

Imbolc - 2017

Protogrove of the Whispering Spirits

January 22, 2017

1 Offerings

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

- Outdwellers (Lugh): Hard Cider (Laura)
- Purification: Water from the well
- Danu: Cornmeal (Ronald)
- Fire: Stick of incense (Kalyn)
- Well: Silver well with pendant (Dale)
- Tree: Water from well and Incense
- Manannán Mac Lir: Apple (Kalyn)
- Sídh (Nature Spirits): Milk and honey (Lisa)
- Sinsearach (Ancestors): Scone (Rick)
- Túath dé Dannan (Gods): Incense (Laura)
- Brigid: TBD (Lisa)
- Final Sacrifice: Incense (Lisa)
- Waters of Life: Mead (Dale)

2 Initiating the Rite (Dale)

{All}: Singing

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.

{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 (Laura)

{Speaker}:

Lugh, son of Ethniu and Cian; grandson of Balor and Dian Cecht.

Lugh, fierce striker; sling thrower.

Lugh, vanquisher of the Formosans; liberator of the Túath Dé Dannan.

Lugh Lámfhada, we make this offering to you. Stand here with us, and ward us from the Famorians and all others that would interfere with our work here tonight.

Lugh, accept our offering!

{Speaker}: Places offering on the altar

4 Purification (Jason)

{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 into harmony with the world around you.

As the water falls on to you, let it cleanse away the cares of the world.

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

5 Meditation (Dale)

Insert meditation here

6 Honoring the Earth Mother (Ronald)

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Danu! We make space at our fire for the goddess Danu.

Great goddess, Earth Mother, the bounty of our world comes from you.

You are the grass under our feet, and the sky above our heads.

You are the air we breath, and food we eat.

Your life is our life, and we honor you.

{Speaker}: Sprinkles corn meal into the offering bowl

Earth mother, accept this offering!

{All}:

Earth Mother, accept our offering!

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

7 Statement of Purpose (Dale)

{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 daily lives, we now chafe against our confinement and long for the release that comes with the spring.

8 Recreating the Cosmos (Dale)

{Speaker}: Moves to the fire

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}: Incense is lit from the fire. Moves to the well

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

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.

{Speaker}: Water from the well is lightly sprinkled on the tree, and the stick of incense is swirled around it.

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 (Kalyn)

{Speaker}: Addressing the Gatekeeper

Fáilte Mannánan Mac Lir. 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 Sacred Well a gate!
Manannán, make the World Tree a gate!
Let the gates be opened!

{All}

Let the gates be opened!

9.1 Inviting the Nature Spirits (Lisa)

{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 (Rick)

{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 (Laura)

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Túath Dé Dannan. Welcome gods and goddesses. 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}: Puts incense on the burner

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 (Lisa)

{Speaker}:

Tripple Brigid

They are the Brigid's, the daughters of the Dagda,
The three sisters who act as one.
She is the Brigid of the poets; the divine spark of inspiration, that precedes
creation.
She is the Brigid of the smiths; who works the forge of transformation.
She is the Brigid of the hearth; who nurtures, protects and morns her children.
They are the Brigid's of the eternal flame, which burns within them, and burns
in their name.

{Speaker}: Places offering in the offering bowl

Goddess, accept this offering

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

{Speaker}: Singing

Invocation to Brigit

Come, Daughter of Eternity,
Come, Brigit of the Flame,
Come, Sister of Infinity,
Bring healing to the lame.
Bright as the Sun above,
Song of the well
Crafter of hearts and minds,
We love you well.

11 Prayer of Sacrifice (Lisa)

{Speaker}:

Raise your spirits to goddess of inspiration,
Raise your raise your hearts to the goddess of healing,
Raise your voices in tone to the goddess of the eternal flame.

{Speaker}: Begins toning

{Speaker}: Places the incense on the burner

{Speaker}: After a sufficient amount of time, bring toning to a close, then speaks

Let the incense carry our offering.
Goddess Brigid, accept our offering!

{All}:

Brigid, accept our offering!

12 The Omen (Laura)

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

13 Calling for the Blessings (Kalyn)

{Speaker}:

Great goddess Brigid, we have made you welcome at our fire, we have honored you with our words and gifted you with offerings.

As a gift given calls for a gift in return, we seek from you the Waters of Life.

{Speaker}:

14 Hallowing the Blessings (Kalyn)

{Speaker}: Fills the horn then speaks.

By the strength, compassion and inspiration of Brigid, hallowed are these waters!

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

Through the Sacred Fire, may the blessings flow into these waters.

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

Through the Sacred Well, may the blessings flow into these waters.

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

Through the World Tree, may the blessings flow into these waters.

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

{All}:

Behold the Waters of Life!

15 Affirming the Blessings (Kalyn)

{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.

16 Workings (Dale)

Speaker:

Let the Sacred Fire be passed around. Please take one of the unlit votives and light it from the Sacred Fire.

Speaker: Waits for everybody to have a candle

Brigid of healing, Brigid of the Eternal Flame, let our words spoken through the fire be heard by you.

Great goddess, please enfold those of us here who are sick in your healing embrace; aid us in returning to health.

Speaker: Makes offering of incense

Accept this offering, and hear our words as we speak the names of those who could not be with us this day, but who also need your aid.

- Speaker: Waits for others to make healing requests*

Let us extinguish the candles, and though they no longer burn with the sacred fire, they were kindled by it. Through them, you take the sacredness of the fire back to your house.

- Speaker: Blows out their candle*

16.1 Thanking the DotO (Lisa)

{Speaker}:

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

16.2 Thanking the Gods (Laura)

{Speaker}:

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

16.3 Thanking the Ancestors (Rick)

{Speaker}:

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

16.4 Thanking the Nature Spirits (Lisa)

{Speaker}:

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

17 Closing the Gates (Kalyn)

{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 World Tree*

Let this gate return to a tree.

{Speaker}: *Moves to the Sacred Well*

Let this gate return to a cauldron.

{Speaker}: *Moves to the Sacred Fire*

Let this gate return to just a flame.

Let the gates be closed!

{All}:

Let the gates be closed!

18 Thanking the Earth Mother (Ronald)

{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.

19 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