

# Samhain - 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.

- Outdwellers: Ale (or Laura's choice)
- Danu: Steel-cut Oats (or Laura's choice)
- Fire: Incense (Jeremiah)
- Well: Silver (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}: Sacrifice 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 - Tree: Water from the well - Donn: Whiskey (Dale) - Sídhé: Milk & honey (Nick) - Sinsearach: Bread (Nick) - Túath dé Dannan: Whiskey (Dale) - Sinsearach (Key Offerings): Everybody - Final Sacrifice: Cedar, Dittany of Crete, Orris root, and Rosemary (Nick) - Waters of Life: Dry Sparkling Mead (Nick)

## 2 Initiating the Rite (Dale)

*{Speaker}: Blow horn 3 times, then speak*

We welcome all that will join with us today, may the Kindred's bless our rite today. Now we process out to the circle.

*Drum beat during procession*

## 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}: Take ale outside of ritual space*

## 4 Purification (Nick)

*{Speaker}: Walks around the circle playing the singing bowl, while speaking*

Let the sound go through your body, your bones, and your being bringing you in tune with your surroundings. As the water falls on to you so does the blessings of the Gods and Goddess. We have made sacred this space that we may worship and honor the Kindred as one.

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

## 5 Meditation (Dale)

*{Speaker}:*

Let's all close our eyes and clear our minds. As you breathe, lay aside the worries, troubles and woes of the mundane world. Hear the sounds of nature around you peaceful, soothing, and calming. As you relax feel the leaf covered ground beneath you, feel the flow the primal waters under the ground. As they spiral up past the roots, through the ground and over the leaves. As they spiral up your legs and into your being. 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)*

Now reach and look above you through the leafless branches past the flying birds, high into the sky. 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 radiant 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.

## 6 Honoring the Earth Mother (Mary)

*{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}: Sprinkle cornmeal on the ground*

## 7 Statement of Purpose (Jeremiah)

*{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 slaughtered for food during the winter.

Samhain is a liminal time, it marks the transition from summer to winter. Liminal times like liminal places leaves the door to the otherworld slightly ajar; open enough for the spirits of our ancestors, for the sidhe and others to pass through unbidden.

We use this opportunity to honor our ancestors. They have passed through uncounted winters and we seek their guidance and support as the warmth and light leaves us.

## 8 Recreating the Cosmos (Dale)

*{Speaker}: Moves to the fire*

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*{Speaker}: Sacrifice is placed in the fire. Moves to the well*

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## 9 Opening the Gates (Nick)

**Dale to update to call to Donn**

*{Speaker}: Facing west and addressing the Gatekeeper*

Fáilte Donn, eldest of the sons of Mil and first of them to die in the battle with the Tuath Dé Danann. It is to the west, to Teach Duinn, the House of Donn, that the spirits of men first go, to feast and to repose on their journey to the otherworld.

Donn, Lord of the Dead, we call to you!  
You who have sheltered and guided the spirits of our ancestors, we call to you!  
On this night, Oíche Shamhna, when the borders to the otherworld are fluid, we call to you!

Accept this offering, and lend your might and magic to ours, and open the gates between the worlds!

*{Speaker}: Places the offering into the fire*

Donn, make the Sacred Fire a gate!  
Donn, make the Well a gate!  
Donn, make the World Tree a gate!  
Let the gates be opened!

*{All}:*

Let the gates be opened!

## 10 Inviting the Kindred (Dale)

### 10.1 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 sacrifice.

*{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*

### 10.2 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 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*

### 10.3 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 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*

## 11 Key Offerings (Jeremiah)

*{Speaker}:*

We call to the ancestors of our blood, the ancestors of our hearts, the ancestors of our paths. Join us and lend your voices to ours as we honor you! Welcome to our fire!

Our world is built upon the labors of our ancestors, and so too are our traditions. We learn from the stories left by our ancient pagan ancestors, but also from the modern ones. This year, two pagan leaders have joined the ranks of our honored ancestors, Margot Adler and Morning Glory Zell-Ravenheart. They join the ranks of Isaac Bonewits, Ross Nichols (OBOD), Gerald Gardner amongst others.

Long may the pagan traditions they founded and fostered prosper!

As we honor you, we seek from you the wisdom that passed with you. Let us find, and nurture that wisdom to pass to the future generations.

Now is the time for those gathered here to make offerings to the ancestors.

*{All}: Time for offerings*

*{Dale}: Last offering to the forgotten dead*

## 12 Prayer of Sacrifice (Jeremiah)

*{Speaker}:*

Sinsearach, our kin who are no longer in this realm. It is only fair to thank you. You have given so much and now we give to you one last offering for you use as you desire.

We give to you:

Cedar, for strength and protection  
Accept this offering!

*{All}*: Accept our offerings!

*{Speaker}*:

Dittany of Crete, for comfort and wisdom  
Accept this offering!

*{All}*: Accept our offerings!

*{Speaker}*:

Orris root, for blessings and empowerment  
Accept this offering!

*{All}*: Accept our offerings!

*{Speaker}*:

Rosemary, for remembrance Accept this offering!

*{All}*: Accept our offerings!

### 13 The Omen (Mary)

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

### 14 Calling for the Blessings (Nick)

*{Speaker}*:

Ancestors, we have made you welcome at our fire, we have honored you, and we have gifted you with offerings. We await your blessings.

Children of Earth, the ancestors have heard your praise, and have accepted your offerings.

### 15 Hallowing the Blessings (Nick)

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

By the might and wisdom of the sinsearach, our ancestors, 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 (Nick)

*{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

*None*

## 18 Thanking the Kindred (Dale)

*{Speaker}:*

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 (Nick)

*{Speaker}:*

Donn, 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 (Mary)

*{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 (Dale)

*{Speaker}:*

Our rite 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