

# Imbolc - 2014

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## 1 Offerings

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

- Brigid (inspiration): Blackberries (Nick)
- Outdwellers: Ale (Nick)
- Purification: Milk (Nick)
- Danu: Cornmeal (Nick)
- Fire: Incense (Dale)
- Well: Silver well with pendant (Dale)
- Tree: Water from well and Incense (Dale)
- Manannán Mac Lir: Apple (Dale)
- Sídh: Milk and honey (Dale)
- Sinsearach: Scone (Dale)
- Túath dé Dannan: Whiskey (Dale)
- Bríd: Oil (Jeremiah)
- Final Sacrifice: Star Fruit (Dale)
- Waters of Life: Milk (Nick)

## 2 Initiating the Rite

*{Nick}*:

Welcome members of the ProtoGrove of the Whispering Sprits and all others joining us today. We welcome the Kindred's that will join with all of us today and may the Kindred's bless our ritual today.

Brigit the daughter of The Dagda and one of the Tuatha Dé Danann, with you watching over us may you instill in us inspiration, learning, poetry, and occult knowledge as you watch us today. Watch over us and keep us safe and fearless. Brigit please accept our sacrifice. (Blackberries)

## Two Powers Meditation

Closing your eyes, take a few deep cleansing breaths. Breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth. In through your nose and out through your mouth. As you breathe, lay aside the worries, troubles and woes of the mundane world.

*Pause: 4 count*

We now stand between Earth and Sky. Feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth. Know that below us flows the primal waters. Cold, dark and chaotic; filled with the potential of all life.

Allow the primal waters to enter your being. Feel the coolness of the waters as they pool within your belly, within your heart and finally, within your head.

*Pause 8 count*

Reaching high into the sky above, feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens. Know that above us burns the primal fires, Warm, light and ordered; filled with the spark of all life.

Allow the primal fire to enter your being. Feel the warmth of the fires as they illuminate your mind, your heart and finally your spirit.

*Pause 8 count*

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky as they surge through you, lending strength and energy to your being.

*Pause 8 count*

As we open our eyes, know that we assemble as one folk to worship with a common purpose.

When you are ready open your eyes.

## 3 Outdwellers

*{Nick}:*

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.

*{Volunteer}: Take ale outside of ritual space*

## 4 Purification

*{Nick}: Using milk, anoint the participants at ritual*

May this fresh milk make you pure.

## 5 Honoring the Earth Mother

*{Nick}:*

Great Danu Mother of all,

Our life is nourished from your bounty, You give 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 to thank you for the bounty you bestow upon all of us.

Great Danu accept this sacrifice.

*{Nick}: Sprinkle cornmeal into the offering bowl*

## 6 Statement of Purpose

*{Dale}:*

We are here to celebrate the high-day of Imbolc. This high-day is dedicated to the Goddess Bríd; on this day we remember her and give to her the honor she is due. In turn, we look to see her blessing in our lives.

In the world, we are almost half way through winter. Beneath the snow the land lies dormant, waiting for the return of warmth. In our lives we now chafe against our confinement and long for the release that comes with the spring.

## 7 Recreating the Cosmos

*{Dale}: Moves to the fire*

To the flame, with this sacrifice let you become The Sacred Fire; our connection to the heavens and the gods.

*{Dale}: Moves to the well*

Cauldron of water, With this silver, let you become The Well; our connection to the underworld and our ancestors.

*{Dale}: Moves to the tree*

Mighty tree, with these sacrifice let 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

## 8 Opening the Gates

*{Chad}: 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 sacrifice; lend your might to ours, and open the gates between the worlds.

*{Chad}: Places the offering into the offering bowl*

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!

## 9 Inviting the Kindred

### 9.1 Inviting the Nature Spirits

*{Dale}:*

Fáilte Sídh. 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.

Sídh, accept this sacrifice.

*{Dale}: Places the offering in the offering bowl*

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

*{Dale}: Call*

We remember you.

*{All}: Response*

We honor you.

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

## 9.2 Inviting the Ancestors

*{Dale}: Speaks then places offering on the fire*

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 this sacrifice.

*{Dale}: Places offering in the offering bowl*

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.

*{Dale}: Call*

We remember you.

*{All}: Response*

We honor you.

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

## 9.3 Inviting the Gods

*{Dale}:*

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 this sacrifice.

*{Dale}: Pours offering in the offering bowl*

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

*{Dale}: Call*

We remember you.

*{All}: Response*

We honor you.

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

## 10 Key Offerings

*{Jeremiah}:*

Come, daughter of Eternity  
Come, Brighid of the Flame  
Come, sister of Infinity  
Bring the light of your name  
  
Come, lover of the Anvil  
Come, Brighid of the Hammers  
Come, Artisan most able  
Sing of sparks and glamours  
  
Brighid, we invoke thee  
Artisan, Healer, and Bard  
Mother of the Isle across the sea  
Lady of the Highest Regard  
  
Midwife, war chief, Goddess  
Come into our Nemeton  
Our hearts we offer guileless  
Come into our Nemeton

*{Jeremiah}: Places offering in the offering bowl*

*{Jeremiah}: Ask if A-bombnybody has a praise offering for The Kindred*

## 11 Prayer of Sacrifice

*{Speaker}: Speaks then pours sacrifice into the fire*

Mighty kindred, we sacrifice to you. Shining goddess Bríd, we sacrifice to you.  
To all the beings, in all the worlds In land, sea and sky Accept this sacrifice!

## 12 The Omen

*{Oracle}: Draws and interprets The Omen*

## 13 Calling for the Blessings

*{Dale}:*

O kindred, we have made you welcome at our fire, we have honored you, and we have gifted you with sacrifices. We await your blessings.

Children of Earth, the Kindred have heard your praise, and have accepted your sacrifices. This season bring challenges, but as you stand with the gods, they will stand with you.

## 14 Hallowing the Blessings

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

By the Sídh, the sinsearach, and our gods; by the light and the fire of Bríd, hallowed are these waters.

Offerings we have given, and an offerings we have been given in return.

Behold the Waters of Life!

## 15 Affirming the Blessings

*{Dale, 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.

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

Let us reflect a moment on the blessings of the Kindred.

## 16 Workings

*None*

## 17 Thanking the Kindred

*{Dale}:*

Bríd, thank you for joining us. May your light continue to guide us.

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

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

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

## 18 Closing the Gates

*{Chad}:*

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

*{Chad}: Moves to the tree*

Let this gate return to a tree.

*{Chad}: Moves to the well*

Let this gate return to a cauldron.

*{Chad}: Moves to the fire*

Let this gate return to the fire.

Let the gates be closed!

*{All}:*

Let the gates be closed!

## **19 Thanking the Earth Mother**

*{Nick}:*

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.

## **20 Closing the Rite**

*{Nick}:*

Our ritual has come to an end, we have done as our ancestors did and as our children will do. The Gods, Ancestors, and Nature Spirits have heard us today! May this grove grow strong, under their watchful eyes, may we all part in peace. May your lands always be fertile and water plentiful.

End of Rite