

ADF Upper Midwest Retreat - 2018

Revision 1

Protogrove of the Whispering Spirits

11 May 2018

1. Offerings

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

- ◇ Outdwellers: Ale
- ◇ Purification: Water & Incense
- ◇ Earth Mother: Pinhead Oats
- ◇ Fire: Incense
- ◇ Well: Silver
- ◇ Tree: Water from the Well and Incense lit in the Fire
- ◇ Gatekeeper: Apple
- ◇ Gods: Whisky
- ◇ Nature Spirits: Bread
- ◇ Ancestors: Bread
- ◇ Kindred: Whisky
- ◇ Final Sacrifice: Dried Herbs
- ◇ Waters of Life: Mead

2. Initiating the Rite

{Drummer}: Drum as participants circle around the area

{Horn Blower}: After all have circled the area and the drum stops, blow horn 3 times

*{Speaker}: Speaks after horn call**

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}: Moves just outside the perimeter

Outdwellers!

You who come from the wild places,
 You who are the raw untamed forces of nature,
 You who's goals do not align with ours, Take this and trouble not our work.

{Speaker}: Leave offering outside of the ritual space

4. Purification

{Speaker}:

As you go into the ritual area, please stop at the basin where our assistant will pour water over your hands.

May the water flowing over your hands carry away all impurities.

{Purifier}: Pours water over the hands of participants before they enter the ritual area

5. Meditation

{Bard}: Tree Meditation Song

6. Honoring the Earth Mother

{Assistant}: Distribute grain to participants while speaker is speaking

{Speaker}:

Throughout the aeons, you have been here,
You have nourished life,
You have supported us!

Throughout the ages, we have known you,
We have given you many names,
We have honored you!

In our actions, we respect you!
In our words, we praise you!
From our hands, we offer up to you!

{All}: Place grain in the fire

7. Statement of Purpose

{Speaker}:

Welcome! Today we open the fourth annual ADF Upper Midwest Regional Retreat.

We have come together in peace and understanding, if not in friendship. We share common goals, to learn from each other, to share our stories and our experiences, and build new friendships.

Let us open this weekend and connect us to one another with a shared communion with the kindred.

8. Recreating the Cosmos

{Speaker}: Moves to the fire

To the flame, with this incense let you be sanctified and transcend the limits of this world. You are now The Sacred Fire; our connection to the heavens and the gods.

{Speaker}: The offering is placed in the fire. Moves to the well

Cauldron of water, With this silver, let you be sanctified 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

9. Opening the Gates

{Speaker}: Looking into the fire

Walker of the Ways, who passes between the mists, and travels the paths of the World Tree. In some lands, you have guided our ancestor's spirits to the next world, and in others you stand watch over the ways.

Through the Sacred Fire, we call to you.

{All}:

Walker of the Ways, hear us!

{Speaker}: Looking into the well

In the depths of the Sacred Well, we look for you.

{All}:

Walker of the Ways, see us!

{Speaker}: Touching the tree

Along the branches of the World Tree, we seek you.

{All}:

Walker of the Ways, find us!

{Speaker}:

Accept our offering, and let the gates be open!

{All}:

Let the gates be opened!

10. Inviting the Kindred

10.1. Inviting the Ancestors

{Speaker}:

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.

Ancestors, accept our offering.

{Speaker}: Places offering next to the Well

{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}:

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.

You who have dwelled in this land before man, who protect it, who nurture it.

Nature Spirits, accept our offering.

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

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

10.3. Inviting the Shining Ones

{Speaker}:

Welcome Shining Ones! We make space at our fire for the Shining Ones, 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.

Shining Ones, accept our offering.

{Speaker}: Pours offering into the fire

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

11. Key Offerings

{Speaker}:

Kindred all!
From the ancestors long forgotten, to the heroes who are remembered still,
From the spirits of place, to the fair folk,
From the gods whose names have been lost, to those who's stories are still told.

Kindred, join us in the friendship that we have come together in.
Let us come to understand you better, as we come to know each other, and ourselves better.

Let us entice you with our thoughts and memories of you:

{All}: Share brief story of your involvement with one of the Kindred

{Speaker}:

Kindred, as our memories of you are vivid and full, so too is your presence in this world!

12. Prayer of Sacrifice

{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to the Kindred

Nature Spirits, Ancestors, Gods and Goddesses, accept our offerings.

13. The Omen

{Speaker}: To the oracle

Oracle, what blessings do The Kindred bestow on us for this retreat?

{Oracle}: Draws and interprets The Omen

14. Calling for the Blessings

{Speaker}:

Kindred, we have made you welcome at our fire and have honored you. We have told stories of you and gifted you with offerings.

We ask you to share your giftss with us, as we have shared ours with you. Bring forth the Waters of Life!

{All}:

Bring forth the Waters of Life!

15. Hallowing the Blessings

{Speaker}: Fills the horn then speaks.

By those kindred present; the ancestors who have traveled before us, the spirits that walk beside us, and our gods who light the way. Hallowed are these waters!

From this horn our thirst be sated and the blessings of the kindred accepted.

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

No planned workings

18. Thanking the Kindred

18.1. Thanking the Shining Ones

{Speaker}:

Shining Ones, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may our relationship with you continue to deepen.

18.2. Thanking the Nature Spirits

{Speaker}:

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

18.3. Thanking the Ancestors

{Speaker}:

Ancestors, 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

{Speaker}:

Our ritual nears its end, and we restore the world to what it was before.

Walker of the Ways, accept this offering, and aid us once more. Close the gates between the worlds!

{All}:

Let the gates be closed!

{Speaker}: Touches the tree

Once again you travel along the World Tree, but this is no longer the world tree. Farewell.

{Speaker}: Looks into the well

Once again you peer out through the Sacred Well, but this is no longer the Sacred Well. Farewell.

{Speaker}: Looks into the fire

Once again you hear us through the Sacred Fire, but this is no longer the Sacred Fire. Farewell.

The world has been restored.

20. Thanking the Earth Mother

{Speaker}: Distribute grain to participants

In the coming aeons, you will be here!
In the coming ages, we will honor you!
In our actions, we continue to respect you!

Accept all we have not offered, and let it return to the earth.

{Speaker}: Offer up any unused offerings

21. Closing the Rite

{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