



Whispering Lake Grove

ADF



Imbolc
February 3, 2010
6:00 PM



PREPARATION

GROVE ATTUNEMENT

Joining our hands and closing our eyes, take a few deep cleansing breaths (*pause 4 count*). We now stand together, upon the land, beneath the sky, surrounded by the sea. The veil between this world and the Otherworld thins as we prepare to enter sacred time (*pause 4 count*).

Below us flows the primal waters from which we all derived and to which we will each return. They are the well of all memory and potential. Reaching far beneath you into the earth, through the soil and the bedrock to the waters below feel the cool, dark and chaotic energy of these waters. Draw upon the waters of life. Feel these waters as they enter your being, as they pool within the cauldron of your belly, within the cauldron of your heart and finally within the cauldron of your head. (*pause 8 count*)

As the primal waters pulse within you turn your attention skyward. For above us burns the primal fires, the power necessary to generate new life from death. Reaching far beyond the sky into the heavens, through the clouds and the stars and beyond the sun feel the warm, light and ordered energy of the heavens. Draw upon the fires of creation. Feel this fire as it illuminates the cauldron within your head, the cauldron within your heart and finally the cauldron of your belly. (*pause 8 count*)

The fires of the heavens ignite the waters of the earth within you and you become one with the cosmos. Feel the primal powers of fire and water as they surge through you. Your heart beats with the very pulse of the worlds (*pause 8 count*) Know that the fire and water that surges through our veins this day connects us to the land beneath our feet, to the sky above our heads and to the water that surrounds us. It connects us to the spirits of nature, to our Ancestors and to our Gods, linking this world forever to the



Otherworld.
As we open our eyes let us all be one as we enter sacred space!

Honoring Our Grove Patron

Rider of the Maned Waves...
Protect us from the storms.
Guardian of the Threshold...
Guide us from all harm.
Magician of the Shoreline...
Bless us with your might.
Mist Weaver,
May you walk with us this night!
Irish Whiskey is offered.
Manannan, accept our offering!
All: Manannan, be welcome among us!

PROCESSION (All in song)

In Song

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.

OPENING PRAYERS

Musical Signal- *hammer strikes anvil 9 times.*

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

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!

An offering of milk 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

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 honey is made.

Oghma, accept our offering!

All: Oghma, be welcome among us!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Purpose of the Ritual

Isaura & Marcia-places milk & oats outside the door.

Luna & Chris G.- Luna places the Brighids mantel on the shrine and Chris places the candle and lights the shrine hearth fire.

Marisha & Morrighan-prepares the bed for Brighid

This night the women of this hall make ready our home for a very special guest.

The fire of spring has been secretly lit within the shadows of darkness.

New life begins to stir deep beneath the blanket of white, as the



Greenworld awakens from its slumber.
 Tonight, we celebrate in sacred tradition the lengthening light,
 returning warmth and first stirring of Springtime.
 With praise, love and sacrifice we shall honor Lady Brighid
 That her blessings of health, wealth and wisdom might be ours!

CONSECRATION OF SPACE & PARTICIPANTS

Purification of Participants & Space

The aspersion bowl is filled from the Well and the censer is kindled from the Fire. 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.

With the powers to create and destroy.

And the strength to cleanse and purify.

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

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

Outdwellers

Weaving the Druids Mist

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 welcome the Kindred as one people.

THE SACRED CENTER

Affirmation of Unity

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

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.

All in song

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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*Silver is offered to the well, incense to the fire and the tree is
censed and asperged during the song.*

COMPLETING THE COSMOLOGY

To Land, Sea & Sky

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

Dagda Mor, your might and magic wards the threshold.
Great Good God, in your protection we shall stand at the center of
all worlds.
Mighty Druid of the Tuatha , as the world of man and Sidhe



converge within this place may you open the mounds before us.

Irish whiskey is offered.

Dagda Mor, accept our offering!

All: Dagda Mor, be welcome among us!

Let us raise our voices in song to the Gatekeeper!

All in song

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

Repeat chant three times

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Dagda Mor, let us stand at the center of all worlds!

Sacred Fires of the heavens, burn within this place.

Primal Waters of the earth, flow within this place.

World Tree joining earth and sky, grow within this place.

Striking a sigil over the fire.

Let this fire carry our praise and sacrifice to the Shining Ones.

Striking a sigil over the well.

Let this well carry our praise and sacrifice to the Mighty Dead.

Striking a sigil upon the tree.

Let this tree connect the worlds as they become one in this place.

By the land before us!

By the seas about us!

By the sky above us!

Let the Gates Be Open!

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

We now stand at the center of all worlds!



GENERAL OFFERINGS TO AND INVOCATION OF THE SPIRITS

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 us in celebration this night!

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.

Nature Spirits, accept our offering!

Seed and cream is offered

Nature Spirits, be welcome among us!

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, accept our offering!

Beer and bread is offered.

Mighty Ones, be welcome among us!

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, accept our offering!

Irish Whiskey is offered

Shining Ones be welcome among us!



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!

HONORING THE DEITY OF THE RITE

Invocation to Brighid

We call to the...

Lady of Smithy's Forge,

Fair Maiden the Field,

To the Goddess of the Awakening Land,

And Blessings it shall yield.

We call to the...

Lady of the Waters Still,

Primal Mother of the Deep,

To the Wise One of the Ages,

The Well your secrets keep.

We call to the...

Lady of the Sacred Flame

Exalted One on High

To the Bright One of the Springtime,

And Daughter of the Sky.

Cream, honey and clarified butter are offered.

Lady, Brighid, accept our offering!

All: Brighid, be welcome among us!



The single male will leave the Nemeton briefly to get the brideog from beyond the feasting area bringing her to the doorway of our ritual space. The single female 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 sing: The single male will approach the center and take up the acorn tipped wand.

Hymn to Brighid

O Bridget, our heart, our brightest queen

Cast your blessings unto us.

We are your children and you are our mother,

So hearken unto us.

You are the cauldron now in our Grove,

Wise woman inspire us.

O Fire of Love, O Fire of Life

Please Bridget, come to us!

Lyrics by Isaac Bonewits

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

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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, We Honor You!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

At this time you may bring forth your offerings of praise to Lady Brighid.



PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

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 honored guest!
 As we prepare to make our final sacrifice.
The final sacrifice is prepared.
 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.
 Brightest Lady, we honor you.
The final sacrifice is made.
 Brighid, accept our sacrifice!
All: Brighid, accept our sacrifice!

THE OMEN

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 Deity of the Occasion. While the omen is being taken Carrion will lead all present in the following chant.

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

In Song

*Holy water, sacred flame
 Brighid 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)*

Brighid's Girdle

Drummers will begin drumming. Carrion will lead a spoken chant: *Brighid Your Blessings Upon Us.....* Participants will begin to circle the Nemeton as two male grove members hold the Brighid's Girdle. All participants will pass through the Girdle of Brighid to receive her blessings.

CALLING FOR THE BLESSING

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

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

Brighid your blessings upon us!

All: Brighid your blessings upon us!

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

Once again, Brighid your blessings upon us!

All: Brighid your blessings upon us!

We have brought our offerings. We have made sacrifice.

One last time, Brighid your blessings upon us!

All: Brighid your blessings upon us!

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



HALLOWING OF THE WATERS

Behold the Waters of Life!

Brigid hear and bless us.

Beloved Lady of Health, Wealth & Wisdom, hallow these waters of life.

An officiant lifts the pitchers before the participants.

Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSINGS

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

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

As we receive the blessing of Brigid 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.

THANKING THE BEINGS

Lady Brigid, Great Goddess of Poetry, Healing and Smithcraft, we thank you for the blessings you have given us. **(a final token is offered)** May you continue to Bless our lives with health, wealth and wisdom. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Brigid, we thank you.



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!

Elder Wise, Ancient Wise Ones before us, we thank you for the wisdom, inspiration and guidance you offer us. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Elder Wise, we thank you!

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

Dagda Mor, Mighty Druid of the Tuatha; we thank you for your protection and guidance as we stand at the center of all 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: Dagda, we thank you!

Dagda Mor, Great Guardian of the Threshold, I now ask that you close the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more.

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

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

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



Dagda Mor, let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

Mighty Father of the Clear Sky, we thank you for the blessings 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: Sky Father, we thank you!

Great Goddess of Sovereignty, 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: Earth Mother, we thank you!

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

Children of Earth and Sky, 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!

Musical Signal- An Anvil strikes 3 X 3 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

Once more as we 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



*Special Thanks To:
All who attended, participated and
shared in our Imbolc celebration.*

*Emerald of Sassafras Grove
for the chant The Waters*



The Unknown Author of the chant Deep Peace.

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

*Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants
Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe, Pour the Waters and the
Portal Song*

Isaac Bonewits for the Hymn to Bridget.

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

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.



Whispering Lake Grove, ADF

Imbolc Ritual

2010

Ritual text written by

Rev. Raven & Rev. Carrion Mann

(Unless otherwise credited)

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