

Beltane - 2015

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1 Offerings

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

- Outdwellers: Ale (Jeremiah)
- Purification: Water & Incense (Nick)
- Danu: Pinhead Oats (Mary)
- Fire: Incense (Jeremiah)
- Well: Silver (Jeremiah)
- Tree: Water from the Well and Incense lit in the Fire (Jeremiah)
- Gatekeeper: Apple (Dale)
- Gods: Whisky (Nick)
- Nature Spirits: Bread (Nick)
- Ancestors: Bread (Nick)
- Taranis: Whisky (Dale)
- Final Sacrifice: Dried Herbs (Jeremiah)
- Waters of Life: Mead & Apple Juice (Dale)

2 Initiating the Rite (Nick & Mary)

*{Nick}: Drum as participants circle around the area

{Mary}: *After all have circled the area and the drum stops, blow horn 3 times*

- {Nick}: Speaks after horn call*

Once again we have gathered together as one people, to honor our Kindred and celebrate the changing of the seasons.

Around us the spirits of nature move, amongst us our ancestors gather and before us our gods stand tall.

At this time, in this place, we set aside all that we brought with us. We focus our thoughts and our actions on this moment while we commune with the Kindred.

3 Meditation (Nick)

4 Outdwellers (Jeremiah)

{Speaker}: Moves just outside the perimeter

Fomorians! You who come from the outer dark,
You who stood against the gods and man,
You who are cold of heart and cruel of mind,
Take this and trouble not my work.

{Speaker}: Leaves ale outside of ritual space

5 Purification (Nick)

{Speaker}: Walks around the circle playing the singing bowl, while speaking

Let the sound go through your body, your bones, and your being. Let it bring you in tune with your surroundings. As the water falls on you may it bring peace and purity of purpose. We have made sacred this space that we may worship and honor the Kindred as one.

{Assistant}: Walking behind the speaker, asperge the attendees with a tree branch dipped in the well

6 Honoring the Earth Mother (Mary)

{Speaker}: Distribute grain to participants

Great Danu Mother of all our life is nourished from your bounty. You give the food that nourishes us, the wealth that enriches us, even the very ground we walk on O bright goddess.

All joy and prosperity comes from you, and it is you who sustains us. We honor you now. We thank you for the bounty you bestow upon all of us.

Great Danu accept these offerings.

{All}: Place grain in the fire

7 Statement of Purpose (Nick)

{Speaker}:

Today we celebrate the Celtic fire festival of Beltane. Fire was sacred to the Celts, and part of their celebrations. The druids would build two sacred bonfires for use in their Beltane activities. The bonfires were part of two traditions, the first was that all the hearth fires would be doused, and the flame from the sacred fire would be sent out around the countryside to relight each home's hearth fire.

The second use of the fires was to cleanse the tribes livestock of disease. The pastoral Celts divided the year into two halves, summer and winter. As Samhain was the start of winter, Beltane is the end of it, and the beginning of summer. Through the winter, they would have shared their houses with their livestock, and after a long winter would welcome summer. On Beltane, the herders would drive their animals between the two sacred fires, in hope that any diseases from the long, close, contact would be cleansed by the fire and heat.

Insert meditation here

8 Recreating the Cosmos (Jeremiah)

{Speaker}: Moves to the fire

To the flame, with this incense let you be purified and transcend the limits of this world. You are now The Sacred Fire; our connection to the heavens and the gods.

{Speaker}: The offering is placed in the fire. Moves to the well

Cauldron of water, With this silver, let you be purified and transcend the limits of this world. You are now The Sacred Well; our connection to the underworld and our ancestors.

{Speaker}: Silver is placed in the well. Moves to the tree

Mighty tree, with this fire from The Sacred Fire, and water from The Sacred Well, you become The World Tree; that which connects and binds the three worlds together.

Like the tree is rooted in the land, so too do we stand firmly upon it.
Like the tree is encircled by the seas, so too are we encircled by them.
Like the tree dwells beneath the sky, so too do we live beneath it.

Once again we remember our place in the three realms, and await the coming forth of the kindred

9 Opening the Gates (Dale)

{Speaker}: Addressing the Gatekeeper

Mannánan Mac Lir Abú. Hail Manannán, son of the sea.

We give praise and honor to you, o mighty god who walks between the worlds with ease. You who wreaths yourself in mist, and frequents the liminal places of the world, we call to you.

Accept our offering; lend your might to ours, and open the gates between the worlds.

{Speaker}: Places the offering into the fire

Manannán, make the Sacred Fire a gate! Manannán, make the Well a gate!
Manannán, make the World Tree a gate!

Let the gates be opened!

{All}:

Let the gates be opened!

10 Inviting the Kindred (Nick)

10.1 Inviting the Ancestors

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Sinsearach. Welcome Ancestors. We make space at our fire for our mighty ancestors, for our honored ancestors, and for our beloved ancestors.

Sinsearach, accept our offering.

{Speaker}: Places offering next to the Well

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

10.2 Inviting the Nature Spirits

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Sídhhe. Welcome Nature Spirits. We make space at our fire for The Good people, for the spirits of this land, of its plants and trees, its birds and beasts and its waters.

Sídhhe, accept our offering.

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

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

10.3 Inviting the Gods

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Túath Dé Dannan. Welcome to our gods. We make space at our fire for the Túath dé Dannan, for the gods of our people, and the gods of this land.

Gods, goddesses, accept our offering.

{Speaker}: Pours offering into the fire

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

11 Key Offerings (Dale)

{Speaker}:

What defines summer? It's warm weather, sunshine, and thunder storms. Around the world, there are upwards of 2,000 thunderstorms occurring at any particular moment. In the US there are about 100,000 thunderstorms each year. Thunderstorms have been, and remain a potent force of nature; a source of awe and fear. Today, in remembrance of the storms that scour and nurture our world, we honor the Celtic god of thunder, Taranis.

Fáilte Taranis, great lord of thunder, of lightning we welcome you to our fire. Taranis, mighty sky god, accept our offering and join our worship.

{Speaker}: Places offering in the fire

You bring into our world the thunder with its deafening sound, and the lightning with its blinding light. You bring the deluge that cleanses the earth, and washes the corruption of winter away. You bring the rains and the lightning that fortifies the plants. Your symbol is the wheel, the wheel of the chariot you ride across the skies during the storms.

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

12 Prayer of Sacrifice (Jeremiah)

{Speaker}:

Kindred, we welcome you amongst us. Through each ritual, each prayer, we grow closer to you . Accept this final offering, let it rise up, and with it, our words to your ears.

{Speaker}: Places offering into the fire

Kindred, accept our offering.

13 The Omen (Mary)

{Speaker}: To the oracle

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

{Oracle}: Draws and interprets The Omen

14 Calling for the Blessings (Dale)

{Speaker}:

O kindred, 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.

15 Hallowing the Blessings (Dale)

{Speaker}: Fills the horn then speaks.

By the sinsearach, the Sídh, and the Tuath Dé Dannan; by the storms of Taranis, hallowed are these waters. Let those who drink of them be refreshed, as the world is refreshed following the storm.

Offerings we have given, and an offerings we have been given in return. Behold the Waters of Life!

16 Affirming the Blessings (Dale)

{Speaker, then remaining worshipers}: Raises the horn, speaks then drinks (or pours a small amount on the ground/in the fire) 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 of the Kindred.

17 Workings

No planned workings

18 Thanking the Kindred (Nick)

{Speaker}:

Taranis, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may the wrath of your storms not fall upon us.

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

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

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

19 Closing the Gates (Dale)

{Speaker}:

Manannán, as our rite draws to a close, we again turn to you; assist us in closing the gates.

{Speaker}: Moves to the tree

Let this gate return to a tree.

{Speaker}: Moves to the well

Let this gate return to a cauldron.

{Speaker}: Moves to the fire

Let this gate return to the fire.

Let the gates be closed!

{All}:

Let the gates be closed!

20 Thanking the Earth Mother (Mary)

{Speaker}:

We thank the Great Danu for all she has given and done for us. We now return all that we did not use back to the earth. May Danu continue to provide for all of us. We thank you.

21 Closing the Rite (Nick)

{Speaker}:

Our time of communion with the Kindred draws to a close, and cares of mundane world began to assert themselves over us once again.

Let us take the blessings of the Kindred, back into the world, and remember our connection to the divine.

We have come together as we have done before and shall do again. Until next we meet, may peace and prosperity be upon you.

{Mary}: Blow horn 3 times

End of Rite