

Whispering Lake Grove ADF



Imbolc Solitary Liturgy

PREPARATION

GROVE ATTUNEMENT

Closing my eyes, I take a few deep cleansing breaths.
Breathing in through my nose and out through my mouth.
In through my nose and out through my mouth.
As I breathe, I lay aside the worries, troubles and woes of the
mundane world. (*pause 4 count*)

I now stand between Earth and Sky
I feel my feet firmly resting upon the Earth
I Know that below me flows the primal waters
Cold, dark and chaotic; filled with the potential of all life.

Allowing the primal waters to enter my being.
I feel the coolness of the waters as they pool within my belly,
within my heart and finally, within my head. (*pause 8 count*)

Reaching high into the sky above
I feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens
I know that above me burns the primal fires
Warm, light and ordered; filled with the spark of all life.

Allowing the primal fire to enter my being.
I feel the warmth of the fires as they illuminate my mind, my
heart and finally my spirit. (*pause 8 count*)

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

As I open my eyes, I know that I to worship with a common
purpose.

All:

May my worship be true.
May my actions be just.

May my love be pure.
Blessings, honor and worship to the Holy Ones.

Honoring Our Grove Patron

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, I call this eve upon the Son of the Sea and Patron of Whispering Lake Grove that he may continue to guide and protect me as I navigate the storms of my life.

Manannan Mac Lir, accept my offering!

A special offering for the Grove Patron is given.

Manannan, be welcome here!

PROCESSION

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)

1ST PHASE

STARTING THE RITE & ESTABLISHING THE GROUP MIND

CLEAR-CUT BEGINNING

OPENING PRAYERS

Musical Signal- *drum beat sounds 9 times.*

Clear-cut Beginning

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

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.

I come before you in love and respect and ask that you uphold and bless my gathering!

An offering is made to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.

Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept my offering and be welcome here!

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration

Bardic Inspiration

I 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 me with your inspiration and eloquence!

An offering is made to Oghma.

Oghma, accept my offering and be welcome here!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Purpose of the Ritual

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 I gather before my hearth to await my honored guest. I gather in celebration of the lengthening light, returning warmth and first stirring of new life.

Finally, I gather to worship and honor the Kindred that the blessings of health, wealth and wisdom might be mine!

May all who gather this night be welcome!

CONSECRATION OF SPACE & PARTICIPANTS

Outdwellers at the Southern fire a token is laid for the Outdwellers.

Beings of chaos and discord!

Hoards, whose minds know not rest and whose spirits know not peace.

To all those whose screams and cries, harmonize not with our songs and praise.

Know that this time and place I claim as mine!

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 MINE!

I have given to you all that I intend to give.

May order reign and chaos trouble not my gathering!

Purification of Participants & Space

The aspersion bowl is filled from the Well and the censor is kindled from the Fire. The participant and Nemeton are cleansed with water from the well and purified with smoke from the censor.

With the powers to create and destroy.

And the strength to cleanse and purify.

Through the union of fire and water,

My Nemeton is made whole and holy!

Once more I have met the threat of chaos with order and laid claim to this place. I have made sacred this space that I may worship and honor the Kindred as one people.

2ND PHASE

RECREATING THE COSMOS & PRELIMINARY POWER RAISING

THE SACRED CENTER

Affirmation of Unity

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.

Fire, Well & Tree

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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An offering is made to the well, to the fire and the bile is cense and asperge during the appropriate section of the chant.

COMPLETING THE COSMOLOGY

To Land, Sea & Sky

The waters support and surround me.

The land extends about me.

The sky stretches above me.

And at the center burns a living flame.

Let me pray with a good fire.

May all the Kindred bless me.

May my worship be true.

May my actions be just.

May my love be pure.

Blessings and honor and worship to the holy ones.

Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith

OPENING THE GATES

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

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

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

An offering is made to Manannan.

Manannan MacLir, Mist Weaver, accept my offering and be welcome here!

Manannan, merge now your magick with mine!

See the flame leaping forth from the fire.

See the mist arising from the well,
Flame and mist converging upon the tree.
Forming a meeting place between the realms

Striking a triskel over the fire

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

Striking a triskel over the well

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

Striking a triskel upon the tree

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

By the land before me!

By the seas about me!

By the sky above me!

Let the Gates Be Open!

GENERAL OFFERINGS TO AND INVOCATION OF THE SPIRITS

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

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 here!

An offering is made to the Nature Spirits.

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 here!

An offering is made to the Ancestors.

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 here!

An offering is made to the Shining Ones.

Kindred, accept my offerings and be welcome here!

3RD PHASE

MAJOR SENDING OF POWER TO DEITIES OF THE OCCASION

HONORING THE DEITIES OF THE RITE

Invocation to Brighid

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.

An offering is made to Brighid.

Brighid, accept my offering and be welcome here!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERING

At this time you may bring forth any offering of praise to Brighid and the Season of New Beginnings.

Seasonal Enactment

The officiate lights nine candles from the hearth's fire saying:

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

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

Through this flame may my heart and mind feel the spark of inspiration that kindles new beginnings and fosters creativity. May she teach me **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 I find protection for my hearth and home as I forge a pathway within this world. May she bless me that I may find **courage** when facing the storms of my existence.

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

Through this flame may I extend my 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 I cleanse and heal my heart, my body and my mind that I may find peace within me. May she show me the way to **wisdom** and ancient knowledge.

A seventh candle is lit saying:

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

An eighth candle is lit saying:

Through this flame may I bring forth the ways of old with new vitality that the Kindred may flourish with my honor and worship. May she guide me 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 my heart and mind. May your eternal flame bring forth life anew.

Lady Brighid, You have come!

Great Lady, You are most welcome!

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

Through my praise, love and sacrifice;
I honor Brighid, as she walks with me this day.
Through communication with the Otherworld;
I receive her guidance, inspiration and insight.
Tonight I call out from the crossroads to my guest of honor!
As I prepare to make my final sacrifice.

The final sacrifice is prepared.

It is in love, honor and respect that I have offered hospitality to my guest.

I have sung her praise; made my sacrifice.

It is my hope that my word and sacrifice have conveyed my love.

I call once more through the Gates and deep within the Otherworld that she shall know of my devotion.

Lady Brighid, I honor you.

The final sacrifice is made.

Brighid, accept my sacrifice!

THE OMEN

The Omen is taken by drawing three Ogham and interpreted.

4TH PHASE

RECEIVING AND USING THE RETURN POWER

CALLING FOR THE BLESSING

As in the ways of old I have given my gifts freely and as in the ways of old a gift is given unto me in return.

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

Brighid, your blessings upon me!

I gather with you between Earth and Sky. I am proud to call myself your people.

Brighid, your blessings upon me!

I have brought my offerings. I have made sacrifice.

Brighid, your blessings upon me!

The cup is lifted saluting the fire, well and tree.

HALLOWING OF THE WATERS

Behold the Waters of Life!

Youthful Maiden and Great Mother, hear and bless me.

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

The cup is raised once more.

Behold the Waters of Life!

AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSINGS

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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5th PHASE

UNWINDING AND ENDING THE CEREMONY

THANKING THE BEINGS

Lady Brighid, Great Mother of the Tuatha and White Maiden of Spring's Renewal. I thank you for the blessings you have given me. **(a final token is offered)** May you continue to inspire my heart and mind. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Brighid, I thank you.

Mighty Kindred of land, sea and sky, Eldest, Wisest and Mightiest of the realms. May you continue to protect, guide and bless me as I walk this path. Kindred I thank you for the knowledge and blessings you have shared with me. **(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.

Kindred, I thank you!

Oghma, Honey-mouthed God of Poetic Word. I thank you for the inspiration and eloquence you have shared with me. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Oghma, I thank you!

CLOSING THE GATES

Manannan MacLir, Weaver of Gray Mists; I thank you for your protection and guidance as I 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
Manannan, I thank you!

Manannan Mac Lir, 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.

By the land before me!

By the seas about me!

By the sky above me!

Let the Gates be closed!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

Bile, Illuminating One of the Sky, may you continue to show me the way to courage and right. Bright Father of the Gael, I thank you for the strength and healing warmth you have given me. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Bile, I thank you!

Danu, Ancient One of Ever Changing Beauty, may you continue to renew and sustain me. Primal Mother of the Tuatha, I 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.

Danu, I thank you!

I now return all that has gone unused to the Earth and the Sky, may they continue to support, surround and sustain me. *All offerings that remain are burnt in the fire or scattered upon the Earth.*

STATEMENT OF ENDING

Unmerging, Regrounding & Recentering: Meditation

Once more I close my eyes; breathing deeply in through my nose and out through my 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. I will remember the blessings I have received this night **(pause)**.

As I stand between Earth and Sky

Once more I feel my feet firmly resting upon the Earth

I know that below me flows the primal waters.

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

Reaching high into the sky above

I feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens.

I know that above me burns the primal fires.

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

I feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky surging through me, as they have given strength and energy to my being. **(pause 4 count)**

I keep of this power what I need, sending what remains forth from my being into the Great Lake **(pause)**. I see this energy heal and protect her as I conclude my worship.

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

Musical Signal- *The drum beats 9 times.*

I will keep the faith until the sky falls upon me and crushes me; until the earth opens and swallows me; until the seas arises and overwhelm me.

Recessional Song

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:

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

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

Emerald for the chant
The Waters Flow Around Us

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

Whispering Lake Grove, ADF
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Ritual text written by
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