

Blessing Rite for St. Patrick's Day Sassafras Grove, ADF

Purification

Participants are blessed with earth, water, and sky (incense).

Musical Signal

Nine Knells

Opening prayer

AN-SHO LESH, NA D'JEE-HA AH'ADRUAH We come to honor the blessed ones.

Acknowledging the Outsiders

Invocation to the Bardic Patrons: Oghma

Oghma, Sunface, wordsmith of the gods
Honeyed words fall from your tongue
Tinkling as golden chains
Holding us enraptured in
Your shining presence.

Oghma, Honey-tongue, radiant bard
We seek the bountiful boon of your blessing
Sweeten our words and
Brighten our countenance
As we prepare to call to the Holy Ones
Oghma, Cermait, accept our offering!
Oghmah, Grianainech, grant us your grace.
(Diane "Emerald" Bronowicz)

Make Offering

Honoring the Earth Mother: Danu

Hail Danu,
First Mother
River Mother
Earth Mother

From far across the Atlantic sea
We children of the West call to you
Your land is our land

Your body is our body
Your waters flow in our veins
We honor you,
Mother of Ireland
Mother of the Gods
Mother of our tribe
We praise you for your Bounty
We praise you for your Spirit
We praise for your History
Earth Mother, Sovereign Lady
We give thanks to you with all due faith. (*Maria Stoy*)

Touch or kiss the ground/floor.

Ground and Center

Someone leads a “Two Powers” meditation.

Statement of Intent

Before Patrick
Before Pelegious
Before Rome

In the beginning of days
In the time before time
In the age of myth
The Shining Ones came to Ireland

The Tuatha de Dannan,
Children of Danu
Mighty Warriors
Sweet tongued bards
Fearsome lovers,
Were honored by the folk.

Today, a day so often darkened by irreverence, politics and prejudice,
We unite to honor these Ancient Gods and Goddesses.

We honor our ancestors
Those who gave us flesh and blood
That we might walk in this world of form
Those whose examples have lit the torch
That guides us on our path
And especially the Ancient Wise
Druids, Bards and Ovates

Priests, story-tellers and seers
Whose ways inspire our ways
And whose tradition we seek to uphold

We likewise honor the spirits of this world
Those of fur, feather, and fin
And the Sidhe, the Fair Folk
Who dwell with one foot in this world
And one foot in the Otherworld.

We come together as a grove, a community
To make offerings
To offer praise
To remember... (*Maria Stoy*)

Recreation of the Cosmos

All sing "The Portal Song"

Sacrificer makes offering to the Well (silver)
Sacrificer makes offering to the Fire (incense)
Sacrificer asperges and censes the Tree

Creation Myth:

Who are we? From whence do we come? What is the story of our people?

Not hard..

A great misty cloud had gathered together in the void
Swirling and spiraling; spiraling and swirling
Drawing ever-in upon itself.
At its center a radiance shone forth
And drove outward the surrounding cloud
Gathering the waters together here below.
And so it was that the stuff of creation drew apart
To form the Fire Above
And the Waters Below.
The Solar Fire warmed the Cauldron of Creation
And stroked upon its waters with thunderbolts
And begat upon it Life.
And the Life begat the Creatures
And the Creatures begat the Ancestors
And the Ancestors begat Us-- the Living People.
Upright like you, Great Tree
We bear upon us the mark of Creation

Then, now, and for all time.
Rooted in the ancestral waters of the World Below,
Spanning this Middle-World of form
And reaching ever-upward to embrace the Fire Above.

Sacred Tree, grow within us!.
The Well, the Fire, the Sacred Tree
Flow and flame and grow in me! (**All** repeat) (Earrach of Pittsburgh)

Gatekeeper Invocation: Manannan Mac Lir

Sanctified we stand at the Center of the World, in the might of the water and light of the fire. As our Gatekeeper for this rite, we call upon Manannan Mac Lir. We begin by calling forth his image and holding it fast within our minds.

At first all we see is mist. . . a deep, thick fog rolling in from the sea, strengthened by the salty spray. Slowly it begins to part, and you see a man moving toward you in a glittering chariot pulled across the waves by a magnificent white mare. You see him clearly now, tall and broad-shouldered, with flowing white hair and beard, draped in a bright blue mantle, with eyes the color of the sea. A smile plays upon his lips as if he knows a private joke, yet his sun-browned face portrays a fatherly kindness. At his waist hangs his famous Crane Bag whose bottomless depth holds many treasures, and he clutches a great sword whose name is whispered to you on the wind. .
."Answerer."

Manannan: Son of the Sea! (make offering of honey?)

Manannan: Lord of the Gentle Land! (make offering of apples)

Manannan: Traverser of Waves and Ways! (make offering of apple juice?)

Through the mists of time we call to you
Across the vastness of the ocean we call to you
Within our hearts that keep the old ways, we call to you

Sanctified we stand at the center of the world
In the light Fire with the flow of the Well
Help us now to cross the Veil
That we may see Way Between

The Gates are open!

All- The Gates are open (*Diane "Emerald" Bronowicz*)

Invocations and Offerings to the Three Kindred

Nature Spirits

We call to the Spirits with whom we share this world
To all of the creatures of water, wood and wind
Essence of flower, seed, cone and spore
The power that flows through shell, stone, and sand
You of spring, grove, and hill, and all the holy places
You of the Sidhe who hold court just beyond our mortal sight
Powers fey and powers tame, powers dark and powers bright
Worldly Spirits: Hail and Welcome! (*Diane "Emerald" Bronowicz*)

Make group offering.

Each person now makes a personal offering to the Nature Spirits as called to do so.

Ancestors

We call to the Ancestors without whom we would not be
Those of our blood, we lived so that we may live
The heroes whose tales of greatness inspire our own great deeds
And to the Ancient Wise. . .
Our namesakes, the Druids
Magicians and Priests
Bards and Seers
Artists and Healers. . .Keepers of Knowledge and Defenders of the ways
We open our hearts and our minds to your wisdom
as we once again kindle the flame.
Ancestors: Hail and Welcome! (*Diane "Emerald" Bronowicz*)

Make group offering.

Each person makes a personal offering to the Ancestors as called to do so.

Deities

We call to the Tuatha De Danann, the gods of Eire
You whose names we know from the tales of your mighty deeds
You whose names survive in those of rivers, hills, and towns
And you whose names are lost to the ages but whose power still flows
through the fair, green land.
Tuatha De Danann, we call to you! (all repeat)

And we call to the Irish gods most often honored by our Grove
Lugh of the shining spear, all-skilled, long-armed king
Dagda of the mighty club, All-Father, keeper of the cauldron of plenty
Brighid of the nine aspects, beloved foster-mother and Patron of Sassafra's Grove

Though many have forgotten you, we still remember

Though many know you not at all, we seek to know you better.
Tuatha De Danann, gods of Eire: Hail and Welcome! (*Diane "Emerald" Bronowicz*)

Make group offering.

Each person makes a personal offering to the Tuatha de Danann as called to do so.

Conclusionary Sacrifice: Food

Prayer of Sacrifice : Mighty Kindreds, accept our offering!

All: Mighty Kindreds, accept our offering!

Omen

Seer takes the omen with Ogham or other method as seems appropriate.

Asking for and Hallowing the Blessings

Mighty Kindreds, you have offered us your blessings of _____ (based on omen). May theses fall into these waters, that your gifts might flow through all who drink of them.

All

Give to us the Waters of Blessing! Give to us the Waters of Life!

Affirmation of the Blessings

Farewell to the Kindred

Deities

We call to the Tuatha De Danann, the gods of Eire
Lugh, Dagda, Brighid
Those whose names we know
And those who's names are lost to time
We thank you for the gifts you have bestowed.
Though we leave this sacred space
We will keep the ancient promise
You will not be forgotten
Go if you must, stay if you will
And may there peace between us now and always.
Shining Ones, hail and farewell! [**All** repeat] (*Diane "Emerald" Bronowicz*)

Ancestors

Ancestors of Blood and of tradition
We thank you for the gifts you have bestowed.
Though we leave this sacred space
We will keep the ancient promise
You will not be forgotten
Go if you must, stay if you will
And may there peace between us now and always.
Ancestors, hail and farewell! [**All** repeat] (*Diane “Emerald” Bronowicz*)

Nature Spirits

Worldly Spirits, Powers of the Land
Powers of the Sidhe-folk
We thank you for the gifts you have bestowed.
Though we leave this sacred space
We will keep the ancient promise
You will not be forgotten
Go if you must, stay if you will
And may there peace between us now and always.
Worldly Spirits, hail and farewell! [**All** repeat] (*Diane “Emerald” Bronowicz*)

Closing the Gates

Farewell to the Gatekeeper

Restoration of the Ordinary

Let the Well be Water
Let the Fire be but Flame
We’ve been touched by the magic of the sacred Tree
We will never be the same. (*Diane “Emerald” Bronowicz*)
Bíodh sé amhlaidh!

Regrounding/Centering

Someone leads the group in a reverse “Two Powers” meditation.

Thanking the Earth Mother

Danu,
First Mother
River Mother
Earth Mother
For all you have done

For all that you do
We offer our promise
To walk softly on the Earth your body
And remember with gratitude
The bounty you bestow.
Hail Danu! (*Maria Stoy*)

[**All** repeat]

Touch or kiss the ground/floor or any representation you may have of the Earth Mother.

Thanking the Bardic Patrons

Oghma, Honey-tongue, radiant bard
We thank you for the blessings you have given
Honesty, eloquence, beauty
As we prepare to leave this sacred space
May we carry with us some measure of your grace
Oghma, we thank you. Hail and Farewell (*Diane "Emerald" Bronowicz*)

Closing Prayer

As it has been done in the past...
As we have done it now...
And as it likewise will be done in the future...
We have again forged a link in the sacred chain of Tradition...
LONG LIVE THE TRADITION! (**All** repeat)

Musical Signal

Nine Knells

End of Rite