

Summer Solstice - 2015

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June 9, 2015

1 Offerings

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

- Guardian/Thor: Mead (if available), else beer (Jeremiah)
- Nerthus: Grain (Mary)
- Well: Silver the well (Jeremiah)
- Fire: Incense (Jeremiah)
- Tree: Water from the well (Jeremiah)
- Heimdall: Mead (Dale)
- Landvaettir: Milk (Wade)
- Ancestors: Bread (Wade)
- AEsir/Vanir: Apple (Wade)
- Baldr: Quartz/Herkimer Diamond (Dale)
- Final Offering: Whiskey (Jeremiah)
- Waters of Life: Mead (Dale)

2 Initiating the Rite (Nick & Mary)

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

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

{Nick}: 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 Meditation (Nick)

4 Outdwellers (Jeremiah)

{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to Thor

Hail Thor! Weilder of Mjöltnir, 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.

5 Purification (Nick & Jeremiah)

{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 in tune with your surroundings. As the water falls on you may it bring peace and purity of purpose. We have made sacred this space that we may worship and honor the Kindred as one.

{Jeremiah}: Walking behind the speaker, asperge the attendees with a tree branch (or a bouquet of flowers) dipped in the well

6 Honoring the Earth Mother (Mary, Nick & Jeremiah)

{Jeremiah}: Walks around with bowl of grain for participants to take

{Nick}: Following Jeremiah, 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 fire

Nerthus, accept our offerings!

{All}: Speaks and places the grain in the fire

Nerthus, accept our offering!

7 Statement of Purpose (Nick)

{Speaker}:

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

Baldr, Odin's son, his light and life was cut short. We remember him at the solstice, near the day of the greatest light.

Let us reflect on the light and happiness in our world. Revel in this time of light and warmth for it will not last. This is the eternal cycle of the sun.

8 Recreating the Cosmos (Jeremiah)

{Speaker}: *Moves to the bowl. Speaks then places silver in the well*

Let this silver sanctify the water. Though deep within the roots of Yggdrasil you are. Let these Waters become the well of Mimir. May the knowledge you grant enlighten us. *{Speaker}*: *Moves to the fire. Speaks then places herbs in the fire*

Let these herbs sanctify the fire.

Through the flames comes transformation. Let this fire becomes Bifrost. May you transport our words and offerings to the gods.

{Speaker}: *Moves to the tree or bile. Speaks then pours some water from the well onto the tree/bile*

Let the water from the well of Mimir sanctify this wood.

Transform now to Yggdrasil. Through you the 9 realms are connected.

{Speaker}:

We are gathered here, in Midgard, at the base of Yggdrasil.

9 Opening the Gates (Dale)

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

Hail Heimdall! Hear us! See us!

Guardian of Asgard, ever watchful. You who hear the grass grow, and see far, lend your might to ours and assist us to open the gates between the worlds.

Let the gates be opened!

{All}:

Let the gates be opened!

10 Inviting the Kindred (Wade)

10.1 Inviting the Nature Spirits

{Speaker}:

Welcome 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.

Landvaettir, accept our 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

10.2 Inviting the Ancestors

{Speaker}:

Welcome Alfar and Disir.

We make space at our fire for our mighty ancestors, for our honored ancestors, and for our beloved ancestors.

Alfar and Disir, accept our 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

10.3 Inviting the Gods

{Speaker}:

Welcome AEsir and Vanir!

We make space at our fire for the gods of our people, and the gods of this land.

Gods, goddesses, accept our 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

11 Key Offerings (Dale)

{Speaker}:

Hail Baldr!

You who is the fairest to look upon and fairer yet of tongue, we welcome you.

You who is the most noble and honorable of the gods, we welcome you.

Baldr, we welcome you to our fire, O radiant one.

While you feast in Helheim, know that we haven't forgotten you. We welcome your memory to our fire, if you cannot come yourself.

We are near the solstice and the sun shines long, almost the longest day of the year. But like all things in nature, it won't last. Today is longer than yesterday, but soon the days will be shorter. While the sun is long in the sky, and will be for many weeks, daytime will be slowly dying, just as Baldr, the joy, light and happiness of the gods died.

This story begins with a dream, or more correctly a nightmare...

Tell story of Baldr

The story of Baldr isn't over, for, while confined to Helheim, he still exists. Death isn't the end, not even for our gods, and when the time is right, when the world is dark and needs him, he shall return and bring with him the light of hope.

{Speaker}: Shows the crystal to everybody

This crystal is a symbol of our tears for the loss of Baldr and the sun.

Let us tone, our joy and happiness for the sun into it and in turn it will pass into the well and to Helheim as gift to Baldr.

{Speaker}: Starts and holds a tone, as he slowly walks around the circle

{Speaker}: Speaks and drops the crystal into the well

Baldr, accept our offerings.

{All}:

Baldr, accept our offering!

{Speaker}: Speaks

Now is the time for anybody who would like to make an offering to Balder or one of their own kindred.

12 Prayer of Sacrifice (Jeremiah)

{Speaker}:

Balder, we have heard your story, and made offerings to you. Let the fire consume this final offering and transport it to you.

{Speaker}: Speaks and places the offering in the fire

Balder, accept our offering

{All}:

Accept our offering

13 The Omen (Mary)

{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 light,
joy and grander of Baldr, 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 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 (Nick & Wade)

{Speaker (Nick)}:

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 (Wade)}:

Baldr, we thank you for sharing our fire, and while we honor you, may the events that herald your return be far in the future.

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 (Dale)

{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 (Mary & Nick)

{Nick}: 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 (Nick)

{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.

{Mary}: Blow horn 3 times

End of Rite