

Whispering Lake Proto-Grove



Midsummer

2003

Pre-ritual Briefing 6:00 PM

Midsummer Ritual 6:30 PM

Hallowing and Claiming Sacred Space

An offering of apple butter to the Outdwellers is laid beyond the perimeter of the ritual space prior to hallowing and claiming.

**Spirits of this place; those of land, sea and sky;
Land of my ancestors and home to our children,
This place that so many have called their home.**

**Spirits of this land, guardians and those who watch,
Accept our offering and invitation!
That we may have use of this place for our rite.**

An offering of milk and honey is made at several points around the perimeter of our sacred space.

Purification

**Bringers of chaos, those who stand against Gods and Man,
Dwellers beyond the fires light
Those not in tune with kith and clan.**

**Each of us has our time and place
Let it be known that this shall be our time and our place
Take what is laid beyond the fires light and trouble not our
gathering**

Nine times the bell tolls, saying:

**As children of the Earth Mother and Sky Father,
We gather our kith, kin and clan before our hearth
That we may worship according to the ways of old.**

**As the world of the living and that of the spirit become one,
we welcome home our kin.
That we may begin this celebration together in this hallowed
place between Earth and Sky.**

The water is blessed, saying:

**By the cleansing purity of water, we claim this place!
We purify this place in the name of the Kindred that we may
worship with it's purity.**

*The aspersing bowl is filled from the Well and the Nemeton
aspersed.*

The fire is blessed, saying:

**By the forging strength of fire, we claim this place!
We strengthen this place in the name of the Kindred that we
may worship with it's strength.**

The Censer is kindled from the Fire and the Nemeton censed.

**In the purity of the waters
And with the forging strength of the fire,
This grove is made whole and holy.**

The Bile is blessed, saying:

May these words be heard:

**In the forest, glen and glade
By fur, fin and feather
From this world to the next.**

May these words be heard:

**In the sacred wells, upon the waves and across the seas
By family, friend and foe
From this world to the next.**

May our words echo:

**In the hollow hills in honor, respect and love for the Shining
Ones
From this holy ground!**

*Grove members, participating in the Hallowing and Claiming,
now begin to circle the Nemeton, as the Bard begins the
processional chant. Additional ritual participants that have been
waiting outside the ritual area now join the circle. All
participants are aspersed with water from the bowl and censed,
as they circle the Nemeton..*

Procession

In song

***We've come to the sacred grove,
with hearts and minds and flesh and bone.
Join us now in ways of old,
we have come home.***

Repeat until all participants have been censed and aspersed.

Opening Blessings

Earth Mother & Sky Father

**Oh, Great Earth Mother and Sky Father
Through your sacred union springs forth all life.
Your children gather between Earth and Sky in your honor.
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 ask that you
uphold and bless our gathering**

*An offering of bread and honey is made to the Earth Mother and
Sky Father. The bread is broken in half and the honey is placed
on the bread. The two halves are joined before making the*

offering. The offering is then placed in the offering bowl.

Great Earth Mother and Sky Father accept our sacrifice!

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father accept our sacrifice!

Bardic Inspiration

**Goddess of inspiration and poetry,
Great Mother of song and music,
May our words echo in the sacred well.
May our hearts and minds burn with the eternal flame.
May our songs resonate upon the wind.
May you grant us the gift of inspiration and insight.**

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

Lady Brighid accept our sacrifice!

All: Brighid accept our sacrifice!

Grove Attunement

*Meditation adapted for group ritual from the:
Cosmological Meditation by Ceisiwr Serith.*

This meditation is based on the Indo-European concept of three worlds, the above, the middle, and the below. The middle is itself divided into four parts, according to the four directions.

We come together in final preparation for the rite to come, to join in like mindedness as one folk. Now is the time when all of us must try to lay aside negative feelings and thoughts, as well as our struggles and worries of this world. This task may be difficult and if found impossible, may we lay these things with the Kindred for the time of our worship. As we now join

hands and close our eyes, breathing deeply we become one people.

The Below

Let us image that we are facing East. Imagine water flowing up from below us, into our bodies. It fills you to your mid-section. When the pressure there becomes too great, a fire lights in your belly and erupts upward.

The Above

The fire sends a shoot of flaming liquid up your body and out your head and arms. It flows out and arcs down to where it joins with the water flowing up.

The Middle

With the flow of water and fire continuing, imagine going out three steps to the East. Imagine that there is an ox there. Lift your hands in salute:

The priests are in their proper place.

Lower your hands and imagine going to the South in a circle about your actual position. Imagine there is a ram there. Lift your hands in salute:

The warriors are in their proper place.

Lower your hands and imagine going to the West in a circle about your actual position. Imagine there is a mare there. Lift your hands in salute:

Sovereignty is in her proper place.

Lower your hands and imagine going to the North in a circle about your actual position. Imagine there is a sow there. Lift your hands in salute:

The producers are in their proper place.

Lower your hands and imagine going clockwise in a circle about your actual position. Then imagine returning to your original location.

The End

Re-imagine the flow of fire and water, as well as all four animals. Hold the image for a while, and then let it fade.

Now let us attend to our work at hand, the worship of the Kindred and honoring the ways of old.

Purpose and Precedent

We gather as our ancestors once did and so may our children do in the future.

We gather our kith, kin and clan about us on this day of Midsummer.

We gather in celebration of the season and the turning wheel. We gather to honor the growing green and welcome in the warmth of the summer sun.

We gather to honor Miach and Airmed, great healers of the Tuatha de Danann.

We gather to honor, worship and offer sacrifice to the Kindred.

Through the union of fire and water, the Ancients, our forebearers, worked magic to protect and nurture the growing fields upon which survival of the folk depended. So let us join together as one folk to make our offerings in joy

and reverence...

Fire, Well & Tree

To the fire

Kindled of the hearth fire
Scared flame upon the Earth
Joining together hearts and minds
Darkness banished before the roaring blaze

Transcending the realm of light and shadow
Purifier and cleanser of mind, body and spirit
Sacred fire open unto us the way to the Shining Ones.

An offering of clarified butter is made into the fire.

To the well

Threshold to the Other world
Window to the souls
Cauldron of inspiration
Sacred shrine of old

Ford of cleansing waters
Vessel of rebirth
Sacred well of Danu open unto us a path to the ancestors.

An offering of silver is made into the well.

To the bile

Mighty oak of the ancient grove
Roots burying deep within the Underworld
Wise teacher of traditions old

Branches reaching into the heavens.

Keeper of sacred knowledge

Pillar joining Earth and Sky; spanning the three worlds

Road to all realms; Sacred tree

Let all who walk this way walk in your wisdom.

The bile is asperged with water from the well and censed with incense.

To Land, Sea & Sky

The waters support and surround us.

The land extends about us.

The sky stretches above us.

And 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

In song

The Portal 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, and 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

Opening the Gates

Manannan, son of Lir; companion of Mankind

Warder of the Ways, Guardian of the thresholds

From out of the west you ride

Misty grey cloak swirling with each graceful stride

Weave now your mists, Grey rider of Aonbarr

Make open the way from this world to the next

An offering of clarified butter is made upon the fire and an offering of porter is placed in the offering bowl.

Manannan merge your magick with mine.

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

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld open as a

gate... that we may follow the way to the ancestors.
Let the tree, pathway between Earth and Sky, be open to us.

A Druid traces the triskel or sigil over the fire and well.

Manannan Mac Lir let the gates be opened!

All: Manannan Mac Lir let the gates be opened!

In song

*Gatekeeper open the portals,
Between the Gods and mortals,
Power freely flows, as our magic grow!*

Kindred Offerings

Ancestors

**Grandfathers & Grandmothers of old,
You who have paved our way within this world.
Those whose blood flows through our veins.
Ancient ones and most recent dead;
Friends, family and loved ones,
All those who have passed from this world.
Know you continue to live in our hearts and memories
As we await your rebirth and ask for your guidance.
Ancestors! we invite you to gather and rejoice at our hearth.**

An offering of porter is made into the offering bowl.

Ancestors accept our sacrifice!

All: Ancestors accept our sacrifice!

Spirits of this Land

Spirits of the smallest stone, fertile land and highest mountains; may you show us the path to balance and stability.

Spirits of the gentle stream, endless sea and sacred wells; may you grant us the gift of inspiration and insight.

Spirits of the growing green, magickal herb and ancient trees; may you lend us your wisdom and knowledge.

Spirits of our animal ancestors, creatures of land, sea and sky; may you guide us to your strength and intuition.

Mighty dragons, guardians of the treasures of land, sea and sky; may your fire burn within us.

To all our companions, teachers and friends of old we invite and welcome you to our hearth.

An offering of corn meal is placed in the offering bowl.

Spirits of this Land accept our sacrifice!

All: Spirits of this land accept our sacrifice!

Deities

**Shining Ones, whose might and bounty know no bounds.
Gods of our people and our people's people,
Watchers over your children and their children's children,
Gods of Life, Gods of Death, Gods of Rebirth,
Gods of Land, Sea and Sky,
Gods that are well known and those who we have yet to meet.
Gods of this place and of this season of change.
We bid you welcome to our hearth's fire.**

An offering of clarified butter is placed into the fire.

Shining Ones accept our sacrifice!

All: Shining Ones accept our sacrifice!

In song

*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*

Key Offerings

Descriptive invocations of the patron powers for the rite are given. Offerings are made and a portion of each is held back for the final sacrifice.

Invocations to Patron Deities of the Occasion

Miach

**Lost to us was this mighty healer.
Slain by his father's jealous hand.
Out of his death sprang forth new life.
From his grave arose many powerful herbs.**

**Guardian of the sacred well of healing,
Restorer of Nuada's flesh and bone.
Keeper of the secrets of immortality.
Miach, skilled surgeon of the Tuatha De Dannan.**

An offering herbs is made to the fire.

We offer you welcome, accept our sacrifice!

All: Miach accept our sacrifice!

Airmed

**Lost to us were the secrets of the herbs.
Scattered from your cloak, the keys to immortality.
Powers of regeneration whisked away.
Only you can teach their secret knowledge.**

**Green Goddess of fields and forests;
Tender of the sacred spring of healing;
Creator of life from death;
Airmed, herbal healer of the Tuatha De Dannan.**

An offering herbs is made to the fire.

We offer you welcome, accept our sacrifice!

All: Airmed, accept our sacrifice!

Seasonal Enactment- The Death of Miach

Airmed kneels at the grave of Miach, tending to the herbs that have grown from the grave.

Behold, Airmed tending the grave of her brother, Miach.

Airmed begins gathering herbs from the grave and placing upon her cloak.

**This is no ordinary grave. For Miach was no ordinary soul.
Three hundred and sixty-five healing herbs have sprung from
the mighty healers very being. One to heal all the ills of all
mankind.**

Three times was he struck down by his father, and three times he healed himself, but on the fourth blow Diancecht laid him low.

Why would a father do such a thing you may ask?

Some say that Diancecht was jealous of his son's healing powers. For Miach healed the Great King, Nuada. He did that which his father could not. Miach made Nuada whole after Nuada lost his right to rule by losing his hand in battle. Diancecht gave him a silver hand, but Miach gave him one of flesh, blood and bone.

Airmed has gathered each of the herbs and placed them on her cloak, her gift to mankind, the gift of eternal life.

Enters Diancecht scattering the herbs, saying:

Daughter, mankind must never be given the gift of eternal life for they will twist and warp the gift. They will make it into something perverse.

Diancecht leaves the grave of Miach and returns to the outer edge of the ritual space.

Airmed pleas to all who have gathered, saying:

Good people of the folk, a favor I ask of you. Gather the lost herbs and bring them back to me and I will tell you their secrets.

After all herbs have been returned, Airmed speaks once more saying:

**This is Sage and its secret is a healthy mouth
This is Peppermint and its secret is a still stomach**

This is St. Johns Wort a most special herb for it is the herb of the season and its secret is a calm mind

This is Rosemary and its secret is relief from headache

This is Wormwood and its secret is the cooling of fever

This is Mugwort and its secret is a good digestion

This is Lemon Balm and its secret is relief from stress

This is Rue and its secret is increased circulation

Good folk you have done well returning the herbs, but some remain lost. There is nothing more I can do, you must gather the remaining herbs yourself. Take the gifts I have given you and seek out the remaining herbs where ever you may go.

Now good people take the secrets given to you and remember well the words of Airmed and seek out the lost herbs among the growing green.

Following the Seasonal Enactment, ritual participants are given an opportunity to make praise offerings in the form of poetry, song, dance, or works of their hands etc. Please avoid clapping after praise offerings.

Now we invite you to bring forth your personal offerings of praise to the Kindred.

Sacrifice and Omen

A final sacrifice is prepared and final prayer of sacrifice is made.

Kindred of land, sea and sky with our thanks, love and respect we bring to you the last of our offering. As this time of light is upon us, we give this offering in thanks for the season that has past, as we look forward to the season to come.

Smallest stone and highest mountain, gentle stream and sacred well, growing green and ancient tree, animal ancestors,

creatures of fir, fin and feather...

**Grandmothers that bore us, Grandfathers that quicken us,
ancient ones and most recent dead...**

Shining Ones, whose might and bounty know no bounds.

The final sacrifice is made .

Kindred of Land, Sea and Sky, accept this our sacrifice.

All: Kindred accept our sacrifice!

**We now close our eyes and open our hearts pouring out our
love to the Kindred. We open our minds sending our love and
energy into the Otherworld that all may know we worship in
their honor.**

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

**We offer hospitality and sacrifice to the Kindred on this day.
We pray that our gifts, given with the highest honor and
respect, receive your acceptance. We now open our hearts
and minds to receive your blessings.**

*The Omen is taken. One Ogham stick 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.*

**What use have you of _____ gift of the Nature Spirits
What use have you of _____ gift of the Ancestors
What use have you of _____ gift of the Shining Ones**

The Blessing

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

**In elder days a gift given freely called for a gift given in
return.**

**We will drink deep of the Cauldron of Rebirth. May the
blessings of health, wealth and wisdom be ours.**

Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

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

Once again, Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

We have brought our offerings. We have made sacrifice.

One last time, Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

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

Behold the Waters of Life!

**Shining Ones hear and bless us. Miach and Airmed hallow
these Waters of Life.**

The cups are lifted before the participants.

Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

Drinking horns and/or cups are passed and all participants share the waters. As the cups are passed the following chant is sung by all participants.

Pour the Water

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.

Repeat until the cups have been passed to all participants.

Thanksgiving and Closing

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.

Participants are given time to make final offerings.

Miach, skilled surgeon of the Tuatha De Dannan, may there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. We thank you that even in death you remain the master healer.

All: Miach, we thank you

Airmed, teacher of secret knowledge, may there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. We thank you for the use of your secret knowledge.

All: Airmed, we thank you

Shining Ones, Gods of Life, Death and Rebirth, all those of Land, Sea and Sky may there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. We thank you for the blessings we have received this day.

All: Shining Ones, we thank you!

Spirits that are this land, dwellers of land, sea and sky, may there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Spirits of this land we thank you for knowledge and companionship.

All: Spirits of this Land, we thank you!

Grandmothers and Grandfathers, ancient ones and dearest friends, may there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Ancestors we thank you for your guidance and wisdom.

All: Ancestors we thank you!

Manannan Son of Lir, Mist Weaver, may there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Manannan Mac Lir we thank you for warding the ways between the worlds this day.

All: Manannan we thank you!

Brighid, Goddess of Inspiration and Poetry, may there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Brighid we thank you for your gift of inspiration!

All: Brighid we thank you!

Earth Mother and Sky Father, Mother and Father of all that was, all that is, and all that will be, may there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Earth Mother and Sky Father we thank you for attending to us this day.

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father we thank you!

Now that our work has finished; we now end what we began. The Gates are now ready to be closed.

Manannan, Son of Lir, Warder of the Ways, Opener, Closer and Guardian. We ask now that you close the gates that we have opened this night.

Let the way to the Shining Ones be once again be fire, the way to the Ancestors once again be water and the way between the worlds once again be wood.

By the might and wisdom of the Ancestors, Spirits that are this Land and Shining Ones; the way to the Kindred is once again warded.

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.

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.

As participants leave the grove the following song will be sung until all participants have exited.


Carry It Home

Carry It Home to Your Children, Carry It Out in the Street.

Carry It on to the Ones you love, And to the Ones You Meet.

Carry It Light on Your Shoulder, Carry It Deep in Your Soul.

For We Have Been Blessed With Magic, And the Magic Will Make Us Whole.



***Whispering Lake Proto-Grove
Midsummer Ritual
2003
composed by Raven and Carrion Mann***

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Special Thanks:

To all who attended and participated in this Midsummer Ritual.

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