

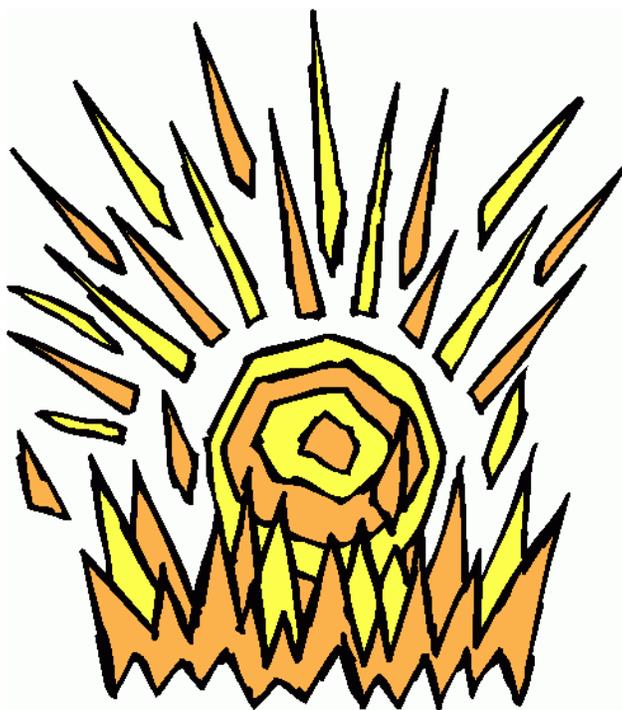
WHISPERING LAKE GROVE,

ADF

Proudly Presents

Lughnasadh

Celebrate the 1st Harvest!



Sunday, August 5, 2012

5:30PM

GROVE ATTUNEMENT

Joining our hands and closing our eyes, take a few deep cleansing breaths (*pause 4 count*). We now stand together in the Middle realm, 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 World Tree. 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 of Irish Whiskey is made to Manannan.

Manannan, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, accept our offering!

PROCESSION

Processional Chant

Officiants will cense and asperge all participants as they enter the Nementon and follow the end of the procession to cense and asperge the nemeton. The processional chant will continue until the Nemeton has been censed and aperged.

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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OPENING BLESSINGS

Musical Signal: A drum sounds 3X3 times

Honoring the Earth Mother & Sky Father

Ancient One of ever-changing beauty

Primal Mother of the Mighty Tuatha

And Great Goddess of Sovereignty

We are renewed in your waters

Cradled within your mantel of green

And sustained by your abundance

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

Flashing One of the Sun's healing warmth

Brilliant Father of the Adventurous Gael

And Great God of the creative spark

We are purified between your flames

Strengthened through your radiant light

And prosper from your fertility

Bile, Sky Father, we call upon the illuminating power of the Sky!

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 white bread 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, accept our offering!

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration

Goddess of Inspiration & Poetry

Great Mother of Song & Music

May our words echo in the sacred well

May our hearts and minds burn with your eternal flame

May our songs resonate upon the wind

May you grant us the gift of inspiration and insight

An offering of honey is made for Brighid.

Lady Brighid, accept our offering!

All: Brighid, accept our offering!

PURPOSE AND PRECEDENT

This eve we gather upon the Earth as one tribe.
To worship and honor the Kindred as one people.
Celebrating the first fruits from the world around us.

We gather kith, kin, and clan beneath the Sky.
To make sacrifice to the Kindred.
Receiving their blessings in return.

We gather to ask Crom Dubh to stay his hand.
To honor Lugh, the Many Skilled One, Hero of the Tuatha.
We keep the Feast of Lughnasadh in honor of Tailtiu.
In remembrance of her life-giving sacrifice for her people.

“Telling of the Tale of Crom Dubh”

May all who gather this night be welcome among us!

ESTABLISHING THE SACRED CENTER & RECREATION OF THE COSMOS

Weaving the Druids Mist

Let us raise our voices in 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

Let us now recreate the cosmos that we may stand once more together at the center of all worlds.

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 a vast emptiness.

Now, within the vast emptiness the illuminating power of the heavens and the creative potential of the Earth converged. The fires of the Sky ignited the waters of the Earth and new life began to stir.

Through the union of fire and water came forth the worlds, the realms, and the Mighty Kindred., nine holy things which would create all others.

All:

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, honor, and worship to the holy ones!

Fire, Well & Tree (*chant*)

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.
An offering of silver is made to the well.*

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.
An offering of incense is made to the fire.*

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.
The tree is censured and asperged.*

CHORUS

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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, accept our offering!

Let us raise our voices in song to the Gatekeeper!

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

Gatekeeper 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!

KINDRED OFFERINGS

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

We call to the Kindred of all the Worlds!
Noble, Mighty and Shining Ones of land, sea, and sky.
Beloved allies, guides, and protectors.
Join us in peace at our fire,
Stand with us as we celebrate Lughnasadh!
Oil is offered to the Kindred.
Mighty Kindred accept our offering!

All in Song:

*Let our voices arise on the fire,
Let our voices resound in the deep,
Let the Kindred accept what we offer,
As we honor the old ways we keep.*

Repeat 3x

All: Mighty Kindred, accept our offering!

KEY OFFERING

Crom Dubh

Ancient black bowed one
Ruler of the dark and shadows
Withered old bull upon the barren land

Dark, bent one beyond the borders of our fire's light
Carrier of mankind's burdens of the harvest
Stay your hand this day.

Through your sacrifice and death,
No longer are you an Outsider among our people.

An offering of a bundle of wheat is made.

Crom Dubh accept our offering!

All: Crom accept our offering!

Lugh

Bright Hero of the Tuatha
Weilder of the Spear of Glorias
And Master of Many Arts.

Mighty Young Bull of the first harvest
Great Guardian of roads and travelers
Champion, Protector and King

Through your strength and courage our tribe will prosper.
It is your image of perfection for which we strive

An offering of wheat bread & honey is made.

Lugh of the Long Arm accept our offering!

All: Lugh accept our offering!

Tailtiu

Beloved Foster-Mother of the Many Skilled One
Clearer of Ireland's Great Plain,
And maker of High Kings

Bringer of fertility and fair weather
Great Goddess of Sovereignty.
Last Queen of the Mighty Fir Bolg

Through your sacrifice and death, the land does prosper.
It is in your memory we assemble this night!
A sacrifice of wheat bread & cream is made.

Tailtiu, Beloved Mother; accept our offering!
All: Tailtiu, accept our offering!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

At this time you may bring forth your offerings of praise to the Beings of the Occasion.

SEASONAL ENACTMENT

For our ancestors, the time of Lughnasadh was the time of the first harvest; the time when the first grains of barley were ground and baked into bread. The hunger had ended, and the tribe could look forward to the bountiful season of harvest. The crops were still in danger of blight, frost, or hail. This could mean a lean, hard winter to come.

The ancients sacrificed to the Dark, Bent One, Crom Dubh, that he may stay his hand until the harvest ended at Samhain. This is the time that the young bull vanquishes the old; the time when Lugh stands as guardian for the survival of the tribe; a survival that relies on a good harvest.

Champion come forward and receive your weapon. The Champion is handed the Spear of Lugh.
(The Champion is previously selected by a challenge event).

At Beltaine you were the “Hawk of May”, but today you are the mighty young bull, protector of the clan and tribe. The old bull awaits your coming. He is prepared for his time of rest. His sacrifice signals the beginning of the reaping. Through his sacrifice may we enjoy a bountiful season of the harvest.

The Champion cuts off the head of the old bull. The old bull is made of bread. An officiant will gather the head and place it on a tray. The Champion followed by an officiant will process the head once around the Nemeton for all to see. An officiant will place among the Hallows.

The harvest is in and the hunger is over!

Ritual participants will come forth and take first fruits of the harvest, placing them upon the tray containing the old bulls head. Once all items have been placed:

The old bull now travels to his place of rest.

An officiant preceded by the Champion will take the tray to its final resting place by the head of Crom at the top of the hill above the Nemeton. Once the offering has been made.

Crom, the land will soon be yours once again, we ask that you accept this gift, the first of the harvest, that you may stay your hand awhile longer.

The young bull may now ascend to his rightful place.

Mighty Champion of the Folk; Hero of the Tuatha. Master of the Arts. Bright Lugh bless our growing fields that we may reap a good harvest.

FINAL SACRIFICE

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

Through our praise, love, and sacrifice,
We honor Crom, Lugh and Taitiu for their blessings of the harvest.
This day as a gift calls for a gift let us keep this Ancient Bargain and make our sacrifice!

FINAL SACRIFICE

A slow drumbeat begins. Other participants will take up shakers, and other instruments or participate in dancing and intoning to raise magical energy for the Being 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 "Deities of the Harvest, 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, "These cups contain the blessings of Crom, Lugh and Taitiu". *Do you wish to receive their blessings!* Participant's response. *Do you wish to receive their blessings?* Participant's response. *Do you wish to receive their blessings?* Participant's response. Then let us share all he has offered to us.

As the blessings are passed an officiant will lead the chant, "Blessings of the Holy Ones". While the blessings are being passed the Seers will be taking an omen to determine our blessings.

The omen will be pronounced by the Seer 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. The Bard will then lead the company to intone the runes. The second will be pronounced, followed by its meaning and then intonation etc. The Seer will offer any final interpretation.

Blessing of the Waters

The Blessings of the Holy Ones

Be on me and mine

My blessings on all beings

With peace on the and thyn.

The fire, the well, the sacred tree

Flow and flame and grow in me.

By Ian Corrigan

THANKING THE BEINGS

Tailtiu, Beloved Mother. May you continue to bless the land and our lives. Great Goddess of Sovereignty, we thank you for your ultimate sacrifice. (*offering a final token is offered*) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Tailtiu, we thank you!

All: Tailtiu, we thank you!

Lugh of the Long Arm, the Many Skilled One. May you continue to guide and protect us, as we strive to mirror your image. Great King of the Tuatha, we thank you for your blessings this eve. (*a final token is offered*) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Lugh, we thank you!

All: Lugh, we thank you!

Crom Dubh, dark and bowed one. Old bull of the barren fields. We thank you for staying your hand until the final harvest is in (*a final token is offered*) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Crom Dubh, we thank you!

All: Crom Dubh, we thank you!

Mighty Kindred of land, sea, and sky, Eldest and Brightest of the Worlds. 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!

Lady Brighid, Great Mother of Song and Music. We thank you for your blessings of inspiration and eloquence (*a final token is offered*). May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Brighid, we thank you!

All: Brighid, 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. Dagda, we thank you!

All: Dagda, we thank you!

Dagda Mor, Great Guardian of the Threshold, I now ask that you aid us to 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.

(All)

Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

Earth Mother and Sky Father we thank you for the blessings of fertility you have shared with us. May you continue to support and sustain us, upholding and blessing our work and world (**a final token is offered**)

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

Earth Mother and Sky Father, we thank you!

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, we thank you!

Manannan, we thank you for aiding us in our work, join us at our hearth and walking with us as we journey upon our paths. (*a final token is offered*) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Manannan, we thank you!

All: Manannan, 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

Carrion leads the company to ground themselves prior to the end of the ritual and to remember the blessings they have received.

Unmerging, Regrounding & Recentering: Meditation

Once more take a few deep cleansing breaths as we reaffirm our center (*pause 4 count*). We stand together at the center of all worlds, upon the land, beneath the sky, surrounded by the sea. We span the worlds, connecting earth and sky and the Kindred as one (*pause 4 count*).

Remember that below us flows the primal waters filled with the potential of all life. It is these waters that surge through your very being. (*pause 8 count*)

Remember that above us burns the primal fires filled with the spark of all life. It is these powers that have illuminated the waters that surge through you. (*pause 8 count*) The primal powers of fire and water unite within us bringing new life and balance to our beings. Our hearts beat with the very pulse of all worlds (*pause 8 count*)

Remember that we share these worlds with the Spirits of Nature, with the Ancestors and with the Gods. We are all cradled in the branches of the World Tree.

Take of the powers that flow within you what you need and release back into the earth and sky all that has gone unused. Know that the fire and water that flows from us helps to sustain the worlds, the realms and the Kindred as we conclude our worship.

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

Musical Signal- A drum beats 3X3.

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 arise and overwhelm us.

Recessional Chant

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

CHORUS

*The sky fuels the waters
And the waters sustain the skies
We walk together from this place
With the honored as our guides*

*Strong in our purpose
We balance and survive
From many wells of fortitude
Our spirits are revived*

CHORUS

*Joyous in our sharing
We honor dead and alive
With voices of sacred wisdom
We travel the path of our lives*

CHORUS

*Fulfilled in our learning
Our souls will always thrive
In our varied hearts and minds
We keep the sacred for all time*

CHORUS

(lyrics by Isaura; music by Raven of the Sorrows)

Lughnasadh 2012

***Ritual text written by
(Unless otherwise credited)***

Rev. Raven & Rev. Carrion Mann

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