

# Spring Equinox - 2017

Protogrove of the Whispering Spirits

June 20, 2017

## 1 Offerings

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

- Guardian/Thor: Mead
- Nerthus: Grain
- Well: Silver the well
- Fire: Incense
- Tree: Water from the well
- Heimdall: Mead
- Landvaettir: Milk
- Ancestors: Bread
- AEsir/Vanir: Apple
- Eostre: Clearing the way
- Final Offering: ?
- Waters of Life: Mead

## 2 Preparing the Space

*TBD*

## 3 Initiating the Rite (Dale)

*{Speaker}: Rings the bell and then speaks*

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.

#### **4 Meditation (Dale)**

#### **5 Outdwellers (Jason)**

*{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to Thor*

Hail Thor! Weilder of Mjölfnir, enemy of the Midgard Serpent, vanquisher of giants, we ask you to guard our ritual. To hold at bay the Jotuns; those who would disrupt our worship, those who act outside our best interests.

Jotuns, beware this day and do not trouble our rite, for amongst us is a mighty warrior of our gods.

Thor, protector of Midgard, accept our offering and aid us.

#### **6 Purification (Kalyn)**

*{Speaker}: Walks around speaking and asperging the attendees*

With the melting of the snow,  
With the warmth of the sun,  
Through the union of fire and water, our Friö-Garør is created.

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.

#### **7 Honoring the Earth Mother (Susan & Ronald)**

*{Picture Bearer}: Following the speaker, walks once around the congregation with the veiled picture while Nerthus is honored*

*{Speaker}:*

Goddess Nerthus, veiled one, you once were carried around the countryside, as we carry an image of you around this circle.

Your face hidden, but you see all;  
Your body hidden, but you feel all;  
Yet your spirit shines brightly for all to see;  
And your body is felt beneath our feet;

*{Speaker}: Speaks and places the grain in the offering bowl*

Nerthus, accept our offerings!

## 8 Statement of Purpose (George)

*{Speaker}:*

We gather together this evening to worship the old gods, and to celebrate the changing of the seasons.

We are here to celebrate Ostara, the holiday dedicated to the goddess Esotere. She is the radiant goddess of the spring that brings the promise of beauty and new life into the world. We gather together to honor her, and make ourselves open to assist in the reawakening of the world.

## 9 Recreating the Cosmos (Dale)

*{Speaker}: Moves to the fire. Speaks then places incense in or lights incense from the fire*

Let this incense sanctify the fire. Let it become a reflection of Muspelheim in our realm.

*{Speaker}: Moves to the water. Speaks then places salt and ice in the water*

Let this salt and ice sanctify the water. Let it become a reflection of Niflheim in our realm.

*{Speaker}: Speaks*

At the dawn of time there was the Ginnungagap, an empty void that divided Muspelheim, the realm of primordial fires, from Niflheim, the realm of eternal ice and snow. Over time, the flames crossed the gap, melted the ice, and formed steam. The steam filled the gap, and from it arose the first beings, and eventually the gods. They then created the remaining realms. Asgard, which is the realm of the Æsir. Vanaheimr, which is the realm of the Vanir. Álfheimr, which is the realm of the elves. Svartálfaheimr, which is the realm of the dwarves. Jötunheimr, which is the realm of the giants. Helheimr, which is the realm of the dead. Finally there is Midgard, the realm of humans.

Growing between Niflheim and Muspelheim is the great tree Yggdrasil. It grows and entwines all the realms within its roots and branches.

*{Speaker}: Moves to the tree. Speaks then sprinkles earth on the tree*

With this earth of Midgard, let this wood be a reflection of Yggdrasil in our realm.

*{Speaker}: Speaks*

Here we stand at the base of Yggdrasil, looking out upon the whole of creation.  
From fire to ice all the realms are bound together into one whole.

## 10 Opening the Gates (Chad)

*{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to the gatekeeper*

Hail Heimdall! Guardian of Asgard who is ever watchful, we call to you to join us.

You who hear the grass grow, and see far, we call to you to join us.

You who stand watch at Bifröst, we call to you to join us and accept this offering!

*{Speaker}: Speaks*

Heimdall, lend your might and magic to us and aid us in opening the gates between the worlds. From Musphelheim to Niflheim, and all realms in-between, connect these hallows to all that Yggdrasil binds together.

Let the gates be opened!

*{All}:*

Let the gates be opened!

### 10.1 Inviting the Nature Spirits (Laura)

*{Speaker}:*

Hail Landvaettir!

We make space at our fire for the spirits of this land, of its plants and trees, its birds and beasts and its waters.

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*

Landvaettir, accept our offering.

*{Speaker}: Places the offering next to the World Tree*

## 10.2 Inviting the Ancestors (Nick)

*{Speaker}:*

Hail Alfar and Disir.

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*

Alfar and Disir, accept our offering.

*{Speaker}: Places offering next to the Well*

### 10.3 Inviting the Gods (Chad)

*{Speaker}:*

Hail AEsir and Vanir!

We make space at our fire 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.

*{Speaker}: Pours offering into the fire*

### 11 Key Offerings (Laura)

*{Speaker}:*

Hail Idunn!

We make space at our fire for the goddess who tends the orchards in Asgard.

We honor you,

We honor you, oh generous and trusting goddess who slights not even Loki.

We honor you, oh goddess who nurtures the golden apples that grants youth and vitality to the gods.

? Offering of honey... bees are required to pollenate apple trees.

### 12 Prayer of Sacrifice (Kalyn)

*{Speaker}:*

Eostre, on this day we celebrate the life and love you have returned to us. We celebrate, along with all the kindred, the growth of this life and rejoice in the magic that cascades and dances around us.

Accept this final offering. May our words and thoughts be carried to your ears.

Eostre, accept this offering!

*{All}:*

Eostre, accept this offering!

### 13 The Omen (Laura)

*{Speaker}: To the oracle*

Oracle, are our offerings accepted?

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

### 14 Calling for the Blessings (Dale)

*{Speaker}:*

O 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.

### 15 Hallowing the Blessings (Dale)

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

By the landvaettir and the ancestors, by the AEsir and the Vanir, by the new light and life that has returned to us through Eostre, hallowed are these waters.

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

Behold the Waters of Life!

### 16 Affirming the Blessings (Dale)

*{Speaker, then remaining worshipers}: Raises the horn, speaks then drinks (or pours a small amount in 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 of the Kindred.

### 17 Workings

*Jason, Kalyn and Laura's Initial Oaths*

### 18 Thanking the Kindred (Laura, Nick, Chad)

*{Speaker}:*

We have given our worship and have been blessed this day by the Kindred. As we move about in our lives, remember that all the worlds are connected through Yggdrasil, and the blessings of the Kindred flow within you.

*{Speaker}*:

Eostre, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may your touch upon us, help spread your radiance into the world.

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

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

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

We thank you!

## 19 Closing the Gates (Chad)

*{Speaker}*:

Hemidall, our worship draws to a close. By your might and ours, let us end what we began.

Let the gates be closed!

*{All}*:

Let the gates be closed!

*{Speaker}*:

Let the well be water. Let the fire be flame.

The world has been restored.

## 20 Thanking the Earth Mother (Susan & Ronald)

*{Picture Bearer}*: *Walks once around the congregation with the veiled picture while Nerthus is thanked*

*{Speaker}*:

Nerthus, veiled you came and veiled you go. Just as the earth is mysterious so too are you.

*{Speaker}*: *Speaks, then empties the well onto the earth.*



From you came this water, and unto you this water shall return.

Thank you, and farewell.

*{All}*:

Thank you, and farewell.

## 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.

*{Speaker}*: Rings the bell

End of Rite