# Whispering Lake Proto-Grove



Samhain

October 26, 2003

Pre-ritual Briefing 6:00 PM

Samhain Ritual 6:30 PM

#### Procession

Now let us raise our voices in song as we proceed to our Nemeton.

In song

Come we now as a people
To gather at the sacred well
Come we now as a people
To gather in the warmth and the light of the flame

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Repeat until all participants have entered the Nemeton.

Purification of Participants During the purification Bard will sing the following chant.

We are one, in our grove,
Upon the earth, within the sea, beneath the sky.
We are joined, to send our call,
To the honored dead, to the spirit folk, to the blessed
gods.
We praise thee, in one voice, in our sacred grove.

We praise thee, in one voice, in our sacred grove We are one.

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Once all participants have entered the Nemeton they will be censed and asperged.

## **Opening Blessings**

Earth Mother & Sky Father

Earth Mother and Sky Father, your children call to you. Earth Mother and Sky Father, your children honor you. Earth Mother and Sky Father, web and weaver both. Earth Mother and Sky Father; with love and respect we ask you to bless our gathering.

An offering of herbs, fruit and vegetables is made to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our sacrifice!

And now we raise our voices in song to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.

All in song

Earth Mother, We sing to your body, Earth Mother, We sing to your bones, Earth Mother, We honor your body, Earth Mother, We honor your stones.

(chant written by an unknown author)

Sky Father, We sing to your spirit, Sky Father, We sing to your light, Sky Father, We honor your spirit, Sky Father, We honor your might,

(lyrics by Scaan Glass)

Your children, We gather before you,

Your children, Together we call, Your children, We honor your presence,

Your children, Look to us all.

(lyrics by Carrion and Raven Mann)

Bardic Inspiration

Great Lady Brighid,
Healer, Smith & Poet,
Build in us your forge.
Light in us your flame of inspiration.
So that we may better praise you & all the Kindred.
Brighid, We honor you with sacrifice and love.

An offering of honey and porter is placed in the offering bowl for Brighid.

All: Brighid accept our sacrifice!

In a four person round.

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)

#### Grove Attunement

(Modified two part meditation) Part I

#### Let us begin

Please close your eyes and join me taking in a few cleansing breaths. In though your nose and out through your mouth. (Pause for 5 count) in though your nose and out through your mouth. (Pause on 3 count) In though your nose and out through your mouth. (Pause)

As we stand here assembled among the trees of this life, this space, this world, imagine time slowly wearing away and until you are standing among the tallest, oldest trees of all worlds. Perhaps they are giant sequoias or perhaps they are ancient oaks, but these trees have stood the test of time.

As you wander slowly through them, you can feel the ancient energy rise about you, drawing you toward and into one of the tallest, oldest trees. Slowly you feel your body melt away and your spirit merge into one with the tree. Your feet seem to stretch on and endlessly down in to the dark moist reaches of the earth. Stretching and stretching endlessly on and into the darkness below the surface. You feel the first cool trickling of the water and know that your roots are approaching the water table. A deep thirst for this life giving water urges you to extended your roots deeper until feel your roots plunging into the sacred waters of life deep inside the earth.

For a moment, allow your roots to be washed over by the subtle underground currents of the dark waters. Feel the energy of this current - its time tested presence, strength and life. Slowly draw the water up through your roots and

allow it to pool in your trunk. (Pause) Feel it nourishing your being. Carry it up the length of your branches. Pushing the water and its vitality into your leaves. Lift the water higher and higher through your limbs to the finest and smallest edges of new growth at the top of your branches.

Feel the Earth Mothers life giving water shimmering in the tops of the branches beneath the warmth of the sun before spilling forth and flowing over leaves and branches back into the earth.

(Pause on a 3 count)

Turn your attentions now skyward where the warm radiance of the sun awaits. Feel the glowing light of the sun wash over the smallest branches at the top of your tree and peek through various leaves to warm parts of your trunk.

As you stretch you limbs skyward to draw in the sun's warmth, a tongue of fire strikes forth and covers all of your top most limbs. (Pause) You are not scorched or burned but filled with a passionate inspiration. You draw the heat of this caress from the Sky Father downward and through you. Feel the heat of this passion collect in your branches and limbs. Mingling with the cool waters as it travels down and pools in the trunk of your being. (Pause) Carry this heat all they way down into the deepest segments of your roots.

While the earth waters and suns heat dance through out your tree being, reflect upon the passions and wisdoms of the ancient ones, before slowly opening your eyes and returning to this ritual space.

# Purpose and Precedent

We gather this night upon the Earth. In celebration of the turning wheel. Enjoying the final fruits of the harvest. While we welcome our friends about us.

We gather this night beneath the Sky.
In celebration of life, death and rebirth,
Enjoying the memories of those passing from this world.
Remembering those who have walked before us.
While we welcome the Kindred among us.

We gather this night at the crossroads. In celebration of the Feast of Samhain. Enjoying the company of friends and family. Remembering the ways of old. While we welcome the new year before us.

## 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

We now raise our voices in song.

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, 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**

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## Opening the Gates

Oh, Manannan MacLir, Guardian of the Gates between the worlds.

Protector and guide to all those who travel.

We call upon you this night to open the gates and let us walk the path between the worlds.

Guide and ward our passage so that we all walk in safety Manannan MacLir, we honor you with sacrifice and love. this night.

An offering of porter and apples is made.

Manannan accept our sacrifice!

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

Let the Gates Be Open!

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

Let us now sing our praise to the Gatekeeper.



All in song

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

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Repeat chant three times

# Kindred Offerings

#### Ancestors

Oh, Great Ancestors, whose wisdom guides us. Hear us this night that we call forth your guidance. Share with us your secrets and allow us to see; For your knowledge is great.

We call for you to stand with us.

Open our eyes and our minds so that we may see to walk the path of ancient wisdom and bring ancient secret's lost back to our hearts and lives.

Ancestors we honor you with sacrifice and love.

An offering of porter is made into the offering bowl.

All: Ancestors, accept our sacrifice!

## Spirits of this Land

Brothers and sisters of fur, fin, feather and skin;
From the smallest speck of dust to the greatest mountain;
From the smallest drop of water to the mightiest ocean;
From the smallest seed to the tallest tree;
Creatures of legend and lore;
We are all part of the great web.
Nature Spirits, we honor you with sacrifice and love!

An offering of bird seed, cornmeal and cat food is placed in the offering bowl.

All: Nature Spirits, accept our sacrifice!

# Shining Ones

Oh, Great Shining Ones, Mothers and Fathers to us all. We call to you this night to guide us and hear our voices lifted in offering to you, as we walk this quiet path and join here as one.

We ask that you share your love and knowledge with those gathered here, so we may grow closer to you and the land which we live.

Mighty Shining Ones all those known and unknown; We welcome you to our hearts and our hearth so that we share as one the gifts of life.

Shining Ones, we honor you with sacrifice and love.

An offering of squash and silver is placed into the fire.

All: Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

We now raise our voices in song to the Kindred.

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

#### Repeat chant three times

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# **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.

## **Morrighan**

On the wings of a raven, the huntress rides the night. Calling to her chosen few before the day's first light. Great warriors have seen the withered hag upon the river's ford.

As she washes their blood soaked armor; removed from bodies torn.

Her vengeance brings great warriors forth. Her fury fuels their fires. Her rage fills their hearts and minds. Their slain bodies quench her desires.

War is waged; the battle won. The slain lay upon the ground. The raven shrieks from over head. Until their souls are found.

Great Phantom Queen of the Celts Their death is not fore lorn. For it is through you Great Morrighan That a warrior's soul is reborn.

O, Great Queen, we offer you welcome this night.

An offering red wine and apples is made.

Morrighan, accept our sacrifice!

All: Morrighan, accept our sacrifice!

#### <u>Dagda</u>

From out of the hollow hills; a tall, broad shadow strides. Upon his back a magic harp does ride. Many have heard its gentle call; Sweet music to turn the wheel toward fall.

His cauldron fills those that keep their oaths. His bounty rewards their courage. His club gives life yet death may bring. To those opposing this mighty High King.

Enchanted was the Great Good God; Upon the river, Boyne. Through secret knowledge that was shared, A victory was born. All father of the Tuatha De Dannan. Eldest and wisest of us all. Through you we feed our sacred flames and plant our seeds this fall.

O, Great Good God, we welcome you among us this night.

An offering of bannocks, oatmeal and porter is made.

Dagda, accept our sacrifice!

All: Dagda, accept our sacrifice!

#### Seasonal Enactment

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.

The Ancients, our ancestors on the eve of Samhain would make dark the hearth's fire which was rekindled from the flames of the Need Fire.

We, as our Ancestors once did, will make dark our sacred fire. As we extinguish the flame we place our trust in the Kindred of Land, Sea and Sky.

The Fire is extinguished with sand at this time.

The only protection that now lies between us and the endless winter is our fire that lies in the South. We will give honor, as did the Ancients to the Dark One, the

guardian of death and rebirth, whose hospitality has been shared with the Mighty Dead. To our Ancestors the apple was the symbol of life, death and rebirth and so we offer these to you Great and Mighty Donn.

#### Apples are offered at the Southern Fire.

Good folk! Turn now your attention to the Shrine of the Ancestors. Behold! The Mighty Dead approach. It is good and proper that we make them welcome.

We commune with and give honor to the Mighty Dead, who have traveled far to be with us this eve.

We commune with and give honor to both Ancestors of blood and Ancestors of spirit.

We commune with and give honor to those friends and family, who have passed from this world to the next, during this past year.

Now good folk, welcome home the Mighty Dead. You may now approach the Shrine and spend a few moments communing with and giving honor to those who have returned to be with us this eye.

All are given time to approach and commune with the Mighty Dead. The Druid enacting the role of the Morrigan will leave the Nemeton through the Northern entrance at this time.

Turn now your eyes to the Dagda, the Great Good God, as he prepares for a night of passion with the Morrigan, the Dark Battle Goddess.

The Druid enacting the role of the Dagda joins the Morrigan

outside the Nemeton.

On this eve of Samhain, the Tuatha prepare for battle. The Fomorians, their enemy, prepares to attack, but where and when remains a mystery.

On this eve of Samhain, the Dagda has been enchanted of the Morrigan. On this evening of Samhain the Dagda has taken the Morrigan. The secrets shared this eve have ensured the survival of the tribe. This union has ensured not only victory in the battle to come, but it has also ensured the promise of Spring renewal.

The Druids enacting the Dagda and the Morrigan return to the edge of the Nemeton.

Behold the couple returns! As the Morrigan prepares the wood, the Dagda brings forth the flame to give life to the Need Fire.

The Druid enacting the Morrigan lays the wood on the fire and the Druid enacting the Dagda kindles the fire with a brand from the Southern fire. If the fire does not burn additional offerings of a dark red wine are made. Then another attempt to light the fire will be made.

#### Once the fire is burning.

We now give thanks to both the Morrigan and the Dagda for this gift of life during this time of death. All who wish to be purified and all who wish to make sacrifice to the new years fire; as well as those who offer praise to the Kindred are invited to do so at this time. Participants are given an opportunity to make offering to the new year fire.

#### Sacrifice and Omen

Through Manannan MacLir, Great Warder of the Ways, We have opened the Gates this night.

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;

We have honored the mighty Kindred as they walk among us.

Through communication with the Otherworld; We receive guidance, inspiration and insight; As we prepare to make our final sacrifice.

## A final sacrifice is prepared.

Kindred of land, sea and sky we call to you! Hear us this night for we are in need of your guidance and wisdom.

Tonight we call out from the crossroads to all who aid us!

We call to those of the middle realm; those of the Green World!

You who have offered their guidance and friendship. All spirits of nature that aid us in our journey.

We call to those from the realms below; from the Lands of the Dead!

You who have offered their wisdom and inspiration. Ancestors and beloved friends that aid and inspire us.

We call out once more from the crossroads!

Hear us eldest and brightest of the upper realms! Deities known and unknown to us; Shining Ones, whose might and bounty know no bounds!

Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

The final sacrifice is made.

All: Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

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

We have called through the Gates and deep within the Otherworld our invitation to gather in their honor.

We have sung their praise; made our sacrifice.

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

It is our hope that our words and sacrifice have conveyed our love.

Let us now close our eyes, opening our hearts and minds to the Kindred pouring out our love as we prepare to receive their blessings upon us.

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.

From the Nature Spirits	l
From the Ancestors	

From the Shining Ones\_\_\_\_

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

## The Blessing

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

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 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. Great Morrighan and Mighty Dagda hallow these Waters of Life.

The cups are lifted before the participants.

Behold the Waters of Life! (Sarah)

**All:** Behold the Waters of Life!

Now Good folk, drink deep; the blessings of the Shining Ones.

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.

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 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.

Great Morrigan, Mighty Phantom Queen of the Celts; Many are your guises. As both the Enchantress and hag upon the ford you attend to us. Oh Raven of Warrior's Dreams, we thank you this night for your strength and courage through the cycles of life. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Morrigan, we thank you!

Dagda, The Great Good God, All Father of the Tuatha; Excellent are your skills. Let us open our ears so we may hear the great harps call. May we have the courage to take of the cauldron of plenty as you share with us the secrets of rebirth. Oh Mighty Chieftain of Danu, we thank you this night for your love and guidance. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Dagda, we thank you!

Oh, Great Shining Ones, Mothers and Fathers to us all. We thank you for your guidance and protection this night. We thank you for your gifts we have received. Now, we say farewell this night and we shall all carry with us your gifts from this hearth into the New Year.

Shining Ones we honor you. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Shining Ones, we thank you!

Spirits of the land; Creatures of myth and legend; All that are part of the great web.

Nature spirits we honor you. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

**All:** Nature Spirits, we thank you!

Oh, Great Ancestors, whose wisdom has guided us.

We thank you for standing with us this night.

We thank you for sharing your secrets and knowledge so that we may bring what was lost to life.

We thank you for inspiring us and opening our eyes to see the path we walk.

Now, we bid you goodbye this night, but know that we shall keep your gifts with us always.

Ancestors, we honor you. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Ancestors, we thank you!

Brighid, Great Lady of the Forge.

We thank you for your inspiration this night.

May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. All: Brighid, we thank you!

Earth Mother and Sky Father; Web and weaver both Earth Mother and Sky Father; Your children thank you for being with us this day and all days.

Earth Mother and Sky Father, 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!

Oh Manannan MacLir, Guardian of the Gates; We thank you for your protection and guidance this night. Now we ask that you close the gates once again to keep the path safe until we return. Manannan MacLir, We Honor You! Let the Gates be Closed!

All: Manannan, Let the Gates be Closed!

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 & Meditation-Part II

The great work has concluded. Friends, take a moment and reconnect yourself to the meditation we began with at the opening of this rite.

With the honor and lessons of our deities learned and remembered, recall now the image of your ancient tree. Feel the vitality of the waters mingling with the fires passion. Feel the ebb and flow of all life's energy. (Pause) Now feel the suns fire slowly move back up through your being, mingling with the waters and then flowing up and out through the branches in the highest parts of the sky. (Pause)

In the same manner the waters slowly retreat from your being coming down from the top most branches and pooling in your trunk before retreating down through your roots. Note the ebb and flow of all life's energy as the waters return to the earth.

Slowly you emerge from the tree and with thanks you begin walking away though the woods and the ancient woods become the woods of this place and of this space which surrounds us and we return to this time.

Take a moment to reflect on the lessons of fire, water and tree and all that was given by divine spirit and deity. Opening your eyes you have returned as you were but more than you were, when we began this rite. And so with thanks we conclude.

**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.

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

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

Walk with wisdom from this hallowed place.
Walk not in sorrow, our roots shall ere embrace.
May strength be your brother, and honor be your friend.
And luck be your lover until we meet again.
(chant by Sable)

## Special Thanks To:

All who attended, participated and shared in this Samhain celebration.

# Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants

Come We Now As a People, The Gatekeeper Chant, The Portal Song, Gods & Dead & Mighty Sidhe, We Are One, Pour the Waters

# The unknown author of the chant

Earth Mother

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

# Sable for the Recessional Chant

Walk With Wisdom

## Anne Hill and Diane Baker for the chant

Holy Water, Sacred Flame

# Whispering Lake Proto-Grove Samhain Ritual 2003

Ritual text written by Whisper Lake Proto-Grove members

Joshua Dunn

Raven & Carrion Mann

Raven of the Sorrows

Scaan Glass

Sharon Smith

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