

**Sassafras Grove, ADF  
Yule  
December 21, 2006  
Friends Meeting House**

BEGINNING THE RITE & ESTABLISHING THE GROUPMIND

Ritual Briefing –**Alaric and Maria**

The Consecration of Time

The Nine Knells –onsite- Earrach and Drummer

Opening Prayer – **Alaric**

*Wé cumap tó gebréman þa hálig wihtes!*  
**(We come to honor the Holy Ones)**

The Consecration of Space and of Participants

The Processional

*Come follow, follow, follow, follow, follow, follow me  
Whither shall I follow, follow, follow, whither shall I follow, follow thee?*

*To the greenwood, to the greenwood, to the greenwood, greenwood tree.*

Purification of the Participants (volunteers blessers found onsite)

Land –  
Sea-  
Sky-

Acknowledgment of the Outsiders/Invocation to Thunor - **Earrach**

Bardic patron- **Mead of Inspiration-Maria**

(Since the rite was held at Friends Meeting House, alcohol was not permitted on site. Before we arrived, we put three drops of mead into a bottle of water. That water was used to aspurge the participants. Maria repeated the prayer until all were blessed)

Behold the mead of inspiration.

Dwarf-brew,

Ettins' hoard.

May it touch our lips and strengthen our hearts.

May our songs be sweet and strong,

May our words be wrought with Wyrð.

With mortal voice from Middle Earth we call to highest heaven!

Let the song-mead inspire us.  
Grant us this blessing!  
Grant us this grace! (*Alaric Terrason*)

### Earth Mother – **Emerald**

Earth  
Divine Goddess, Mother Nature, who generatest all things  
and bringest forth anew the Sun, which thou hast given to the nations  
guardian of sky and sea and of all gods and powers;  
through thy power all Nature falls silent and then sinks in sleep.  
And again thou bringest back the light and chasest away night,  
and thou coverest us yet most securely with thy shades.  
Thou dost contain chaos infinite, yea and wind and showers and storms.  
Thou sendest them out when thou wilt and causest the sea to roar;  
thou chasest away the Sun and arousest the storm.  
Again, when thou wilt, thou sendest forth the joyous day  
and givest the nourishment of Life with thy eternal surety.  
And when the soul departs, to thee we return.  
Thou art duly called the Great Mother of the Gods;  
thou conquerest by thy divine name.  
Thou art the source of the strength of nations and of gods,  
without thee nothing can be brought to perfection or be born;  
thou art great, Queen of the Gods. Goddess !  
I adore thee as divine; I call upon thy name;  
be pleased to grant that which I ask thee,  
so shall I give thanks to thee, Goddess, with due Faith. . .

*An ancient hymn to the Earth Mother of uncertain date, but possibly Roman and a thousand years older than our oldest surviving source: an 11th century book of herbal charms and medicine. MS. Harley 1585, FF. 12 V.-13 R., Translation from "Early English Magic and Medicine" by Dr. Charles Singer, Proceedings of the British Academy, Vol. IV.*

All sing:        *Earth Mother, we honor your body,  
Earth Mother, we honor your bones.  
Earth Mother, we sing to your spirit,  
Earth Mother, we sing to your stones.*

### Brighid – **Earrach**

#### Unifying the Grove – **Diana**

*The waters flow around us, the fire burns within us  
Standing tall we gather at the center of the world  
Upon the Earth our mother we worship here together  
All as one we gather at the center of the world (Emerald)*

## Declaration of Intention & Historical Precedent –**Alaric**

Tonight we've met here to remember that moment when the sun begins to wax once again. This is the longest night of the year. In the coming days the sun will make her appearance a little earlier than she did this morning, and bestow her radiance on us longer than she does now.

The Anglo-Saxons referred to the sun as the "glory of elves". And so tonight we give our praise to the Lord of the Elves, the god Ing, and his sister Fréo. You may be more familiar with these deities' by their Scandinavian names; Freyr and Freyja.

We have asked Þunor to keep watch over this sacred place, and we'll be asking Woden - the hooded wanderer - to open and guard the gates between the worlds. This night was known to the Anglo-Saxons as the night of the mothers, and so in addition to our usual offering to the ancestors we'll be making a special offering to the grandmothers who continue to watch over our families from the spirit realm.

In the spirit of the season we'll review the past year and how Sassafras Grove has celebrated each turning point of the wheel of the year. We'll then give praise to Ing and Fréo - to the Elf King and Wælcyrge Queen - and open our hearts to their abundant blessings.

## RECREATING THE COSMOS & PRELIMINARY POWER RAISING

### Creating the Vertical Axis

#### Evoking the Spirits of Fire and of Water and Link to Center- **Diane speaks/Sarina sacrifices**

##### **(drop silver into the waters of Wyrð )**

We leave this offering within the Well of Wyrð,  
Deep within the earth.  
And may the dwarves bear witness to our sacrifice.

##### **(Kindle récels)**

We leave this offering to the Sunlight Realm above.  
May the smoke carry our devotion upward,  
And may the elves bear witness to our sacrifice.

##### **(Cense and asperse the Eormensyl symbol)**

The roots of the Eormensyl are nourished in the waters of Wyrð.  
Its infinite limbs reach to the Sunlight Realm and beyond.  
Woden's steed, greatest of trees, spanning the worlds of gods and men.  
Between the light above and the waters below, we gather at the Sacred Tree. (Alaric Terrason)

## The Creation Myth **Maria**

Before time and space and order, there was only fire and ice,  
And between these a gaping void.  
From out of the north poured endless frost,  
To meet with endless flame raging from the south.  
Coming together, spiraling and swirling, until within the void a Middle Earth formed.  
And in this twilight the earth produced Tuisto, the first of all things.  
Male and female was he, and from him all Gods and Powers emerged.

A war then raged among the Mighty Ones,  
Until there was a peace between the Ases and Wanens.  
The Wanens then built mighty halls in the world that lies beyond the western sea;  
The Ases took the highest heavens as their home and set a wall around it.  
And together they drove the Ettins to the world beyond the dawn.  
Thus the Mighty Ones came to dwell in the outermost worlds traversed by the glory of  
elves\*.

And the Ases then espied, between these realms, two trees growing in the Middle World.  
Two trees, standing along the seacoast, an ash and an elm,  
With no destiny assigned to them; with no *wód*, nor *willa*, nor *blód*.  
The gods gave each of the trees three gifts;  
To each tree, the breath of inspiration, the power of intellect, and a divine form.  
And so from the ash tree came the first man, and from the elm the first woman.  
Like the ash and the elm,  
Our spiritual roots reach down, even now, to seek nourishment in the waters below;  
to seek nourishment in the Well of Wyrð.  
*Wód* inspires us to reach upward to the light.  
Like the ash and the elm, each of us is like unto the Great Tree that spans the worlds.

“The well; the fire; the Sacred Tree; Flow and flame and grow in me!” (Alaric Terrason)

(\*In the sun’s path. Glory-of-elves is another name for the sun.)

**Maria:** We stand at the Center of the World in a new creation where all things are possible. Let us join our thoughts and voices as one as we call to Gatekeeper to open the ways between the worlds

Opening the Ways-Dave

Calling the Gatekeeper-Woden  
One-Eyed Woden

World-wanderer, wolf-lord, wild wondrous windmaster!  
Hooded and cloaked you walk between the worlds.  
Received mighty Runes for mortals.  
Woden, accept our offering !

[Sarina makes offering]

Give us your blessing!  
Open a way between the worlds,  
That our prayers and praise might be heard  
in the halls above, below and beyond this Middle Earth.  
Woden! You who hear all --- Hear us now! (*Alaric Terrason*)

All sing:        *Woden open the portals between the gods and mortals*  
                     *Power freely flows as our magic grows. (Words and music by Liafal)*

When the singing ends:

**Dave-** The Gates of the Worlds are Open

Filling Out The Cosmic Picture: The Kindred Invocation Triad (*Invocations by Alaric Terrason*)

**Honoring the Ylfe (Nature Spirits):** Lassair

I give this offering to the spirits who dwell in this place.  
To elf and dwarf,  
Woodwose and wight,  
Moss-wife and púca and hob.  
Good neighbors, we honor you.

All sing:

*Air spirit, wood spirit, field spirit, lake spirit, We are but one Spirit living in the world.*  
*Some dwell on land and some dwell on wind, And some undersea, all living in the world.*

(Alaric)

**Honoring the Ancestors: Felicia**

I give this offering to the ancestors who have brought us to this place.  
Across the ages we call to you!  
Ancestors of blood, who've given us worldly form;  
Ancestors of spirit, whose inspiration illuminates the path before us.  
Ancestors, we honor you.

Another offering I bring, on this Mothers' Night,

to the Elder Women of our blood.  
Grandmothers, we call to you!  
You who kindled kin within your wombs as you wove the warp of our wyrd.  
You who fostered our forebears.  
You who nursed and nourished and nurtured.  
You who, generations past, watch over us still.  
Mothers of our ancestors,  
on this night we give special honor to you.

All sing:

*From far beyond this mortal plane, Mothers and Fathers of Old  
We pray that you return again, Mothers and Fathers of Old  
To share with us the mystery and secrets long untold  
Of the ancient ways we seek to reclaim, Mothers and Fathers of Old. (Words and music  
by Sable.)*

### **Honoring the Gods:**

I give this offering to the Mighty Ones who have blessed this place.  
You who dwell in the celestial heavens,  
You who dance upon the waves,  
You who are found in the depths of the earth, and in the wild places.  
Mighty Ones, we honor you.

All sing:

*Hail all the Gods, hail all the Goddesses  
Hail all the Holy Ones, we dwell together  
Hail all the Gods, hail all the Goddesses  
Hail all the Holy Ones, we dwell together*

*Hail all the Gods, hail all the Goddesses  
Hail all the Gods and Goddesses!  
Hail all the Gods, hail all the Goddesses  
Hail all the Holy Ones, we dwell together (First verse, Trad.; Bridge section, Gwynne  
Green. Music: Paul Maurice, Sean Miller, Gail Williams.)*

## **MAJOR INVOCATIONS**

Review of the year that was...

**Earrach** steps forward and leads people to think about the year that past,  
encouraging them to remember where they were at that point in time

**Earrach** calls Dave forward to begin...

Yule 2005	Dave
Brigantia	Maria
Spring Equinox	Alaric
Beltaine	Diana
Summer Solstice	Earrach
Lughnassad	Lassair
Autumn Equinox	Sarina
Samhain	Emerald (Emerald ends with “And the Wheel turns.”)

As prep before the rite, eight candles will be arranged in an evergreen wreath, set at the center of the ritual space

A candle for each holiday

The individual recounting the high days will step forward, light appropriate candle, and give a brief account of the holiday including deities and omen.

End with “and the wheel turns to whatever the next holiday is”

Make an offering to the deities of that holiday into the offering basket

The next person on deck steps up immediately, lights his/her candle from the previous candle and so on...

After Em says “and the Wheel turns.”

- Earrach steps forward and asked people to reflect on the light of the past year, what they learned, where they have come **FROM** that brought them to this point.
- After a brief reflection, Earrach puts out the candles, beginning at Yule 2005 and working through the year around the wreath.
- Earrach will light a new Yule candle from the Samhain candle connecting the past to the present, the **THROUGH**, which is where we are now.
- Once the new Yule candle is lit, we are ready to welcome and praise the Lord and Lady of wealth and bounty.
- Maria and Alaric step forward and we move on to

Invocations to Fréo and Ingui-Fréa – **Maria and Alaric**

*(Ing invocation by Alaric is modified version of a prayer written by Steve Wilson of the Hammerstead Kindred. Fréo invocation by Maria inspired by that modification)*

### Invocation to Fréo

Middle Earth's Bright Lady  
Feather-cloaked, Wælcyrge Queen  
Holy Fréo, Warrior's feast  
In the fertile fields we see you  
In the stamping boar we hear you  
In the honeyed wine we taste you  
In the quickened womb we feel you  
Let your precious eye-rain fall  
Upon the kindred in this hall  
Hallow us and draw us near  
Help us feel your presence here  
Feather-cloaked, Wælcyrge Queen,  
Holy Fréo, Vanadis  
Hallow us and draw us near  
Help us feel your presence here

### Invocation to Ing

Middle-earth's mighty Lord,  
Great stag, Elfin-King,  
Bringer of sunlight, Holy Ing;  
In the ancient groves we see you,  
In the belling hart we hear you,  
In the hearty bread we taste you,  
In our beating hearts we feel you;  
Let your blessed sunlight glow  
Upon the face of all that grows.  
Hallow us and draw us near,  
Help us feel your presence here!  
Great stag, Elfin-King,  
Green Man, Holy Ing,  
Hallow us and draw us near,  
Help us feel your presence here

### 3. Individual Praise Offerings

**Maria – We stand in the light of a new year in the shining presence of the Lord and Lady. Let us now take this opportunity to give offer our praise and thanks to the gods for all that they have given us.**

**Emerald will facilitate moving people forward.**

Conclusionary Sacrifice –**Earrach** will cut a piece of mistletoe from the bile and say something appropriate.

### **Maria calls for the omen**

Let us open our hearts and minds to what message the Lord and Lady have for us tonight. Who comes forward to seek the omen?

Seeking the Omen of Return –**Diana** While Diana scries, Emerald will sing.

Look into the well of memory  
Look into the well of time  
Look into the well of ages  
I am yours, You are mine

Listen to the ancient stories  
Listen to the ancient songs  
Listen to the ancient wisdom  
I go on, You go on



Deep within our hearts are beating  
Deep within are hearts we know  
Our descendents will remember  
Our love flows, Your love flows (*Words and music by Emerald*)

## RECEIVING AND USING THE RETURNED BLESSINGS/POWER

### **Preparation for the Return – Maria and Alaric**

**Maria –**

Our offerings have been accepted! With thanks for all that was and all that is, let us turn our thoughts now to what may be. Open your hearts and minds to the blessings that await us in the coming year. Join your voices with mine to welcome the Sun-boar, and the promise of light and life it brings!

Above is what was scripted-it was replaced on site by a quote from Dave.

Dave opens the back door and lets Alaric and the boar's head in.  
Alaric processes the boar head around the company.

All Sing- *The Boar's Head Carol*

Alaric brings head back to the hallows and calls in the blessings

Lord of Sunlight,  
Bestow your blessings upon this bread,  
fashioned in the image of Gyldenbyrstal,  
that strong and radiant boar.  
Elf-King, accept our praise,  
Bear witness to our oaths,  
And bless us with your abundance, joy and passion.

(Alaric)

(Now Alaric tell everyone - who so wishes - to make their oaths, starting with his own Dedicant Oath. After everyone has oathed...)

Our oaths have been heard.  
Our words echo now in the Well of Wyrd.  
We have spoken in the presence of Ing and Fréo.  
Now let us receive their blessings,  
as they have received our vows.  
With this hammer I hallow the sacrament!

Alaric will pass the boar head through the people so they can eat a bit.  
All sing

*Joy to the Worlds, The Feasting Song, Deck the Halls*

**Maria**-While we still stand in this holy all in the light of the lord and lady, let us take a moment to pen out hearts once again and in the silence of mindfulness, think on the blessings you have received and what other blessings you would ask. May the light of the Lord reach into the dark places and grant that which you desire. Is there any work left undone this night?

UNWINDING AND ENDING THE CEREMONY

**Thanksgivings to Entities Invited (in reverse order of arrival :)**

**Fréo and Ing –Maria and Alaric**

To Ing:

Boar-Warder!

Bright One!

Beli's Bane!

We give thanks for the blessings you've granted us here.

Great Stag, Elfin-King,

Bringer of sunlight, Holy Ing;

To you, O Lord of Life and Light,

We bid farewell this blessed night.

To Fréo –

Feather-Cloaked!

Fierce one!

Fair-Teared lady!

We give thanks for the blessings you've granted us here.

Warriors dream, Wælcyrge Queen,

Holy Fréo, Vanadis

To you, O Lady of Love and Light,

We bid farewell this blessed night

The Triad of the Kindred- *(by Alaric Terrason)*

**Deities – Dae**

Mighty Ones of heaven and earth

We thank you for your many blessings

May there ever be peace among us

Wassail!

**Ancestors and Idesa – Felicia**

Ancestors and Idesa who brought us to this place

We thank you for your many blessings

May there ever be peace among us

Wassail!

**Worldly Spirits – Lassair**

Wights and spirits who live in this place  
We thank you for your many blessings  
May there ever be peace among us  
Wassail!

Thanking the Gatekeeper and Closing the Threshold –**Dave**

Woden!  
You who wander between the worlds!  
One-eyed, hooded and wise beyond all knowing.  
We give thanks for helping us to open the Way!  
And for guarding the Gate during our Rite.  
Now, in your wisdom and power, we ask that you Close the Gate.  
The gate is now closed. *(Written by Alaric Terrason, modified by consensus and Dave)*

Affirmation of Past/Future Continuity and Success: **Alaric**

“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!”

Un-merging, Re-grounding and Re-centering **Diana**

Thanks and final offering to Thunor – **Earrach**

Draining Off the Excess Power - The Restoration of the Ordinary **Maria**

Clear-cut Ending: De-consecration of Time and Space

**Final Benediction –Alaric**

"Beoð æt þa godas, þa idesa, þa ieldra ond þa ylfe. Ond wesað ge hal!"  
(Be with the gods, the mothers, the ancestors and the elves. And be ye whole!"

Announcement of End -**Alaric**

**Musical Signal**

**The Nine Knells Earrach & on site drummer**  
**Song: Gods Rest Ye, Marry Heathenfolk**

## **Boar's Head Carol**

Melody--Traditional

Words by Winifred Hodge <http://www.ealdriht.org/yulesong.html>

(We replace the Norse Deity names with the Anglo-Saxon ones.)

*The boar's head in hand bear I,  
Bedecked with bay and rosemary,  
And I bid you good Heathens be merry,  
Together on this holy day!*

*Chorus: Woden, Thunor, Ingui-Frey,  
Frige, Fréo bless this day!*

*The boar's head, as I understand,  
Is the fairest dish in all the land,  
When thus bedecked with a gay garland,  
Presented on this holy day! (Chorus)*

*The steward hath provided this,  
In honor of the King of Bliss,  
Who on this day to be feasted is!  
Now glad betide Ing's holy day! (Chorus)*

## **Joy to the Worlds**

By Ljón Bragrman

Copyright 1997 by Ljón Bragrman

<http://www.ravenbanner.com/apt/documents/aysongs.html>

Joy to the Worlds  
Of Gods and Men  
Let Hama sound his Horn!  
The Yule Boar is near  
Our Sumbel Oaths to hear  
    And witness to the Gods  
    And witness to the Gods  
And witness, and witness the oaths made here.

Joy to the Worlds  
Of Gods and Men  
Let kinfolk gather near!  
And honor all the mighty Gods  
Idesas, wights and ancestors  
    Most sacred to us here  
    Most sacred to us here

That blessings and luck will come  
Throughout the Year!

### **Feasting Song**

(melody-*Good King Wenceslaus*)

Winifred Hodge <http://www.ealdriht.org/yulesong.html>

(We replace the Norse Deity names with the Anglo-Saxon ones.)

Ingui-Frey, the King of Bliss,  
Lord of love and gladness,  
Giver of the harvest gifts,  
Let him banish sadness!  
Hail him now and give him thanks,  
Ask him for his blessing!  
Always give back gift for gift:  
Let not friendship lessen!

Fréo, golden Vanadis,  
Mighty Queen of magic!  
Join us for our Yuletide feast,  
Share our fun and frolic!  
Hail her now and give her thanks,  
Ask her for her blessing!  
Always give back gift for gift:  
Let not friendship lessen!

Mighty Thunor Thunder-God,  
Midgard's great defender!  
Redbeard, share our meat and mead,  
Lest you grow too slender!  
Hail him now and give him thanks,  
Ask him for his blessing!  
Always give back gift for gift:  
Let not friendship lessen!

Woden, Wish-God, wisdom's Lord,  
Wod and wonder-bringer,  
Tell us of your treasure-hoard,  
Gift your mead to singers!  
Hail him now and give him thanks,  
Ask him for his blessing!  
Always give back gift for gift:  
Let not friendship lessen!

Frige, hearth and home's bright core,  
Giver of life's blessings!  
Keeper of the secret lore,  
Countless skills possessing (original lyric-including lore of dressing)  
Hail her now and give her thanks,  
Ask her for her blessing!  
Always give back gift for gift:  
Let not friendship lessen!

**Deck the Halls** (Traditional)

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la etc  
'tis the season to be jolly  
Don we now our gay apparel  
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol

See the blazing yule before us  
Strike the harp and join the chours  
Follow me in mearry measure  
While I tell of Yuletide treasure

Fast away the old year passes  
Hail the new ye lads and lasses  
Sing we joyous all together  
Heedless of the wind and weather

**Gods bless you, merry Heathen folk**

Winifred Hodge

<http://www.ealdriht.org/yulesong.html>

Gods bless you, merry Heathen folk  
With luck & health & weal!  
Remember all your forebears dear  
With horns of Yuletide ale!  
Call out your boast, lay orlay bright  
That well the Norns may deal!  
For our Gods now have called to us-  
-have called, heart to heart,  
For our Gods have spoken deep within our souls.

Between time past and time to come  
A shining bridge is spun  
Of lore and love and faithfulness,

All that our deeds have won.  
Roll up your sleeve, reach out your hand:  
Our work is just begun—  
For our Gods now have called to us  
--have called, heart to heart,  
For our Gods have spoken deep within our souls.

Glad Yuletide now we bid you all  
With horns of flowing mead!  
Bright Yuletide feast in Heathen halls  
Shall make us glad indeed!  
With frith and faith and wisdom's deeds  
We plant the glowing seed--  
For our Gods now have called to us  
--have called, heart to heart,  
For our Gods have spoken deep within our souls.