

Whispering Lake Grove A.O.F.



Imbolc

January 29, 2006

6:00 PM

An offering of apple butter and dark bread is made to the Outdwellers and is laid beyond the perimeter of the ritual space prior to hallowing and claiming. The Sacrificer will lay the offerings. All participants assemble for the Grove Attunement just outside of the Nemeton.

GROVE ATTUNEMENT (Raven)

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

You now stand between Earth and Sky

Feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth

Know that below you 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 you 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)*

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

All:

May our worship be true.
May our actions be just.
May our love be pure.
Blessings, honor and worship to the Holy Ones.

PROCESSIONAL (Carrion)

In song

*We Will Never, Never Lose Our Way To The Well Of Her
Memory
And The Power-- Of Her Living Flame It Will Rise, It Will Rise
Again.*

*Like The Grasses, Through The Dark, Through The Soil,
To The Sunlight -- We Shall Rise Again. We Are Thirsting --
For The Waters Of Life,
We Are Moving -- We Shall Live Again.*

***Words By Starhawk and Rose May Dance, Music adapted
from a South African Freedom Song***

Repeat until all participants have entered the worship area.

MUSICAL SIGNAL- A hammer strikes the anvil 9 times.

(Raven)

CLAIMING AND HALLOWING (Eld Naðr)

Winter's icy grasp begins to wane upon the Middle realm and the green world stir's beneath a mantle of ice and snow.

A chilling wind blows across the awakening land, as the dark hand of chaos struggles to overwhelm us.

Once more we shall meet chaos with order and lay claim to this place. We shall make sacred this space and time that we may worship and honor the Kindred as one people.

Outdwellers (at the Southern fire) (Raven)

Dark dwellers, take heed this night!
Know the Mighty Tuatha will ward this place!
Their treasures will strike order from choas!
Driving all that is twisted and bent into the darkness.

Balor of the Evil Eye; King of the Fomorian,
who has dared to challenge the Might and Magic of the Tuatha.
You and your kin, primal bringers chaos and discord,
Hoards, whose screams and cries, harmonize not with our songs
and praise.

Dark dwellers, take heed this night!
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!

Consecration of Sacred Time & Space (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 Bog 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 Formorians and the Tuatha De Danannan lay claim to Ireland.

Claiming Place

Begin in the North saying:

Out of Falias the Stone of Fal, herald of the rightful king, Stone of Sovereignty, hallow and hold this holy ground. **(Moondragon)**

Facing East:

Out of Findas, the Sword of Nuada, never to be defeated in battle, Sword of Justice, hallow and hold this holy ground. **(Eld Naðr)**

Facing South:

Out of Glorias, the Spear of Lugh, which turns the tide of battle, Mighty Spear, hallow and hold this holy ground. **(Carrion)**

Facing West:

Out of Murias, the Cauldron of the Dagda, from which none go hungrly, Cauldron of Plenty, hallow and hold this holy ground. **(Raven)**

From the Center of the Hallows:

Great Treasures of the Tuatha hallow and hold this holy ground! **(Sidhe Wolf)**

To the Middle realm. (Eld Naðr)

Kindred of the Land, hallow and hold this holy ground.

And then to the realm below: (Carrion)

Kindred of the Sea, hallow and hold this holy ground.

To the realm above: (Raven)

Kindred of the Sky, hallow and hold this holy ground.

Finally, center the forces by folding your arms in from the cross position with your fingers touching at the solar plexus and say:

Around us and in us, Primal Powers of Earth and Sky! **(Sidhe Wolf)**

FIRE, WELL & TREE (chant)

Fire, bright Fire

Gate to the Shining Ones (Carrion)

Fire, bright Fire

Our passage to the Sky (Carrion)

Fire, bright Fire

Warmth of our Community (Carrion)

Spark of Life (Carrion)

We honor you now

Incense is offered to the fire. (Eld Naðr)

Well, deep Well

Gate to the Underworld (Carrion)

Well, deep Well

Our passage to the Sea (Carrion)

Well, deep Well

Wisdom of the Ancestors (Carrion)

Waters of Life (Carrion)

We honor you now

Hazel nuts are offered into the well. (Eld Naðr)

Tree, great Tree

Gate that reaches everywhere (Carrion)

Tree, great Tree

With you we share the Land (Carrion)

Tree, great Tree

Our passage to the Otherworld (Carrion)

Source of Life (Carrion)

We honor you now.

The bile is asperged with water from the well and censed with incense. (Eld Naðr)

Words & music by Pandora

The aspersing bowl is filled by Sidhe Wolf from the Well and the censer is kindled from the Fire by Moondragon. The Nemeton is

censed and asperged as the following words are chanted by all participants. Grove members participating in the hallowing and claiming are also censed and asperged at this time.

*(Chant led by **Raven**)*

*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:

(Raven Mann)

Through the union of fire and water,
Our Nemeton is made whole and holy!

To Land, Sea & Sky (Raven)

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 BLESSINGS

Earth Mother & Sky Father

(Sidhe Wolf) kneeling at the well

Ancient One of ever changing beauty
Primal Mother of the Mighty Tuatha
And Great Goddess of Sovereignty
We are renewed in your waters
Cradled within your mantel of green
And sustained by your abundance
Danu, Earth Mother, we call upon the life-giving magic of the Earth!

(Eld Naðr) standing at the sacred fire arms outstretched to the sky.

Flashing One of the Sun's healing warmth
Brilliant Father of the Adventurous Gael
And Great God of the creative spark
We are purified between your flames
Strengthened through your radiant light
And prosper from your fertility
Bile, Sky Father, we call upon the illuminating power of the Sky!

(Eld Naðr) (Sidhe Wolf)

Great Earth Mother and Sky Father,
Through your sacred union springs forth all life.
Mother and Father of all that was, of all that is and all that will be.

We come before you in love and respect and we ask that you uphold and bless our gathering!

(Eld Naðr) (Sidhe Wolf) An offering of white bread (1 whole round loaf) and clarified butter is made to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.

Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our offering!

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, be welcome among us!

Bardic Inspiration (Eld Naðr)

We call upon the Sun-faced Warrior of the Tuatha;
The Honey-mouthed God of Poetic Word;
And Father of the Ogham.

Oh, Binder and Inspirer of the Journeying Soul.
Bless us with your inspiration and eloquence this night!

An offering of mead is made.

Oghma, accept our offering!

All: Oghma, be welcome among us!

Grove Patron Invitation (Raven)

Manannan Mac Lir...

PURPOSE & PRECEDENT (Carrion)

For our Ancestors, Imbolc was the time when families gathered in their homes before the warmth of their hearth's fire. The women of each house would make ready their homes; placing a bowl of milk outside of the door, smooching the hearth and preparing a bed for a visit from Brighid.

Imbolc is a time when new life begins to stir and the Green world begins to awaken from its slumber. The promise of Spring's return is in the air, as the light and warmth of the sun begins overtake winter's darkness.

As our Ancestors once did, so too do we gather this night before our hearth to await our honored guest. We gather in celebration of the lengthening light, returning warmth and first stirring of new life. Finally, we gather to worship and honor the Kindred that the blessings of health, wealth and wisdom might be ours!
May all who gather this night be welcome among us!

OPENING THE GATES (Raven, Carrion & Eld Naðr)

(Raven)

Manannan MacLir, it is your might and magic that wards the threshold.

Grey Rider of Aonbarr, we ask for your protection as we walk through the mist this night.

Mighty Lord of the Crossroads, as we travel between the worlds of man and Sidhe may you part the mist before us.

(Eld Naðr) *Irish whiskey is offered to Manannan.*

Manannan MacLir, Mist Weaver, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, be welcome among us!

(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

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(Raven, Carrion & Eld Naðr)

Manannan, merge now your magick with ours!

(Raven)

See the flame leaping forth from the fire.

(Carrion)

See the mist arising from the well,

(Eld Naðr)

Flame and mist converging upon the tree.

Forming a meeting place between the realms

(Raven) *Striking a sigil or triskel 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 a sigil or triskel 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.

(Eld Naðr) *Striking a sigil or triskel 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)(Eld Naðr) Carrion)

Let the Gates Be Open!

KINDRED OFFERINGS

(Raven)

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

(Sidhe Wolf)

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.

Mighty Sidhe, be welcome among us!

Alcohol is offered. (Eld Naðr)

(Raven)

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, be welcome among us!

Alcohol is offered. (Eld Naðr)

(Moondragon)

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. (Eld Naðr)

The alcohol is ignited in offering as it burns all will sing the following chant 3x. (Eld Naðr)

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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(Raven)

Kindred, accept our offerings!

All: Kindred, be welcome among us!

KEY OFFERINGS

(Raven) *Anvil strikes three times*

In Song (Carrion)(Moondragon)(Sidhe Wolf)

Holy water, sacred flame

Brigid we invoke your name

Bless my hands, my head, my heart

Source of healing, song and art.

(words by Diane Baker/music by Anne Hill)

Invocation to Brighid (Carrion)

Gentle are the hands that kindle life's first spark **(Sidhe Wolf)**

Warm is the love that fills a mother's heart **(Moondragon)**

Bright is the flame that inspire's the mind **(Carrion)**

Fair is the maiden of inspiration divine **(Sidhe Wolf)**

Sweet is the sound of her voice on the wind **(Moondragon)**

Blessed are her waters that cradle our kin **(Carrion)**

Wise is the protectress of hearth and home **(Sidhe Wolf)**

Beautiful is the Lady of the Shores to behold **(Moondragon)**

Primal is her power **(Carrion)**

Ancient is her wisdom **(Sidhe Wolf)**

Great is her love. **(Moondragon)**

(Eld Naðr) *Brighid's crosses, milk and honey are sacrificed to Brighid*

(Carrion) Brighid, accept our offering!

All: Brighid, be welcome among us!

SEASONAL ENACTMENT

A male member of the Grove will leave the Nemeton briefly to get the brideog from beyond the feasting area bringing her to the doorway of our ritual space. At this time an unmarried female member of the Grove will proceed to the doorway and carry the brideog into the Nemeton and once around the sacred center to her bed by the hearth's fire as the remaining participants chant:

(Carrion)

All: Brighid is come, Brighid is welcome!

The brideog and wand are laid in the bed. The unmarried female, carrier of the brideog, lights the first of nine candles from the hearth's fire saying:

(Chris F.) Through this flame may the warmth of the sun return to us, as the days grow longer and life begins to stir within the Earth. May she grant us the strength to **persevere**.

A second candle is lit from the hearth's fire saying:

(Sidhe Wolf) Through this flame may our hearts and minds feel the spark of inspiration that kindles new beginnings and fosters creativity within us. May she teach us **moderation** in all endeavors.

A third candle is lit from the hearth's fire saying:

(Chris T.) Through this flame may all that lay sleeping beneath winter's blanket of white be renewed. May she bring **fertility** to awaken the Green world.

A fourth candle is lit from the hearth's fire saying:

(Jim) Through this flame may we find protection for our hearths and homes as we forge a pathway within this world. May she bless us that we may find **courage** when facing the storms of our existence.

A fifth candle is lit from the hearth's fire saying:

(Eld Naðr) Through this flame may we extend our love to the Kindred and the folk. May her flame's warmth offer **hospitality** to all.

A sixth candle is lit saying:

(Moondragon) Through this flame may we cleanse and heal our hearts, our bodies and our minds that we may find peace within us. May she show us the way to **wisdom** and ancient knowledge.

A seventh candle is lit saying:

(Raven) Through this flame's light may we forge a pathway to the Otherworld that we may travel in safety beneath its shield. May she grant us the **vision** to see beyond this realm.

An eighth candle is lit saying:

(Jane) Through this flame may we bring forth the ways of old with new vitality that the Kindred may flourish with our honor and worship. May she guide us to act with the truest **integrity** always.

A ninth and final flame, the eternal flame is lit saying:

(Carrion) Youthful Maiden and Great Mother, may your eternal fire burn bright within our hearts and minds. May your eternal flame bring forth life anew.

Lady Brighid, You have come!

Great Lady, You are most welcome!

PRAISE OFFERINGS

SACRIFICE AND OMEN

(Raven)

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;

We honor the Mighty Kindred 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 all who aid us!

As we prepare to make our final sacrifice.

The final sacrifice is prepared. (Eld Naðr)

(Eld Naðr)

It is with love, honor and respect that we have offered hospitality to the Kindred 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.

Kindred of land, sea and sky we honor you!

The final sacrifice is made.

Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

All: Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

Participants meditate on the kindred, sending their energies through the gates.

(Carrion)

Let us close our eyes and open our hearts and minds to the Kindred. Breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth; in through your nose and out through your mouth (pause) With each breath pouring out our love as we prepare to receive the blessings of the Kindred upon us.

We send our love, honor and respect into the Middle realm to the Noble Spirits, our protectors and guides. It is their secret knowledge and companionship that we strive to share and be one with. **(pause for 2 count)** Feel the presence of the Noble Spirits as we await their message. **(pause for 2 count)**

We send our love, honor and respect deep into the Sacred Well to the Mighty Dead, our ancestors of blood and of spirit, it is their timeless wisdom that inspires us to strive always to better ourselves and our world around us. **(pause for 2 count)** Feel the presence of the Mighty Dead as we await their guidance. **(pause for 2 count)**

We send our love, honor and respect through the Sacred Fire into the heavens to the Shining Ones, Eldest and Wisest. **(pause for 4 count)** It is their guidance and blessings we seek. Feel the presence of the Shining Ones as we await their blessings. **(pause for 2 count)**.

(Carrion) Let us now raise our voice as one people as we await our message from the Kindred.

In Song

Deep Peace (Author Unknown)

Deep peace of the flowing air to you

Deep peace of the sacred flame

Deep peace of the running wave to you

Deep peace of the quiet earth

May peace, may peace, may peace fill your soul

Let peace, let peace, let peace make you whole.

(Raven)(Eld Naðr)

The Omen is taken. One Ogham is drawn for each of the three Kindred. The seer then interprets the omen, leading the company to contemplate the things they would ask of the powers, especially as suggested by the omen.

(Eld Naðr)

From the Noble Spirits _____.

From the Mighty Ones _____.

From the Shining Ones _____.

The Kindred have spoken. What use have you in your lives for their knowledge and wisdom.

THE BLESSING (Carrion) (Raven)(Eld Naðr)

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) Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

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

(Raven) Once again, Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

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

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

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

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

(Eld Naðr) Behold the Waters of Life!

(Raven) Shining Ones hear and bless us.

(Carrion) Lady Brighid, Bright Goddess of Spring's renewal, hallow these waters of life.

(Eld Naðr) *lifts the pitchers before the participants.*

(Eld Naðr) Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

(Eld Naðr) Now Good folk, drink deep; the blessings of the Shining Ones.

The waters are passed and all participants share the waters. As the waters are passed the following song is sung by all participants.

(Carrion) As we receive the blessing of the Shining Ones let us raise our voices in song.

All in Song

Pour the waters, raise the cup; Drink your share of wisdom deep; strength and love now fill us up. As the elder ways we keep.

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Repeat until the horns have been passed to all participants.

THANKSGIVING AND CLOSING

(Raven)

We now prepare to thank the powers that have attended us during this rite. At this time the gates between the worlds remain open and we invite any to give personal offering or sacrifice to the powers. *At this time cluties can also be brought forward and tied on the tree on the Shrine with or without spoken words. Participants are given time to make final offerings.*

(Carrion) Lady Brighid, Great Mother of the Tuatha and White Maiden of Spring's Renewal. We thank you for the blessings you have given us. **(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.

All: Brighid, we thank you.

(Moondragon) 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!

(Eld Naðr) Oghma, Honey-mouthed God of Poetic Word. 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: Oghma, we thank you!

(Sidhe Wolf) Earth Mother and Sky Father, Mother and Father of all that was, all that is and all that will be. We thank you for your life giving union that springs forth all life. **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!

(Raven) Manannan MacLir, Weaver of Gray Mists; we thank you for your protection and guidance as we have walked between the worlds this night. **(A final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire

All: Manannan MacLir, 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.

(Eld Naðr)

By the land before us!

(Carrion Mann)

By the seas about us!

(Raven Mann)

By the sky above us!

(Raven Mann)(Eld Naðr)(Carrion Mann)

Let the Gates be closed!

(Eld Naðr) 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.*

Grove Attunement

(Raven) 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 as they pool 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 as they illuminate your
mind, your heart and finally your spirit. *(pause 4 count)*

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky as they surge through
you, lending 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.

As we open our eyes,
May the well once again become but water
May the fire once more become but flames
May the tree become but wood
May all that is be what was, that it may be again!

MUSICAL SIGNAL- *A 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
arises and overwhelm us.

(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 Moon Dragon; music by Raven of the Sorrows)

Special Thanks To:

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

Starhawk and Rose May Dance for the words to: *Way to the Well.*

Anne Hill and Diane Baker for the chant: *Holy Water, Sacred Flame.*

Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants
*The Gatekeeper Chant, Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe,
Pour the Waters*

Pandora for the chant
The Verticle Axis Chant

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

***Whispering Lake Grove, ADF
Imbolc Ritual
2006***

*Ritual text written by
(Unless otherwise credited)*

Raven & Carrion Mann

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