

Samhain - 2017

Protogrove of the Whispering Spirits

October 28, 2017

1 Offerings

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

- Outdwellers: Ale
- Danu: Steel-cut Oats
- Fire: Incense
- Well: Silver
- Tree: Water from the well
- Donn: Whiskey
- Sídhé: Milk & honey
- Sinsearach: Bread
- Túath dé Dannan: Whiskey
- Sinsearach (Key Offerings): Candles & silence
- Final Sacrifice: Cedar, Poppy seeds, and Rosemary
- Waters of Life: TBD

2 Initiating the Rite (Dale)

{Horn blower}: After all have circled the area blow horn 3 times

{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}:

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 (?)

{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 (?)

{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 (Dale)

{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 (?)

{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 (Dale)

{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!

Donn, accept this offering!

{Speaker}: Places the offering into the fire

{All}:

Donn, accept our offering!

{Speaker}:

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

10.1 Inviting the Nature Spirits (Lisa)

{Speaker}:

Fáilte nature spirits! We make space at our fire for all the Sidhe. The Sprites, Gnomes, and Dryads; Kelpies, Selkies, and Puca. For those who are known, and those forgotten.

Fur, feather, and fin, we welcome you. Nature spirits, accept our offering!

{Sacrificer}: Makes offering

{All}: Response

Nature spirits, accept our offering!

10.2 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.

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

Gods, goddesses, accept our offering!

{Sacrificer}: Makes offering

{All}: Response

Gods, goddesses, accept our offering!

10.3 Inviting the Ancestors (?)

{Offering}: Bread

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Sinsearach. Welcome Ancestors. We make space at our fire for our mighty ancestors, for our honored ancestors, and for our beloved ancestors.

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

Sinsearach, accept our offering.

{Sacrificer}: Makes offering

{All}: Response

Sinsearach, accept our offering!

11 Key Offerings (Laura)

{Assistant}: Passes out candles while speaker talks, then lights them with a taper

{Speaker}:

On this day, we hold space for our ancestors. The ancestors of our blood, the ancestors of our land, and the ancestors, who in times past, have honored our gods and our ways. We call you forward and invite you here to our fire!

On this Samhain, we send out a special invite to those who our country has lost due to a meticulously planned mass murder in Las Vegas, Nevada. On October 1, 2017, the gunman, Stephen Paddock, stole the lives of 58 people and injured over 546 people. We invite those of you who lost your lives that day to our fire.

Today we honor your souls and acknowledge the atrocity that you faced. May you find peace; and as the veil thins, may you find your ancestors here today that can assist you with moving forward and healing. We acknowledge your pain, your loss, its effect on the lives of your families, and the effect on the hearts and minds of our country. You are not forgotten. You will never be forgotten.

We give thanks to all of you who have passed on. We honor the hard work you have done while living. We honor the lessons that you have brought us. We remember you.

Let us take a couple minute of silence to reflect upon those who have past this past year.

Kindred, our offering.

{All}:

Kindred, accept our offering.

{Pause for a couple minutes of silence}

{Speaker}:

As this is Samhain, let us keep the memories of our ancestors alive through our words. If you have a brief story of one who has crossed the veil, please come up and share it with all.

{All}: Wait for everybody to have an opportunity to speak

Now is the time for those gathered here to make offerings to any of the Kindred they desire.

{All}: Time for offerings

{Dale}: Last offering to the forgotten dead

12 Prayer of Sacrifice (Laura)

{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
Ancestors, accept this offering!

{Sacrificer}: Makes offering
{All}:

Ancestors, accept our offerings!

{Speaker}:

Poppy seeds, for peace and comfort
Ancestors, accept this offering!

{Sacrificer}: Makes offering
{All}:

Ancestors, accept our offerings!

{Speaker}:

Rosemary, for remembrance
Ancestors, accept this offering!

{Sacrificer}: Makes offering
{All}:

Ancestors, accept our offerings!

13 The Omen (Rick)

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

14 Calling for the Blessings (?)

{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 (?)

{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 (?)

{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

18.1 Thanking the Ancestors (Laura)

{Speaker}:

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

18.2 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.

18.3 Thanking the Nature Spirits (Lisa)

{Speaker}:

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

19 Closing the Gates (Dale)

{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 (?)

{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 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