

Whispering Lake Grove
ADF



Yule

December 19, 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 in Midgard, upon the land, beneath the sky, surrounded by the sea as we prepare to enter sacred time (*pause 4 count*).

Below us flows the primal waters, cold, dark and chaotic; filled with the potential of all life. Reaching far beneath you into the earth, draw upon the waters of life. Feel them as they pool within your belly, within your heart and finally within your head. (*pause 8 count*)

Above us burns the primal fires, warm, light and ordered; filled with the spark of all life. Reaching far beyond the sky into the heavens, draw upon the fires of all creation. Feel them as they illuminate your mind, your heart and finally your spirit. (*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 all worlds (*pause 8 count*)

We share our world with the Spirits of Nature. Our Ancestors dwell in the Halls of the Gods. We are all cradled in the branches of the Yggdrasil. The fire and water that flows through our veins sustains the worlds, the realms and the Kindred.

As we open our eyes let us be one in this place!



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!

An offering is made to Manannan.

Manannan, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, be welcome among us!

PROCESSION

The participants are censed and asperged as they enter the Nemeton. The space is then censed and asperged as the procession circles the worship area.

In Song "The Yule Log"

Outside the rain drives down, drives down, but we are dry and warm.

The winter wind blows cold, blows cold, but we are safe from harm.

*Protection from the storm have we, and shelter from the night,
and so we hail the holy hearth, and the Yule Log's living light!*

The longest night is come, is come, the year is at an end.

May all ill-luck be gone, be gone, all broken fortunes mend.

*Midwinter's fire burns every bane, illuminates the night,
and so we hail the holy hearth, and the Yule Log's living light!*

See how the sacred fire, the fire is hidden in the wood.

Just so the ills we see, we see, may hold a spark of good.

*From winter shall the spring be born, day from the womb of
night, and so we hail the holy hearth, and the Yule Log's living
light!*

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OPENING PRAYERS

Musical Signal- *A Thor's Hammer strikes the anvil 3 X 3 times.*

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

Earth Mother

Nerthus, Primal Mother of Earth

First and Eldest of the Van

You who cradles the World Tree in your loving embrace

Ancient Mother of Midgard

As children of the Earth and Sky,

May our weapons be sheathed

May our thoughts be of peace

May our fields yield plenty

Nerthus, we call upon the life-giving magic of the Earth!

Earth Mother, accept our offering!

An offering of bread is made.

All: Earth Mother, accept our offering!

Sky Father

Tyr, Ancient Mystery of the Sky

Boldest and most courageous of the Aesir

You who makes fertile the Earth with your seed

Bright Father of Midgard

As children of the Earth and Sky,

May we show courage in our battles

May we seek to do right by our kith and kin

May we learn the meaning of true sacrifice through your guidance.

Tyr, we call upon the illuminating power of the Sky!

Sky Father, accept our offering!

An offering of oil is made.

All: Sky Father, accept our offering!



Invocation for Bardic Inspiration

We call upon the Skald of Valhalla
 Most eloquent God of poetry and song
 And Herald of Odin's Great Hall
 Oh, Welcomer of the Einherjar
 Aid as we journey through the darkness.
 Bless us with your inspiration and eloquence this night!

An offering of honey is made.

Bragi, accept our offering!

All: Bragi, All Hail and Welcome!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Yule was the time our Ancestors gathered to strengthen the bonds of fidelity by drinking, toasting and boasting the deeds of the past year. They raised their horns to those who came before and to the Gods that blessed them.

As our Ancestors once did, so too do we gather this night in fidelity one with another. We gather to strengthen the bonds of kinship and friendship among us; to toast, boast and make oaths to the Kindred and to each other that the blessings of health, wealth and wisdom might be ours.

Children of Earth and Sky, know this night that Aesir, Gods of Might and of Magic, the Deities of the Sky and dwellers of Asgard will walk once more among us.

May all who gather this night be welcome among us!

Outdwellers

Weaving the Druids Mist



THE SACRED CENTER

Affirmation of Unity

Let us now raise our voice as one people.

Deck the Halls

(Traditional English carol, the tune is originally Welsh)

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la

Don we now are gay apparel, Fa la la, la la la, la la la

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la

See the blazing Yule before us, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Strike the harp and join the chorus, Fa la la la la, la la la la

Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la, la la la, la la la

While I tell of Yuletide treasure, Fa la la la la, la la la la

Fast a way the old year passes, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Hail the new, ye lad and lasses, Fa la la la la, la la la la

Sing we joyous all together, Fa la la, la la la, la la la

Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa la la la la, la la la la


Establishing Sacred Time

In the beginning so too in the end; there was but fire and ice
 And between them a vast emptiness.

To the North the ice and snow of Niflheim, frigid winds and fearsome storms ravaged the land.

To the South the fires of Muspell, molten and glowing the dancing flames consumed all that lay before them.

In the vast emptiness the warm breath of Muspell mingled with the ice of Niflheim. The warm winds began to melt the ice and tiny drops of water began to form. Within the tiny drops of water new life began to stir and the powers to destroy life became the powers that created it.



Fire, Well & Tree (chant)

Fire, bright Fire

Gate to the Shining Ones

Fire, bright Fire

Our passage to the Sky

Fire, bright Fire

Warmth of our Community

Spark of Life

We honor you now

Incense is offered to the fire.

Well, deep Well

Gate to the Underworld

Well, deep Well

Our passage to the Sea

Well, deep Well

Wisdom of the Ancestors

Waters of Life

We honor you now

Silver is offered into the well.

Tree, great Tree

Gate that reaches everywhere

Tree, great Tree

With you we share the Land

Tree, great Tree

Our passage to the Otherworld

Source of Life

We honor you now.

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


Words & music by Pandora

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

Upon the windy Tree hung the Wanderer,

Seeking the wisdom of the past.

For nine long nights Harr journeyed alone,

Seeking the knowledge of the present.

With unyielding strength Odin sacrificed himself,

Seeking the vision of the future.

Oh, Rider of the Yggdrasill,

Merge your magic with my own,

Wield the Words of Power,

From your high and mighty throne.

Vodka is offered to Odin

Odin, accept our offering!

All: Odin, All Hail and Welcome!

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

© *Liafal*

Opening the Gates

The Galder chant for ansuz begins.



Odin, let us stand at the center of all worlds!
 Sacred Fires ignite the waters of the earth.
 Primal Waters feed the order of the cosmos.
 World Tree join the heavens with the earth.

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!

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. Allies of Midgard!

Bright and shining messengers to the Otherworld

Protectors of this sacred ground.

Light Alfs, House Ghosts and Wights, aid us as we journey through the darkness!

Join us, as we honor the Aesir this night!

Seed is offered.

Noble Ones, accept our offering!

All: Noble Ones, All Hail and Welcome!

Wise Ones of the Nine Worlds!

Beloved Dead of blood and spirit

Ancestors of flesh and bone



Alfar and Disir, aid us as we journey through the darkness!
 Join us, as we honor the Aesir this night!

Beer is offered to the Ancestors.

Mighty Dead, accept our offering!

All: Mighty Dead, All Hail and Welcome!

Eldest and Brightest of Asgard!

Deities of Might and Magic

Bringers of life, death and rebirth.

Mighty Aesir and Bountiful Vanir

Shining and Chthonic Ones, aid us as we journey through the darkness!

Join us, as we honor the Aesir this night!

Alcohol is offered.

Shining and Chthonic Ones, accept our offering!

All: Shining and Chthonic Ones, All Hail and Welcome!

HONORING THE DEITIES OF THE RITE

Invocation to the Aesir

We call to those who came out of Gunnungagap before the beginning of time.

To the Gods of fire and of the Sky, to the Deities of the Northmen.

We call to the creators of the worlds, to the keepers of cosmic order.

We call to the Gods who battled with the Waners.

To the Gods of thought and memory.

On the year's longest night, we honor the Ases!

All Hail the Dwellers of Asgard!

All: Hail the Dwellers of Asgard!

Aesir, accept our offering!

An offering of golden (yellow) apples is made.

All: Aesir, accept our offering!



PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

Group Praise Offering/Seasonal Enactment

“A Norse Symbol”

Good Folk, join us as we make our oaths, boast and toasts to our Ancestors and Deities.

Ancestors

Deities

Final Round

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;
We honor the Kindred as they walk among us.
Through communication with the Otherworld;
We receive their guidance, inspiration and insight.
Tonight we call out from the crossroads to our guests of honor!
As we prepare to make our final sacrifice.
The final sacrifice is prepared.

FINAL SACRIFICE

A slow drum beat begins. Other participants will take up shakers, and other instruments or participate in dancing and intoning to raise magical energy for the Beings of the Occasion. The Seer will collect and direct the energy raised through the gate and communicate with the beings of the occasion. He/she will take an omen by drawing either Nauthiz, representing the need to continue or Gebo represent our gift for a gift and the acceptance of our sacrifice. The assembled company will raise energy until the final sacrifice has been accepted. The Seer will then conclude the energy raising with “Our Sacrifice has been Accepted” followed by Aesir, give us the waters!”



THE OMEN & BLESSING OF THE WATERS

The Seers takes up the blessing cups and infuses them with the power returning from the gateway. Once the blessings have been infused he/she will raise the cups and pronounce “Behold the Waters of Life” all assembled will echo “Behold the Waters of Life”. *The waters will be passed.* An officiate will then say that these cups contain the blessings of the Ancestors. *Do you wish to receive the blessings of the Aesir?* Participant’s response. *Do you wish to receive the blessings of the Aesir?* Participant’s response. *Do you wish to receive the blessings of the Aesir?* Participant’s response. Then let us share all they have to offer us.

As the blessings are passed the Bard will lead the chant, “Power of the Spirit”. *Power of the Spirit (all males assembled) Females will echo Growing in Me, Flowing through me, Shining through me.* While the blessings are being passed the Seers will be taking an omen to determine our blessings.

The omen will be pronounced by Raven for the folk. Each of the three runes drawn will be pronounced one at a time. The first will be pronounced, the meaning and interpretation given. Carrion will then lead the company to intone the runes. The second will be pronounced, followed by its meaning and then intonation etc. Any final interpretation will be offered by the Seer.

THANKING THE BEINGS

Mighty Dwellers of Asgard, we thank you for the guidance, wisdom and blessings you share with us. May you continue to bless our lives and maintain the order of our world (**a final token is offered**) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth’s fire.

Aesir, we thank you!

All: Aesir, we thank you!



Mighty Kindred of land, sea and sky, Eldest and Brightest of the Nine Worlds. Aesir and Vanir; Alfar and Disir and Alfs, House Ghost and Wights. We thank you for the guidance, wisdom and blessings 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.

Kindred, we thank you!

All: Kindred, we thank you!

Bragi, Great Skald of the Halls of Valhalla. God of Poetry and Song. 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. Bragi, we thank you!

All: Bragi, we thank you!

CLOSING THE GATES

Odin, Mighty All-Father of the Aesir; we thank you for your protection.

Odin, we thank you for your guidance & wisdom.

We thank you for your magic as the worlds converged this night.

(A final token is offered) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Odin, we thank you!

All: Odin, we thank you!

Odin, One Eyed Wanderer, we 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.



Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

Mighty Tyr, Ancient Mystery of the Sky, may you continue to show us the way to courage and right. Bright Father of the Aesir, we thank you for your sacrifice. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Sky Father, we thank you!

All: Sky Father, we thank you!

Nerthus, Primal Mother of Earth, may you continue to grant us peace and plenty. Ancient Mother, 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.

Earth Mother, we thank you!

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

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 ash 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- *A Thor's Hammer strikes the anvil 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 may we now raise our voices in song as we leave
 our Nemeton.

All in Song

*Here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green,
 Here we go a-wandering, so fair to be seen!
 Love and joy come to you, and to you good wassail, too,
 All Gods bless you and send you a happy New Year,
 All Gods send you a happy New Year!*



Special Thanks To:

*All who attended, participated and shared in our Yule
 celebration.*

Liafal for the chant

The Gatekeeper Chant

Pandora for the chant

The Verticle Axis Chant

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

Diana L. Paxson for the chants

The Yule Log

**Whispering Lake Grove
 Yule Ritual
 2010**

*Ritual text written by
 (Unless otherwise credited)*

Rev. Raven & Rev. Carrion Mann

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