tyr, All Hail and Welcome!

God of the Sea (Raven)

Njord, Primordial Master of the Sea.
First and Eldest of the Van.
Bless us upon our journey!
Support us in our work!
May your sea never arise and overwhelm us!
Njord, accept our offering!

An offering of silver is made.

All: Njord, All Hail and Welcome!

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration (Grollwynn)

We call upon the Skald of Valhalla
Most eloquent God of poetry and song
And Herald of Odin's Great Hall
Oh, Welcomer of the Einherjar
Bless us with your inspiration and eloquence this night!

An offering of honey is placed in the offering bowl for Bragi.

Bragi, accept our offering!

All: Bragi, All Hail and Welcome!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (Carrion)

Purpose of the Ritual

Once more closing your eyes and breathing deeply, in through your nose and out through your mouth, in through your nose and out through your mouth...

Once more immediately before you the mound rises high above your head. The setting sun has cast a shadow upon the face of the mound. For a moment you watch in silence as the shadows fade from light to dark and dark to light... in what appears to be almost a dance upon the side of the mound.

The dancing shadows fade and a circular mist begins to form on the face of the mound. Through the mist you begin to see the rocky surface beneath. As it swirls the mist fades and you see within the surface of the mound a very small entrance in the clearing, but what lies hidden within... You hear the faint sound of laughter and music emanating from the mound. You fear what is hidden and unseen, so you watch and listen quietly. Waiting, watching and listening you feel your heart beating with anticipation in your chest. You conquer your fear and step toward the entrance of the mound. Swirling mist once more covers the entrance. Opening your eyes...

Historical Precedent (Raven)

"The Nature of the Alfar"

May all who gather this eve be welcome among us!

CONSECRATION OF SPACE & PARTICIPANTS

Outdwellers *(at the Southern fire the Sacrificer lays a token for the Outdwellers)* **(Raven)**

Dark dwellers, take heed this night!
Know this time and place we claim as ours!
You may have held it in the past, you may hold it in the future,
but for now,
Let it be known that it is OURS!

We have given to you all that we intend to give.
Take what has been laid beyond the fire's light
And trouble us not this night!

Purification of Participants & Space

*The aspersion bowl is filled by **Isaura**, from the Well and the censor is kindled from the Fire by **Chris G**. Ritual participants are cleansed with water from the well and purified with smoke from the censor. After the participants are cleansed and purified the Nemeton is cleansed and purified as the following power building chant is led by **Grollwynn**.*

*With the powers to create and destroy.
And the strength to cleanse and purify.*

When all participants have been purified Raven will step forward saying:

(Grollwynn)

Through the union of fire and water,
Our Nemeton is made whole and holy!
Once more we have met the threat of chaos with order and laid claim to this place. We have made sacred this space that we may worship and honor the Kindred as one people.

THE SACRED CENTER

Affirmation of Unity

(Carrion)

The Galdr for the rune Wunjo will be in toned for harmony.
Wunjo Wunjo Wunjo
Wunjo Wunjo Wunjo
Wunjo Wunjo Wunjo

Establishing Sacred Time **(Raven)**

Long ago we gathered beneath the Yggdrasill and before the Well of Urd as we do on this very day, our Wyrð woven one with another, assuring we shall gather again in the days that have yet come to pass.

Do you have the courage to face the Wyrð of your past deeds.
To face the Wyrð of the present, that was woven from your past.
And finally, to face that which is yet to be woven.
As the threads of all time weave as one.

FIRE/WELL/TREE-COMPLETING THE COSMOLOGY

To Land, Sea & Sky

(Raven) The waters support and surround us.

(Carrion) From the Underworld below,
Sacred waters flow within this well.

Offering of silver is made to the well.

(Raven) The land extends about us.

(Carrion) Within the Middleworld,
Sacred tree grow within this place.

Offering of water from the well and incense is made.

(Raven) The sky stretches above us.

(Carrion) From the Heavens above,
Sacred spark burn within this fire.

Offering of incense is made to the fire.

(Raven) And at the center burns a living flame.

(Carrion) Let us pray with a good fire.

(Raven) May all the Kindred bless us.

(Carrion) May our worship be true.

(Raven) May our actions be just.

(Carrion) May our love be pure.

(Raven) (Carrion) Blessings and honor and worship to the holy ones.

Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith, modified by Rev. Carrion Mann.

OPENING THE GATES

Invocation to the Gatekeeper (Raven)

Magician of the Dead,

It is your might and magic that wards the threshold.

One Eyed Wanderer; Warder of the Way Between the Worlds,

We ask for your protection and guidance as the worlds converge upon this place.

A offering of German beer and bread is made .

Odin, Mighty All-Father of the Aesir, accept our offering!

All: Odin, All Hail and Welcome!

(Carrion) Let our power flow within this place.

All in song

Gatekeeper open the portals,

Between the Gods and mortals,

Power freely flows, as our magic grows!

Repeat chant three times

© Stone Creed Grove, ADF

Opening the Gates

(Raven, Carrion)

Odin, merge now your magick with ours!

(Raven)

See the flame leaping forth from the fire.

(Carrion)

See the mist arising from the well,

(Raven, Carrion)

Flame and mist converging upon the tree.

Forming a meeting place between the realms

(Raven) Striking the hammer sign over the fire

Let the fire burning towards the heavens open as a gate that we may follow the way to the Shining Ones.

(Carrion) Striking the hammer sign over the well

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld open as a gate that we may follow the way to the Mighty Dead.

(Raven, Carrion) Striking the hammer sign upon the tree

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, be open to us.

By the land before us!

(Carrion)

By the seas about us!

(Raven)

By the sky above us!

(Raven)(Carrion)

Let the Gates Be Open!

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

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 that they may join our celebration.

(Isaura)

We welcome the Light Alfs, House Ghosts and Wights, Protectors and Guides of this realm.

Nature Spirits, accept our offering!

An offering of bird seed is made.

All: Nature Spirits, all Hail and Welcome!

(Isaura)

We welcome the Beloved Dead of blood and spirit

Our ancestors of flesh and bone.

Mighty Dead, accept our offering!

Alcohol is offered.

All: Mighty Dead, All Hail and Welcome!

(Isaura)

We welcome the Eldest and Brightest of Asgard!

Mighty Aesir and Bountiful Vanir

Shining Ones, accept our offering!

Clarified butter is offered.

All: Shining Ones, All Hail and Welcome!

HONORING THE DEITIES OF THE RITE

(Carrion)

Once more closing your eyes and breathing deeply, in through your nose and out through your mouth, in through your nose and out through your mouth...

Feel the presents of the Spirits of Nature gather around you. See your allies and companions among them at your side. Feel the presents of your Ancestors that have joined us this night. See the faces of your loved ones as they stand with you. Feel the presence of the Gods. Our patrons and matrons walk with us. Beings of all worlds have gathered to celebrate Harvest Tide with us.

Once more swirling mist covers the entrance of the mound before you. You hear the faint sound of music and laughter as before. You hope for a glimpse of what lies hidden within, but you can not see despite the entrance to the mound growing larger in the

whirling mist. You will need help to see beyond the mist and into the howe. Let us open our eyes and call to those that dwell within the mound.

Alfar (Raven)

Huldfolk, Hidden Folk, Hear Us!

We honor you!

Dwellers of the howe, Holy Folk, Join Us!

We welcome you!

Dead Ones of this place, Dark Alfs, Protect Us!

We seek your alliance!

Bringers of Bounty, Bless Us!

We keep the old bargain in return!

Keepers of fruitfulness and good, Alfar, accept our offering!

An offering of food and drink is made.

All: Alfar, All Hail and Welcome!

Freyr (Carrion)

Lord of Alfheimr, Hear Us!

We honor you!

Leader of the host of the Gods, Join Us!

We welcome you!

God of the Mound and of the Dead, Protect Us!

We seek your alliance!

Bringer of Frith, Keeper of Peace, Bless Us!

We keep the old bargain in return!

Freyr, Mighty Lord of the Alfar, accept our offering!

An offering of a boar cake and drink is made.

Freyr, All Hail and Welcome!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

(Carrion)

Praise Offering/Seasonal Enactment

“A Norse Sumbel”

The first round of toast and gifts are to the Alfar.

The second round of toasts and gifts are for Freyr.

Final Round is for toasts, boasts and Oaths.

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

(Grollwynn)

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;

We honor the Alfar, as they walk among us.

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.

(Raven)

It is in love, honor and respect that we have offered hospitality to the Alfar this night.

We have sung their praise; made our sacrifice.

It is our hope that our words and sacrifice have conveyed our love.

We call once more through the Gates and deep within the Otherworld that all shall know of our devotion.

Alfar, we honor you.

The final sacrifice is made.

Alfar, accept our sacrifice!

All: Alfar, accept our sacrifice!

THE OMEN

(Raven)

The Omen is taken by drawing three Runes. The seer then interprets the omen asking if our sacrifice and offerings have been accepted. The Seer then leads the company to contemplate the blessings/warnings of the omen from the Deities of the Occasion.

Participants chant the following, sending their energies through the gates.

(Carrion)(Grollwynn)

In song

Look into the well of memory

Look into the well of time

Look into the well of ages

I am yours, You are mine.

Listen to the ancient stories

Listen to the ancient songs

Listen to the ancient wisdom

I go on, You go on

Deep within your hearts are beating

Deep within are hearts we know

Our descendants will remember

Our love flows, Your love flows.

(Words & music by Emerald)

(Carrion)

Once more closing your eyes and breathing deeply, in through your nose and out through your mouth, in through your nose and out through your mouth...

Once more swirling mist covers the entrance of the mound before you. You hear the faint sound of music and laughter as before. As you focus your attention upon the entrance to the howe and the swirling mist, a white misty figure forms within the doorway. You see this ghostly figure step from the mist and into the clearing before you! An overwhelming feeling of peace and abundance fills you. The figure of a mighty warrior stands before you. He is beautiful. His hair is black, his skin dark and eyes green, yet he is surrounded by a golden light. His strength is evident in his form. He does not speak, but reaches out his closed hand to you and you extend yours to meet his. You feel the weight of an object in your palm. As your attention turns toward this object, the figure fades returning once more through the mist and into the howe before you. The object you have been given is a wholly stone. As if second nature you hold this stone to your eye and once more view the entrance to the mound. The mist instantly begins to clear and what has lies hidden and unseen is revealed to you...

After a few moments you remove the wholly stone from your eye and hold it tightly within your hand. The mist returns sealing the entrance to the howe. You spend a few moments considering what has been reveal to you...knowing the Alfar have shared their wisdom and hidden knowledge with each of us. Freyr has given us the key to build an alliance with our Ancestors...a tool to use when we are in need of the might and magic of the Alfar. Entrance to the world of the Alfar has been entrusted to each of us. Let us forever remember the old bargain and keep this wisdom close. As we open our eyes...Let us prepare to receive the Blessings of the Alfar.

THE BLESSING (Raven) (Carrion)

*Two pitchers will be filled and sat in the midst of the hallows.
The following words will be spoken over the pitchers.*

(Raven) 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.

(Raven) Alfar your blessings upon us!

All: Alfar your blessings upon us!

(Carrion) We gather with you at the mound. We are proud to call ourselves your people.

(Raven) Once again, Alfar your blessings upon us!

All: Alfar your blessings upon us!

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

(Raven) One last time, Alfar your blessings upon us!

All: Alfar your blessings upon us!

(Grollwynn) *The pitchers are lifted saluting the fire, well and tree.*

HALLOWING OF THE WATERS

(Grollwynn) Behold the Waters of Life!

(Carrion) Alfar, hear and bless us!

(Raven) Alfar, Wise Ones of the Mound, Bringers of Bounty, hallow these Waters of Life.

(Grollwynn) *lifts the pitchers before the participants.*

(Grollwynn) Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSINGS

(Raven) Now Good folk, do you wish to receive the blessings Freyr and the Alfar have for us this night? _____. Then we shall drink deep there blessings!

The Waters are passed (Isaura & Chris F.) and all participants share the waters. As the waters are passed the following song is sung by all participants.

(Grollwynn) As we receive the blessing of the Alfar let us raise our voices in song.

In song

Back to the River, back to the Sea

Back to the Ocean, home to thee

Back through my blood, back through my veins.

Back to my heartbeat, all the same.

(By Abbi Spinner)

Repeat until the horns have been passed to all participants.

THANKING THE BEINGS

(Carrion) Freyr, Lord of Alfheimr and Frith God. We thank you for your blessings this eve. May we find strength, endurance and perseverance with your favor. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Freyr, we thank you!

(Raven) Huldfolk, Hiddenfolk, Guardians of the Mounds. We thank you for your wisdom and blessings this eve. May the land and folk be fruitful with your favor. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Alfar, we thank you!

(Isaura) Mighty Kindred of land, sea and sky, Eldest and Brightest of the Nine Worlds. Aesir and Vanir; Alfar and Disir and Alfs, House Ghost and Wights. 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) Bragi, Great Skald of the Halls of Valhalla. God of Poetry and Song. We thank you for the inspiration and eloquence 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: Bragi, we thank you!

CLOSING THE GATES

(Raven) Odin, One Eyed Wanderer; we thank you for your protection and guidance this night. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire

All: Odin, we thank you!

(Raven)

Odin, Mighty Magician of the Dead, we now ask that you close the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more.

(Raven)(Carrion) *Striking the hammer sign upon the tree*

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

(Carrion) *Striking the hammer sign over the well*

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

(Raven) *Striking the hammer sign over the fire*

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

(Raven)(Carrion)

By the land before us!

(Raven)(Carrion)

By the seas about us!

(Raven)(Carrion)

By the sky above us!

(Raven)(Carrion)

Let the Gates be closed!

THANKING THE EARTH, SKY AND SEA

(Raven) Njord, Primordial Master of the Sea, may you continue to support us in our work and bless our journey. Njord, we thank your blessings. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Njord, we thank you!

(Grollwynn) Mighty Tyr, Ancient Mystery of the Sky, may you continue to illuminate the way to courage. Bright Father of the Aesir, we thank you for your sacrifice. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Tyr, we thank you!

(Isaura) Nerthus, Primal Mother of Earth, may you continue to guide and protect us. Ancient Mother, we thank you for your blessings. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Nerthus, 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

(Isaura) 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 ash 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.

(Carrion)

As we end our journey among the Alfar, we thank the Earth for her protection, the Sky for its guidance and the Sea for the support that surrounds us.

Before you see the mound rising to meet the Sky. See the mist thicken to seal the entrance to the howe. As this mist swirls the light turns once more to shadow. The shadows dance within the

darkness until the rocky surface of the mound is visible once more. The mound is covered in a blanket of green and obvious signs of fall's approach are visible in the remnants of summer's once brilliant flowers. The mound continues to rise high above your head, once more you can see the side of the hill and what lies above it; but what lies within is not longer unseen and hidden from you. Remember the gifts of the Alfar and their ancient wisdom shared with you this night.

The sun has set; the shadows sleep once more among the trees that lie before you. In the distance you see a pathway through the trees. The spirits of Nature call to you, their many voices gently whispering upon the wind beaconing you to approach.

You slowly approach the path and once more follow the trail until it opens into a clearing beyond the trees. As you enter the clearing, you feel the presence of those that have journeyed with you this night....As you open your eyes...

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

(Raven)

Musical Signal- *A Thor's Hammer strikes the anvil 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 arise and overwhelm us.

Recessional Song

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

Walk With Wisdom

Walk with wisdom, from this hallowed place

Walk not in sorrow, our roots shall ere embrace.

May strength be your brother, and honor be your friend,

And luck be your lover, until we meet again.

Words and music by Sable

Special Thanks To:

All who attended, participated and shared in our Harvest Tide celebration.

Diana Paxson and Frigga Asraat for the chant Time and Tide

Emerald of Sassafra Grove ADF for the chants Manannan Mac Lir and Well of Memory.

Liafal for the chant The Gatekeeper

Abbi Spinner for the chant Back to the River

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

Sable for the chant, Walk With Wisdom

***Whispering Lake Grove, ADF
Harvest Tide Ritual
2008***

***Ritual text written by
(Unless otherwise credited)***

Rev. Raven & Carrion Mann

© 2008 Raven & Carrion Mann

