

Summer Solstice - 2017

Protogrove of the Whispering Spirits

June 25, 2017

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 (Jason)
- Nerthus: Grain (Lisa)
- Well: Silver (Dale)
- Fire: Incense (Rick)
- Tree: Water from the well
- Heimdall: Mead (Dale)
- Landvaettir: Milk/Cream (Lisa)
- Ancestors: Bread (Ronald)
- AEsir/Vanir: Apple (Rick)
- Sunna: Oil (Laura)
- Final Offering: Poem (Laura)
- Waters of Life: Mead (Dale)

2 Initiating the Rite (Dale/Lisa)

{Singer}: We Approach the Sacred Grove by Sean Miller

{Speaker}: 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.

3 Meditation (Lisa)

Tree Meditation by Karl F. Steinmayor (c) 1986. *Druids Progress #4* pp. 123-124.

4 Outdwellers (Jason)

{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 (Ronald)

{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.

{Assistant}: *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 (Lisa)

{Assistant 1}: *Walks around with with bowl of grain for participants to take*

{Assistant 2}: *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 (Laura)

{Speaker}:

We gather here today in worship of the Old Gods. In doing so we acknowledge the warmth and light that the Goddess Sunna has bestowed upon us. Her brightness, her heat, has warmed our farmer's fields, our personal gardens, and our hearts and minds as we moved forward from spring.

The first seeds of spring have been planted and our final seeds should have long been planted in preparation for a successful harvest. Our hard work and planning has been warmed by Sunna's blazing presence. Fertility of our land, minds, and hearts proceed, leading us in the coming months to our first harvest.

In following Sunna's blazing path, we celebrate that our earth's sun is at its peak and soon her blaze will begin to wane from our sight as she travels to the other side of our earth. So here we are to give praise to Sunna and give thanks for returning to us once again. We honor her strength and beauty as she drives her blazing chariot across the sky escaping the treacherous wolf who hunts her path.

8 Recreating the Cosmos (Lisa/Rick)

{Singer}: Portal Song by Ian Corrigan

{Assistant}: Moves to the bowl. After "... , and silver we bring" place the silver in the well.

{Assistant}: Moves to the fire. After "... , and offering pour" pours some oil into the fire.

{Assistant}: Moves to the tree or bile. Sprinkles water from the well on it.

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!

9.1 Inviting the Nature Spirits (Lisa)

{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

9.2 Inviting the Ancestors (Ronald)

{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

9.3 Inviting the Gods (Rick)

{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

10 Key Offerings (Laura)

{Speaker}:

Shining Sunna, sister of Mani, driver of the chariot of the sun. You ride across the sky, illuminating the world, bringing warmth and growth to all living things. Today, you ride your highest in the sky, showing your strength and beauty! Radiant Sunna, goddess of the sun, you ride fast, for the wolf Skoll chases you, wishing to extinguish your life-giving light, but it is not this day. Today you shine strongest across all of Midgard, giving hope, life, and light to all.

Sunna, I honor you this day and ask that you be with us in our rite. Sunna accept this offering!

(written by Mike Kaan)

{All}: pours oil into the fire

11 Prayer of Sacrifice (Laura)

{Speaker}:

An Invocation to Sunna

Hail Sunna!

Golden-glowing goddess,

Shining lady of the heavens,

Driver of the chariot of the sun,

Whose flaming wheel gives light and life to all!

I honor you this day for the life and warmth you give,

For without your light

We could not live.

And although this is the darkest night,

Tomorrow brings your renewed light,

As you ascend in strength and height

Into the shining sky.

(written by Mike Kaan)

12 The Omen (Rick)

{Speaker}: To the oracle

Oracle, were our offerings accepted?

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

13 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.

14 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, and warmth of Sunna, hallowed are these waters.

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

Behold the Waters of Life!

15 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.

16 Workings

None

16.1 Thanking the Deity Of The Occasion (Laura)

{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.

Sunna, we thank you for the light and warmth you bring to our lives.

16.2 Thanking the Gods (Rick)

{Speaker}:

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

16.3 Thanking the Ancestors (Ronald)

{Speaker}:

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

16.4 Thanking the Nature Spirits (Lisa)

{Speaker}:

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

{All}:

We thank you!

17 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.

18 Thanking the Earth Mother (Lisa)

{Assistant}: *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.

19 Closing the Rite (Dale/Lisa)

Tree Meditation (Closing) by Karl F. Steinmayor (c) 1986. Druids Progress #4 pp. 123–124

{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.

{Singer}: Walk with Wisdom, by Sable

20 Music

20.1 We Approach The Sacred Grove

We Approach the Sacred Grove by Sean Miller

We approach the sacred grove,
With hearts and minds and flesh and bone,
Join us now in ways of old,
We have come home.

20.2 Walk With Wisdom

Walk With Wisdom by Sable

Walk with wisdom from this hallowed place.
Walk not in sorrow, our roots shall ere embrace.
May strength be your brother, and honor be your friend,
And luck be your lover until we meet again.

20.3 Portal Song

Portal Song by Ian Corrigan

CHORUS

By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky.
We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.

Come we now to the Well, the eye and the mouth of Earth,
Come we now to the Well, and silver we bring,
Come we now to the Well, the waters of rebirth,
Come we now to the Well, together we sing:

CHORUS

We will kindle a Fire, Bless all, and with harm to none,
We will kindle a Fire, and offering pour,
We will kindle a Fire, A light 'neath the Moon & Sun,
We will kindle a fire, our spirits will soar.

CHORUS

Gather we at the Tree, the root & the crown of all,
Gather we at the Tree, Below & above,
Gather we at the Tree, Together we make our call,
Gather we at the Tree, In wisdom & love.

CHORUS (with gusto)

End of Rite