

# Autumn Equinox - 2017 - Proposed

Protogrove of the Whispering Spirits

September 12, 2017

## 0.1 Offerings

This section describes the offerings made to the various hallows, the Kindred and the attendees of the rite.

- Guardian — Thor: Mead (if available), else beer
- Earth Mother — Nerthus: Grain
- Fire: Herbs/Incense
- Well: Salt and Ice
- Tree: Earth from Midgard
- Gatekeeper — Heimdall: Mead (if available), else beer
- Nature Spirits — Landvaettir: Herbs/Incense
- Ancestors: Bread
- Shining Ones — AEsir/Vanir: Cheese
- Deity of the Occasion — Freyr: Pork (boar) sausage
- Deity of the Occasion — Freyja: Apple
- Final Sacrifice: portion of the ritual feast
- Waters of Life: Mead

## 1 Initiating the Rite (Dale)

*{Speaker}*:

Welcome! We welcome all that will join with us today, and may the Kindred's  
bless our rite.

*{Speaker}: Sounds the horn three times and leads the procession out to the fire*  
*{All}: Sing "We Approach the Sacred Grove"*

## **2 Outdwellers (Rick)**

*{Speaker}: Makes offering to the Outdwellers*

Hail Thor! Weilder of Mjölñir, enemy of the Midgard Serpent, vanquisher of giants, we ask you to guard our ritual. To hold at bay the Jotuns; those who would disrupt our worship, those who act outside our best interests.

Jotuns, beware this day and do not trouble our rite, for amongst us is a mighty warrior of our gods.

Thor, protector of Midgard, accept our offering and aid us.

## **3 Purification (Lisa)**

*{Speaker}: Takes the bowl of holy water from the altar*

Let this water cleanse us.

Let it wash away our doubts, our worldly concerns and purify us so we may stand in the presence of the Shining Ones.

*{Speaker}: Anoints the participants.*

*{Speaker}: Leads the group on a brief Two Powers meditation.*

## **4 Honoring the Earth Mother (Laura & Rick)**

*{Assistant 1}: Walks around with with bowl of grain for participants to take*

*{Assistant 2}: Following Assistant 1, walks once around the congregation with the veiled picture while Nerthus is honored*

*{Speaker}:*

Oh Goddess Nerthus, veiled one, Earth Mother, we give praise and offerings to you on this day. We thank you for support in our lives and in our rituals. We are the children of your Earth. We remember and honor you.

Nerthus, we call to you and ask for your presence and support in our working today.

*{Speaker}: Speaks and places the grain in the fire*

Nerthus, accept our offering!

*{All}: Speaks and places the grain in the fire*

Nerthus, accept our offering!

## 5 Statement of Purpose (Dale)

*{Speaker}:*

This evening we gather together as one people to worship the old gods. We honor Freyr and Freyja, who have gifted Midgard with their fertility. They have helped bring abundance into our world and our lives and now we give our praise and thanks to them.

The autumnal equinox is an agrarian celebration. Our ancestors would come together to harvest and preserve their crops. They would be repairing their homesteads to stand against the trials of winter. Much as they have done, we still do. We harvest and preserve our crops and we prepare ourselves, and our homes for winter.

We also are celebrating the changing of the seasons. The world is in a time of balance, but moving into the dark half of the year. Look at the people around you, we stand together as one people, our self chosen community.

As the world grows darker, let us rekindle the light of the sun within ourselves and our community!

## 6 Recreating the Cosmos (Dale)

*{Speaker}: Speaks*

At the dawn of time there was the Ginnungagap, an empty void that divided Musphelheim, the realm of primordial fires, from Niflheim, the realm of eternal ice and snow. Over time, the flames crossed the gap, melted the ice, and formed steam. The steam filled the gap, and from it arose the first beings, and eventually the gods. They then created the remaining realms. Asgard, which is the realm of the Æsir. Vanaheimr, which is the realm of the Vanir. Álfheimr, which is the realm of the elves. Svartálfaheimr, which is the realm of the dwarves. Jötunheimr, which is the realm of the giants. Helheimr, which is the realm of the dead. Finally there is Midgard, the realm of humans.

Growing between Niflheim and Musphelheim is the great tree Yggdrasil. It grows and entwines all the realms within its roots and branches.

*{Speaker}: Moves to the tree. Speaks then sprinkles earth on the tree*

With this earth of Midgard, let this wood be a reflection of Yggdrasil in our realm.

*{Speaker}: Speaks*

Here we stand at the base of Yggdrasil, looking out upon the whole of creation. From fire to ice all the realms are bound together into one whole.

## 7 Opening the Gates (Dale)

*{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to the gatekeeper*

Hail Heimdall! Hear us! See us!

Guardian of Asgard, ever watchful. You who hear the grass grow, and see far,  
lend your might to ours and assist us to open the gates between the worlds.

Let the gates be opened!

*{All}:*

Let the gates be opened!

## **8 Inviting the Kindred**

### **8.1 Inviting the Nature Spirits (Laura)**

*{Speaker}:*

Welcome Landvaettir!

We make space at our fire for the spirits of this land, of its plants and trees, its  
birds and beasts and its waters.

You who have dwelled in this land before man, who protect it, who nurture it.

*{Speaker}: Call*

We remember you.

*{All}: Response*

We honor you.

*Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times*

Landvaettir, accept this offering.

*{Speaker}: Places the offering next to the World Tree*

### **8.2 Inviting the Ancestors (Rick)**

*{Speaker}:*

Welcome Alfar and Disir.

We make space at our fire for our mighty ancestors, for our honored ancestors,  
and for our beloved ancestors.

You who are of our blood and bone, you who are of our spirit and heart, you  
who have walked this world and left it before us.

*{Speaker}: Call*

We remember you.

*{All}: Response*

We honor you.

*Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times*

Alfar and Disir, accept this offering.

*{Speaker}: Places offering next to the Well*

### **8.3 Inviting the Shining Ones (Lisa)**

*{Speaker}:*

Welcome AEsir and Vanir!

We make space at our fire for the gods of our people, and the gods of this land.

You who nurture our spirits, you who challenge us to grow, you who we return to when we pass from this world.

*{Speaker}: Call*

We remember you.

*{All}: Response*

We honor you.

*Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times*

Shining Ones, accept this offering.

*{Speaker}: Pours offering into the fire*

### **9 Key Offerings (Lisa)**

*{All}: give praise offerings*

*{Ronald}: Speaks and places offering in the fire*

Hail Freyr, riding from Álfheimr to Midgard on your dwarf made boar Gullinbursti.

Hail to you, the most loved of the gods. Hail to you bringer of abundance. Freyr, accept our offering!

*{Laura}: Speaks and places offering in the fire*

Hail Freyja, riding in on your cat drawn chariot. Hail to you bringer of magic and chooser of the battle slain. Hail to you, bringer of passion and pleasure. Freyja, accept our offering!

It is through Freyr and Freyja that fertility has come to our land. Look around and see the fruits of the land that have ripened since they were sewn in the spring.

Take a moment and reflect upon the bounty that you have been given.

You may make offerings to Freyr, Freyja, or any other Kindred at this time.

*Wait for personal offerings to be made*

## **10 Prayer of Sacrifice (Lisa)**

*{Speaker}: Picks up offering tray*

Before us is an offering of our harvest. Tone your gratitude, your praise for the many blessings we have received into this offering.

*{Speaker}: Walks around with the offering*

*{Speaker}: Speaks and leaves offerings at the edge of the Nemeton*

Frayr and Frayja, accept our offering!

## **11 The Omen (Rick)**

*{Speaker}: To the oracle*

Oracle, were our offerings accepted?

*{Oracle}: Draws and interprets the omen*

Oracle, what blessings do The Kindred offer us for this season?

*{Oracle}: Draws and interprets the omen*

## **12 Calling for the Blessings (Lisa)**

*{Speaker}:*

Children of Midgard, we have heard the blessings from the Seer. Do we accept the blessings?

*{All}:*

Yes (hopefully)

*{Speaker}:*

Freyr, Freyja, we have made you welcome at our fire, we have honored you, and we have gifted you with offerings. From the oracle, we have heard your blessings, and we seal our relationship with the Waters of Life.

*{Speaker}:*

Bring forth the waters of life.

*{All}:*

Bring forth the waters of life.

*Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times*

### **13 Hallowing the Blessings (Lisa)**

*{Speaker}: Fills the horn then speaks.*

By the generosity of Freyr and the magic of Freyja!

*{Speaker}: Passes the horn over the Sacred Fire and speaks*

Through the Sacred Fire the blessings flow into these waters.

*{Speaker}: Dips the horn in the Sacred Well and speaks*

Through the Sacred Well the blessings flow into these waters.

*{Speaker}: Touches the horn to the World Tree and speaks*

Through the World Tree the blessings flow into these waters.

Offerings we have given, and a offerings we receive. Behold the Waters of Life!

*{All}:*

Behold the Waters of Life!

### **14 Affirming the Blessings (Laura)**

*{Speaker, then remaining worshipers}: Raises the horn, speaks then drinks (or pours a small amount into the offering bowl) and passes the horn to the next worshiper.*

I accept the blessings of The Kindred.

*{Speaker}: Speaks then pauses for a moment.*

Let us reflect a moment on the blessings we have been given.

### **15 Workings (N/A)**

*{None}*

### **16 Thanking the Kindred**

#### **16.1 Thanking the DotO (Lisa)**

*{Speaker}:*

We have given our worship and have been blessed this day by the Kindred. As we move about in our lives, remember that all the worlds are connected through Yggdrasil, and the blessings of the Kindred flow within you.

Freyr and Freyja, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may the crops you blessed sustain us though the dark half of the year.

## 16.2 Thanking the Gods (Lisa)

*{Speaker}*:

AEsir, Vanir, gods of this place, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may our relationship with you continue to deepen.

## 16.3 Thanking the Nature Spirits (Laura)

*{Speaker 2}*:

Landvaettir, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may you look kindly on us in our future meetings.

## 16.4 Thanking the Ancestors (Rick)

*{Speaker}*:

Alfar, Disir, both new and old, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may our actions in this world bring honor to you.

We thank you!

## 17 Closing the Gates (Dale)

*{Speaker}*:

Hemidall, our worship draws to a close. By your might and ours, let us end what we began.

Let the gates be closed!

*{All}*:

Let the gates be closed!

*{Speaker}*:

Let Yggdrasil be a tree. Let the fire be flame. Let the well be water.

The world has been restored.

## 18 Thanking the Earth Mother (Laura & Rick)

*{Speaker}*:

Nerthus, we begin with you and end with you. Thank you for being with us at our ritual.

Let all that has not been offered, be offered unto you.



*{Speaker}*:

From you came this water, and unto you this water shall return.

*{Speaker}*: *Speaks, then empties the well onto the earth.*

## 19 Closing the Rite (Dale)

*{Speaker}*:

We have come together as one people to worship the Kindred as our ancestors did and as our children will do. May we part in peace, understanding and compassion until we next worship together.

*{All}*: *Sing "Walk With Wisdom"*

*{Speaker}*:

This ritual is complete! Let us now Feast!

## 20 Songs

### 20.1 We Approach the Sacred Grove

We approach the sacred grove,  
With hearts and minds and flesh and bone,  
Join us now in ways of old,  
We have come home.

— Words by Sean Miller, music “an Old English plainsong” traditional

### 20.2 Walk With Wisdom

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.

— Words and music by Sable

End of Rite