

1st Phase

Starting the Rite and Establishing the Groupmind

Clearcut Beginning: Consecration of Time

Musical Signal

Bard rings the bell, thrice three times

Opening Prayer

Ritual Leader: Shining Ones, we gather this day, folk from different communities, different paths, different yet united in the common cause of worshipping as we will.

Gathered in unity, we honor you, gods and goddesses of our ancestors!

The waters support and surround us.
The land extends about us.
The sky stretches above us.
At the center burns a living flame.

Let us pray with a good fire.
May all the kindred bless us.
May our worship be true.
May our actions be just.
May our love be pure.
Blessings and honor and worship to the holy ones.

B'odh s' amhlaidh!

All: B'odh s' amhlaidh!

Consecration of Space & of Participants

The processional

All folk process 3x 'round the area singing the processional. Bard leads the folk in the processional song

All: We approach the sacred grove with hearts and minds and flesh and bones
Join us now in ways of old - we have come home

Purification(s) of Participants

Bard: We cleanse ourselves and our space for our work this day!

Waterkeeper: With water from our Mother Earth, I cleanse thee for this days' work.
Purification(s) of Site

Firekeeper: With smoke from the sacred fire, I cleanse the Nemeton for this day's work.

Ritual Leader: The Nemeton is cleansed and all within are holy!

B'odh sé amhlaidh!

All: B'odh sé amhlaidh!

Honoring the Earth-Mother

Bard: We honor the earth mother!

Earth mother song - all sing

O Danu, we sing to your body

O Danu, we sing to your stones

O Danu, we honor your body

O Danu, we honor your bones.

Ritual Leader:

Earth-Mother, we thank thee
for flowing plains
for deep forests
for towering mountains

Earth-Mother, we thank thee
for raging rivers
for calm lakes
for bountiful seas

Earth-Mother, we thank thee
for billowing clouds
for blue skies
for fresh air

Earth-Mother, we offer to you that which you have given us:
flesh (offers corn meal to the offering well)
and blood (offers oil to the offering well)
that you might be strengthened.

Danu, accept our sacrifice!

All: Danu, accept our sacrifice!

Centering, Grounding, & Merging

Unity Chant/Song

Bard: Together, we come!

All: Together, we come
To kindle the flame
To pour the waters
To nurture the tree

Together we come
To walk the land
To swim the sea
To soar the sky

Together, we come
To praise the esprits
To honor our Ancestors
To worship our Gods

Together, we come.

Specification of Ritual Purpose & Historical Precedent

Bard: We give the reason for the gathering.

Ritual Leader: As our ancestors did before us, so do we now, and so will our children in their time. We are here to celebrate a gathering - a gathering of like-minded folks from different paths. We are here to show unity to each other, to the world, and to the gods and goddesses. Differences exist - any time you have more than one person gathered there will be differences. But we put those differences aside and gather as brethren, and to celebrate the diversity that is modern Paganism.

Naming Deity(ies) of the Occasion & Reasons for Choice

Bard: We name the deities of the occasion!

Ritual Leader: This day we honor all the gods and goddesses, but in particular we honor Mannanan MacLir and Brigid. Mannanan MacLir we honor for bringing our newfound friends to this wonderful gathering and for seeing them home safely. Brigid we honor as the goddess of the hearth and home, as we are all home, if only for a while today.

2nd Phase

Recreating the Cosmos and Preliminary Power Raising

Creating the Vertical Axis

Bard: The fire, the water, the tree!

Firekeeper: Fire is the spark of inspiration. Sacred fire, burn in me!

All: Sacred fire, burn in me!

Waterkeeper: Water is the source of wisdom. Sacred water flow in me!

All: Sacred water flow in me!

Ritual Leader: The world tree is our connection to all the worlds. Sacred tree, grow in me!

All: Sacred tree, grow in me!

Ritual Leader: Let every light and every shadow proclaim it. Let the kindred of the earth, the sea, and the sky acknowledge it. Let it be known by our honored ancestors, the spirits of this land, and by the gods and goddesses themselves - by our will we claim this ground as holy. By the reflection of the sacred fire in the three worlds and in honor to the Shining Ones, we establish the sacred Nemeton!

Bíodh sé amhlaidh!

All: Bíodh sé amhlaidh!

Opening the gates

Bard: We open the gates between the worlds!

Ritual Leader: Mannanan MacLir, overgod of the Tuatha, god of wisdom, keeper of the gates between the worlds, we ask that you open the gates that the Shining Ones might join us in our celebration!

Osclaítear na geataí!

Let the gates be opened!

All: Let the gates be opened!

Gaining Assistance & Preventing Interferences

Invocation of the Imbas

Bard: We invoke the Imbas!

Inspiration flowing free

Inspiration flow in me
Bring the words that move the earth
Words and music have their worth
Imbas, fount of bardic skill
Give the words that speak our will.
Honor to the Mighty Ones.
Honor to the Noble Ones.
Honor to the Shining Ones.
B'odh sé amhlaidh!

All: B'odh sé amhlaidh!

Acknowledgement of the Outsiders

Bard: We acknowledge and banish the Outdwellers!

Ritual Leader: Outdwellers! You who strive against man and god! Take this offering and trouble not our rite this day.

And as we acknowledge and banish the outdwellers, so, too, do we acknowledge that within us that would trouble our work this day and this, too, we banish for a time.

Filling Out the Cosmic Picture by Invoking..

Nature Spirits, Ancestors, Deities in Three Worlds

Bard: We invite the guests!

Firekeeper: Honored Ancestors, Mighty Ones, you who live in the Otherworld, your kin call to you!

Mighty Ones, join us!

All: Mighty Ones, join us!

Waterkeeper: Honored land spirits, Noble Ones, you who dwell in nature, your allies call to you!

Noble Ones, join us!

All: Noble Ones, join us!

Ritual Leader: Honored gods and goddesses, Shining Ones, you who live behind the veil, your children call to you!

Shining Ones, join us!

All: Shining Ones, join us!

3rd Phase

Major Sending of Power to Deity/ies of the Occasion

Descriptive Invocation of Diety(ies) of the Occasion

Bard:

Ocean Sweeper's Captain,
Answerer's hand,
Aonbarr's master.
Come, Mannanan!
All: Come, Mannanan!

Bard:

God of wisdom,
God of the sea,
Overgod of the Tuatha!
Come Mannanan!
All: Come, Mannanan!

Bard:

Dagda's Daughter,
Bres' Wife,
First to keen.
Come Bridgit!

All: Come, Bridgit!

Bard:

Goddess of Hearth,
Goddess of Forge,
Goddess of Healing,
Come Bridgit!

All: Come, Bridgit!

Hail Mannanan!

All: Hail Mannanan!

Hail Bridgit!

All:Hail Bridgit!

Primary Power Raising

Praise Offerings, Dance, Libations, etc.

Bard: We make our offerings to the gods and goddesses!

Ritual Leader: Are there any here who have praise offerings to make? If so, please come forward one at a time to do so. And while they offer, we dance in offering to the Shining Ones!
Bard starts the dance music. After a time, the music dies down.

The Sacrifice

Ritual leader: We offer now to Mannanan and to Bridgit. Come take a small handful of petals and drop them into the bowl. As you make your offering to the bowl, chant the town you are from. As we reach the apex of the chant, I will offer the leaves to the Shining Ones.

Mannanan MacLir, Bridgit, we have gathered today in a show of unity. One of heart and mind and soul. We come from different paths, yet we stand together, brothers and sisters all. Take this offering, that the fellowship we hold here will stay with us when we leave.

Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

All: Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

4th Phase Receiving and Using the Returned Power

Reception of Power from Deity(ies) of the Occasion

Bard: We ask an omen of the Shining Ones and we seek their blessings!

Seeking the Omen of Return (Seer takes the rune)

Consecration of the cups

Ritual Leader: Mannanan MacLir, Bridgit, bless these cups that our works now and in the future might prove fruitful.

Makes a pass over the cups

Bard plays music as the Firekeeper and Waterkeeper pass out the drinks

Ritual leader: Accept now the blessings of the Shining Ones!

5th Phase

Unwinding and Ending the Ceremony

Thanking of Entities Invited, in Reverse Order

Bard: We thank the guests!

Ritual Leader: Mannanan MacLir, god of wisdom, we thank you for your presence this night!

Go raigh maith agat!

All:Go raigh maith agat!

Ritual leader: Bridgit, goddess of the hearth, we thank you for your presence this day.

Go raigh maith agat!

All:Go raigh maith agat!

Ritual Leader: Shining ones, gods and goddesses all, we thank you for your presence this day. Leave if you must, but stay if you will.

Go raigh maith agaibh!

All: Go raigh maith agaibh!

Waterkeeper: Noble ones, land spirits all, we thank you for your presence this day. Leave if you must, but stay if you will.

Go raigh maith agaibh!

All: Go raigh maith agaibh!

Firekeeper: Mighty ones, honored ancestors, we thank you for your presence this day. Leave if you must, but stay if you will.

Go raigh maith agaibh!

All: Go raigh maith agaibh!

Thanking the Gatekeeper & Closing the Gates

Bard: We close the gates between the worlds!

Ritual leader: Mannanan MacLir, overgod of the Tuatha, god of the sea, keeper of the gates between the worlds, our guests have left and friends and family remain. And so we close, but never bar the gates.

D'ntar na geata! Let the gates be closed!

All: Let the gates be closed!

Clearcut Ending: Deconsecration of Time and Space

Announcement of the ending of the ritual

Ritual leader: The guests have left, the gates are closed. As the ritual approaches the end, let us leave the Nemeton and return to the mundane world.

Recessional

All sing, repeat until the the last of the third circles are finished.

Walk in 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.

Benediction

Go now, with the fire of inspiration burning in you

Go now with the water of wisdom flowing in you

Go now with the tree of life growing in you

Go now in peace.

The ritual is ended.

B'odh sé amhlaidh!

All: B'odh sé amhlaidh!

Musical Signal

Bell: 3x3