

# Samhain - 2013

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September 14, 2014

## 1 Offerings

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

- Outdwellers: Ale (Nick)
- Brigit: Blackberries (Nick)
- Danu: Cornmeal (Nick)
- Fire: Turf (Dale)
- Well: Silver (Dale)
- Tree: Water from the well
- Manannán Mac Lir: Apple (Dale)
- Sídhhe: Milk and honey (Dale)
- Sinsearach: Bread & Butter (Dale)
- Túath dé Dannan: Hard Cider (Dale)
- An Mórrígan: Crystal, Whisky, Feathers (Dale)
- Final Sacrifice: Brandy (Dale)
- Waters of Life: Hard cider, and soft cider (Dale)

## 2 Preparing the Space

- Prepare the Fire and Well
- Setup the ritual altar
- Setup the ancestor altar

### 3 Initiating the Rite

*{Speaker}*:

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

As we process into the circle, there will be an ancestor altar. If you have pictures or mementos of your ancestors, you may place them during the procession.

*{All}*: *Process to the ritual space singing*

By the land beneath us  
By the sea surrounding us  
By the sky above us  
We come unto the gods

### 4 Outdwellers

*{Speaker}*:

Fomorians (FOE-more-ri-an)  
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*

### 5 Purification

*{Volunteer x 2}*: *Walk amongst worshipers and sprinkle with water and smudge with sandalwood incense while saying:*

*{Water bearer}*:

With the powers to create and destroy.

*{Incense bearer}*:

With the strength to cleanse and purify.

*{Speaker}*: *When all participants have been purified*

Through the union of fire and water,  
Our Nemeton is made whole and holy!

Once more we have met the threat of chaos with order and laid claim to this place. We have made sacred this space that we may worship and honor the Kindred as one people.

## 6 Honoring the Earth Mother

*{Speaker}:*

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 this scarifice.

*{Speaker}: Sprinkle cornmeal on the ground*

## 7 Statement of Purpose

*{Speaker}:*

Today we celebrate Samhain.

This marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. Our ancestor's would be bringing their livestock down from the summer pastures and some would be slaughter for food during the winter.

As the door to summer closes and the one to winter opens, a lot of energy is released in the world. As a result, some doorways to other worlds are opened just enough to allow for the souls of the dead, and other beings, to come into our world. Feasts were had, and the souls of the dead kin were welcomed to attend. Others gave divinations to protect against unwanted souls or harm.

So we celebrate the end of summer, which gave us bounties of food, warmth, love, and happiness. We prepare for winter, which will bring hardship, cold, darkness, and new obstacles. May An Mórrígan (on MOR-ree-ghan) and the Kindreds help guide us through the days to come.

## 8 Recreating the Cosmos

*{Speaker}: Moves to the fire*

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

*{Speaker}: Moves to the well*

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

*{Speaker}: 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

## 9 Opening the Gates

*{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 sacrifice; 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

### 10.1 Inviting the Gods

*{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 this sacrifice.

*{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*

## 10.2 Inviting the Nature Spirits

*{Speaker}: 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.

*{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*

## 10.3 Inviting the Ancestors

*{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 sacrifice.

*{Speaker}: Pours offering onto the earth*

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

### Inviting An Mórrígan

*{Speaker}: Morrigan Invocation by Ian Corrigan*

As the Earth falls into sleep the Queen of Spirits is choosing those who will go to the Cauldron of Rebirth. She is Morrigan, the Great Queen of Phantoms, the Chooser of the Slain. She is the Battle Raven, the Red Woman, Mistress of the Cauldron.

Hear us now, Red One, Great Queen, Lady of the Reaping, Cauldron-Witch of Sorcery and Prophecy. We your children pray that you be with us, that you look kindly upon our holy rite, that you come into our Grove and give us your blessing.

We give due sacrifice to you. We give you. . .

*{Speaker}: Speak and give offering to the well*

Precious stone, that the Bones of the Earth may be clothed again in life.

*{Speaker}: Speak and give the offering to the fire*

Whiskey, that the Waters of Life May flow in us and Spirit indwell flesh.

*{Speaker}: Speak and give the offering to the tree*

Feathers, that your raven Eye watch over us in the Season of Sleep.

Be welcome among us Morrigan; Great Queen, accept our sacrifice!

### Praise Offerings

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

*Conclude the Praise Offerings with a recitation of 'The Raven' by Edgar Allen Poe<sup>1</sup>*

## 12 Prayer of Sacrifice

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

Mighty kindred, we sacrifice to you. Raven goddess, we sacrifice to you.

To all the beings, in all the worlds In land, sea and sky Accept this sacrifice!

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/178713>

### 13 The Omen

*{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

*{Speaker}:*

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.

### 15 Hallowing the Blessings

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

By the Sídhe, the sinsearach, and our gods; by the magic, prophecy, and sovereignty of An Mórrígan, hallowed are these waters.

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

Behold the Waters of Life!

### 16 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.

### 17 Workings

#### Roll Call of the Dead

*{Speaker}:*

Some of us have lost friends, family, and loved ones over the year. They may not even have been human, but they shared a place in our world, and our world seems diminished. We may not have had an opportunity to say goodbye.

This is the time of the year to remember our dead. A time when the walls between the worlds are thinnest and they have been invited through.

Now is your opportunity to share your memories of them with your community.

*Allow each person to remember the dead of the past year, or those they feel need to be remembered again*

## 18 Thanking the Kindred

*{Speaker}:*

An Mórrígan, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may your touch in our lives be gentle.

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

*{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

*{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

*{Speaker}*:

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