

Lughnassadh - 2015

Dale Frampton

August 5, 2015

1 Offerings

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

- Outdwellers: Ale
- Purification: Water
- Danu: Pinhead Oats
- Fire: Incense
- Well: Silver
- Tree: Water from the Well
- Gatekeeper: Apple
- Gods: Alcohol
- Nature Spirits: Milk & Honey
- Ancestors: Bread
- Lugh: Raspberries
- Final Sacrifice: Mead
- Waters of Life: Mead & Apple Juice

2 Initiating the Rite

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

{Horn Blower}: *After all have circled the area and the drum stops, blow horn 3 times, then speak*

{Speaker}: *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 Outdwellers

{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 our work.

{Speaker}: Leaves ale outside of ritual space

4 Purification

{Speaker}: Walks around asperging the congregants while speaking

As the water falls on you, may it bring peace and purity of purpose.

5 Honoring the Earth Mother

{Speaker}: Distribute grain to participants

Great Danu, 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.

Joy and prosperity flow 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 this offering.

{All}: Place grain in the fire

6 Statement of Purpose

{Speaker}:

Today we celebrate the festival of Lughnassadh, which is named in honor of the Celtic god Lugh. Contests and games of skill were a common part of the Lughnassadh games, which lasted for many centuries, and may have preceded even the Olympic games.

Let us honor the champions of our games. *List champions here.*

Today we honor the god Lugh. Through his leadership the Tuatha de Dannan, overcame the Fomorians and brought the knowledge of agriculture to the people.

7 Recreating the Cosmos

{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 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

{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 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!

9 Inviting the Kindred

9.1 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 this 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

9.2 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 this 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

9.3 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 this 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

{Speaker}:

A flaming spear out of the chaos,
Lugh Lámhfhada, come to your people.
A skillful hand against the chaos,
Lugh Lámhfhada, come to your people.
A mind keenly ordered amid the chaos,
Lugh Lámhfhada, come to your people.
A faithful protector through all the chaos,
Lugh Lámhfhada, come to your people.
Healer, craftsman, singer, and warrior,
Lugh Lámhfhada, Lugh Lámhfhada, Lugh Lámhfhada,
Come to your people.

Fáilte Lugh Lámhfhada; Fáilte Lugh Samildánach!

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

{Speaker}: Tell story about Lugh

{Speaker}: Give offering to Lugh

11 Prayer of Sacrifice

{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.

12 The Omen

{Speaker}: To the oracle

Oracle, do the Kindred accept our offerings?

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

{Oracle}: Draws and interprets the omen

13 Calling for the Blessings

{Speaker}:

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.

14 Hallowing the Blessings

{Speaker}: Fills the horn then speaks.

By the sinsearach, the Sídhe, and the Tuath Dé Dannan; by Lugh, the master of all arts, hallowed are these waters. Let those who drink of them find the bounty of summer within their lives.

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

15 Affirming the Blessings

{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.

16 Workings

None

17 Thanking the Kindred

{Speaker}:

Lugh, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may your wise leadership find a place in our world.

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

{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!

19 Thanking the Earth Mother

{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

{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.

{Horn Blower}: *Blow horn 3 times*
End of Rite