

Whispering Lake Grove ADF



Imbolc
February 4, 2007
6:00PM

PREPARATION

GROVE ATTUNEMENT (Chris T.)

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*)

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.

Honoring Our Grove Patron (Raven)

For our Ancestors the Sea was a place of danger and mystery. For those, who dared to travel upon the waves, they knew that each journey may be their last, as fierce storms and unforgiving waves swept over them. But, born from the Sea was Manannan Mac Lir to calm the waves and quiet the storms.

As our Ancestors once did, we call this eve upon the Son of the Sea and Patron of Whispering Lake Grove that he may continue to guide and protect us as we navigate the storms of our lives.

We now call forth one among us in his honor....(Raven)
A member of Whispering Lake Grove will prepare a special offering for the Grove Patron and give the offering at this time.

PROCESSION

In Song (Carrion)

*The Waters flow around us
The Fires burn within us
Standing tall we gather at the center of the world.
Upon the Earth our mother
We worship here together
All as one we gather at the center of the world.*

(Words and Music by Emerald)

Repeat until all participants have entered the worship area.

1ST PHASE

STARTING THE RITE & ESTABLISHING THE GROUP MIND

CLEAR-CUT BEGINNING

OPENING PRAYERS

(Moondragon)

Musical Signal- *hammer strikes anvil 9 times.*

Clear-cut Beginning (Raven)

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.

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

Earth Mother & Sky Father

(Moondragon) 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 Na(d)r) 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 Na(d)r) (Moondragon)

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 Na(d)r)(Moondragon) *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!

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration

Bardic Inspiration (Carrion)

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!

(Eld Na(d)r) *An offering of honey is made.*

Oghma, accept our offering!

All: Oghma, be welcome among us!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Purpose of the Ritual (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, smooing 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!

CONSECRATION OF SPACE & PARTICIPANTS

Outdwellers *(at the Southern fire the Sacrificer lays a token for
the Outdwellers of dark bread and apple butter)* **(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 Fomorians,
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!

Purification of Participants & Space

*The aspersing bowl is filled by Eld Nadr. from the Well and the censor is kindled from the Fire by Moondragon. 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 **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!
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.

2ND PHASE

RECREATING THE COSMOS & PRELIMINARY POWER RAISING

THE SACRED CENTER

Affirmation of Unity

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

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.

Repeat chant 3 times

Establishing Sacred Time (Raven)

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

All in song (Carrion)

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 Na(d)r will offer hazel nuts to the well, incense to the fire and
cense and asperge the bile during the song.*

COMPLETING THE COSMOLOGY

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 THE GATES

(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!

GENERAL OFFERINGS TO AND INVOCATION OF THE SPIRITS

(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!

(Chris T.)

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!

Bird Seed is offered. (Eld Naðr)

(Moondragon)

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!

Irish Whiskey is offered. (Eld Naðr)

(Eld Naðr)

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!

Clarified Butter is offered. (Eld Naðr)

(Carrion)

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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Kindred, accept our offerings!

All: Kindred, be welcome among us!

3RD PHASE

MAJOR SENDING OF POWER TO DEITIES OF THE OCCASION

HONORING THE DEITIES OF THE RITE

(Raven) *Anvil strikes three times*

Invocation to Brighid **(Carrion)**

Gentle are the hands that kindle life's first spark.

Warm is the love that fills a mother's heart.

Bright is the flame that inspire's the mind.

Fair is the maiden of inspiration divine.

Sweet is the sound of her voice on the wind.

Blessed are her waters that cradle our kin.

Wise is the protectress of hearth and home.

Beautiful is the Lady of the Shores to behold.

Primal is her power

Ancient is her wisdom

Great is her love.

(Eld Naðr) *Milk and honey is offered to Brighid*

(Carrion) Brighid, accept our offering!

All: Brigid, be welcome among us!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

(Raven) At this time you may bring forth your offerings of praise to Brigid and the Season of New Beginnings. *(Once all personal praise offerings have been made to the Deity of the Occasion the Group will offer praise)*

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: Brigid is come, Brigid 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:

(Carrion) 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:

(Chris F.) 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 Brigid, You have come!

Great Lady, You are most welcome!

In Song

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)

The four individuals chanting Holy Water, Sacred flame will each light a candle, asperge themselves with water from Brighid's well and tie a cloutie on the Brighid's cross for the final sacrifice. Once all four chanters are through the stations, all participants will be given an opportunity to visit each station as the chanting continues.

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

(Raven)

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;
We honor Brighid, as she walks among us.
Through communication with the Otherworld;
We receive her guidance, inspiration and insight.
Tonight we call out from the crossroads to our guest of honor!
As we prepare to make our final sacrifice.

The final sacrifice is prepared. (Eld Naðr)

(Eld Naðr)

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

We have sung her 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 she shall know of our devotion.

Lady Brighid, we honor you.

The final sacrifice is made.

Brighid, accept our sacrifice!

All: Brighid, accept our sacrifice!

THE OMEN

(Raven)(Eld Naðr)

The Omen is taken by drawing three Ogham. 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. While the omen is being taken Carrion will lead all present in the following chant.

(Carrion)

Let us raise our voices in song as Brighid reveals her will.

In song

Come druid all, ovates andseers

And let your minds be still

Earth, sea and sky will lend no fears

As the gods reveal their will.

Let every heart sing praise to them

And all our works be skilled

Claiming their blessings to the very end.

As the gods reveal their will.

(Words by Sean Miller)

4th PHASE

RECEIVING AND USING THE RETURN POWER

CALLING FOR 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) Brighid, your blessings upon us!

All: Brighid, your blessings upon us!

(Carrion) We gather with you between Earth and Sky. We are

proud to call ourselves your people.

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

All: Brighid, your blessings upon us!

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

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

All: Brighid, your blessings upon us!

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

HALLOWING OF THE WATERS

(Eld Naðr) Behold the Waters of Life!

(Raven) Youthful Maiden and Great Mother, 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!

AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSINGS

(Eld Naðr) Now Good folk, do you wish to receive the blessings of our honored guest? _____. Then we shall drink deep the blessings of Brighid!

The Waters are passed (Chris T. & Moondragon) 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.

5TH PHASE

UNWINDING AND ENDING THE CEREMONY

THANKING THE BEINGS

(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.

(Chris T.) 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 to each of the 3 Kindred)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Kindred, we thank you!

(Carrion) 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!

CLOSING THE GATES

(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, 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.

(Eld Naðr)

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

(Carrion)

By the seas about us!

(Raven)

By the sky above us!

(Raven Mann)(Eld Naðr)(Carrion Mann)

Let the Gates be closed!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

(Eld Naðr) Bile, Illuminating One of the Sky, may you continue to show us the way to courage and right. Bright Father of the Gael, we thank you for the strength and healing warmth 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: Bile, we thank you!

(Moondragon) Danu, Ancient One of Ever Changing Beauty, may you continue to renew and sustain us. Primal Mother of the Tuatha, we thank you for all life. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Danu, we thank you!

(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.*

STATEMENT OF ENDING

Unmerging, Regrounding & Recentering: Meditation

(Chris T.) 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!

(Moondragon)

Musical Signal- *hammer strikes 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

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

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.

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 and the Portal Song*

Emerald for the chant
The Waters Flow Around Us

Sean Miller for the chant
Come Druids All

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

*Whispering Lake Grove, ADF
Imbolc Ritual
2007*

*Ritual text written by
(Unless otherwise credited)*

Raven & Carrion Mann

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