

Imbolc - 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.

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

2 Initiating the Rite (Dale)

{Speaker}: Blow horn 3 times, then speak

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 Outdwellers (Nick)

{Speaker}:

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

{Speaker}: Place ale outside of ritual space

4 Purification (Nick)

{Speaker}: Using milk, anoint the participants at ritual

May this fresh milk make you pure.

5 Honoring the Earth Mother (Patti)

{Speaker}:

Great Danu, mother of all, our life is nourished from your bounty.
You give the food that nourishes us, and the wealth that enriches us.
You are the very ground upon which we walk.
We honor you and thank you for the bounty you bestow upon us all.
Great Danu, accept this offering.

{Speaker}: Place cornmeal in the offering bowl

6 Statement of Purpose (Jeremiah)

{Speaker}:

We are here to celebrate the high-day of Imbolc. This high-day is dedicated to the Goddess Brigid; 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)

{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}: 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.

8 Opening the Gates (Nick)

{Speaker}: Addressing the Gatekeeper

Mannánan Mac Lir Abú. Welcome 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 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 (Dale)

9.1 Inviting the Nature Spirits

{Speaker}:

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 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

9.2 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

9.3 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

10 Key Offerings (Jeremiah)

{Speaker}:

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 glammers

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

Goddess, accept this offering

{Jeremiah}: Ask if anybody has a praise offering for The Kindred

11 Prayer of Sacrifice (Jeremiah)

{Speaker}:

Now, let us allow the warmth of Brighid's hearth

{All}:

To embrace us

{Speaker}:

Allow the light of her flame

{All}

To guide us

{Speaker}:

Allow the love of her blessing

{All}:

To protect us.

{Speaker}: Speaks then pours the offering into the fire

Shining goddess Brighid, we make this final offering to you.

Brighid, accept our offering!

12 The Omen (Mary)

{Speaker}: Asks the oracle if our offerings were accepted, and what the blessings of the kindred are

13 Calling for the Blessings (Laura)

{Speaker}:

Look now to the fire. The Three-Fold Fire of Brighid.

See in it the Fire in the forge that shapes and tempers.

Fire of the hearth that nourishes and heals.

Fire in the head that incites and inspires.

See in it the transformative power that takes our offerings to the Kindreds.

Watch it dance, and in its flickering movements, notice those of the Kindreds looking back at us.

See your friends and family who have passed on, ancestors of blood and heart, the Spirits of this place, Ancestors and Shining Ones.

{Speaker}: Takes up horn
{Assistant}: Fills horn with mead

We ask you now, gathered host, return to us your blessings! Give them to us into this cup of water and this cup of mead. Gathered Host, we ask this of you!

14 Hallowing the Blessings (Laura)

{Speaker}: Passes the horn over the flame

Fires of Brighid, transform this water into the water of life, that the blessings of the Kindreds may return to us!

{Speaker}: Lifts horn and presents it to the congregation

Behold the Waters of Life!

{All}:

Behold the Waters of Life!

15 Affirming the Blessings (Laura)

{Speaker}: Offers horn to each person in turn and speaks

Do you accept the blessings of the Kindreds?

{To Each Recipient}: If they accept

I accept the blessings of the Kindreds

{Speaker}: Passes horn to the assistant

{Assistant}: Offers horn to the speaker and speaks

Do you accept the blessings of the Kindreds?

{Speaker}:

I accept the blessings of the Kindreds

{Speaker}:

Blessings may come in many forms. Sometimes they manifest in the world, sometimes they remain hidden inside of us. May each of you find yourselves blessed by the Kindreds and warmed by Brighid's Sacred Flame.

16 Workings

After ritual, weave new Bríd's Crosses and burn last years

17 Thanking the Kindred (Dale)

{Speaker}:

Brigid, we thank you for joining us. May your light continue to guide us and the world towards its rebirth this spring.

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.

18 Closing the Gates (Nick)

{Speaker}:

Manannán mac Lir, 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!

19 Thanking the Earth Mother (Patti)

{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.

20 Closing the Rite (Dale)

{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.

{Speaker}: *Blow horn 3 times*

End of Rite