

# **Oakstone Protogrove, ADF**

## **PRE-RITUAL PREPARATION**

### **Site Set-Up**

- set up altars, banners, clergy chairs, etc.
- ensure all items required for ritual are present and placed in appropriate locations (use the ritual organizer's checklist)
- participants may set up seats before and after claiming and hallowing ritual
- place pamphlets and ritual scripts for participants to take as needed

### **Claiming and Hallowing Ritual**

- two clergy perform the ritual while the third greets attendees, answers questions, oversees and/or organizes food, donations, sign-in, etc.
- ritual performed according to Oak Stone Protogrove, ADF Claiming and Hallowing script
- ritual will not be required once Oak Stone has found permanent ritual space

### **Bard Teaches New Chants**

- can be done concurrently with claiming and hallowing ritual if Bard is not participating

### **Ritualist Welcomes Folk and Introduces Clergy**

- officially welcomes all to the rite
- explains purpose of the rite
- introduces those taking on the three main roles

### **Seer Explains Creating the Sacred Centre, Opening, and Closing the Gates**

- explains purpose of creating Sacred Centre
- explains purpose of opening and closing the gates
- explains purpose of Outdwellers' offering
- if there are no newcomers at the rite, any or all of this briefing may be abbreviated or skipped

### **Ritualist Explains Praise Offerings and Determines Order/Limit**

- explains when and how to offer praise offerings
- makes a list of all who wish to offer, and what will be offered
- determines order/limit, reads it aloud, and hands it to the Bard

### **Seer Leads Short Centering Meditation**

- leads brief meditation/visualization either specific to occasion, or awareness of natural space
- ends with statement encouraging participants to think on traveling from mundane life toward the sacred as they process

## **CENTERING MEDITATION**

Seer leads a short meditation to focus the group on entering sacred space and time.

## **PROCESSION**

Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in song as they process to, and then past, the Outdwellers' altar.

Chant

## **PURIFICATION**

Bard brings chant down to a whisper (if not silence), and maintains the beat at a much quieter level.

Ritualist and Seer make an offering to the Outdwellers, cense and asperse each other, then stand at the edge of the Sacred Precinct to purify the folk as the bard leads them through.

Bard leads the folk, chanting, in a sunwise circuit three times around the interior of the Sacred Precinct.

Chant continues until all are standing, facing inwards, and the clergy raise and lower their staves to indicate the end.

Ritualist asks folk to remain standing for the honouring of the Earth Mother.

## **HONOURING THE EARTH MOTHER**

Ritualist makes an offering to the Earth Mother.

Ritualist bids all those who would sit to do so.

## **BARDIC INSPIRATION**

Bard asks for inspiration on behalf of all attendees.

Inspiration is asked for to speak and sing well to please the Powers, and inspiration within each person to see and appreciate the beauty of the rite.

Poem, Prayer, or Chant

*\*Note: no offerings can be made to the fire or to specific deities at this point as the Sacred Centre has not yet been created.\**

## **GROVE ATTUNEMENT**

Seer leads the group through the Two Powers meditation, finishing with the sharing of group energies through an interconnected root system.

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Ritualist, Seer, and Bard stand and approach the altar to speak the following portion.

Ritualist explains the purpose of, and sets the historical/mythological precedent for, the rite.

Seer explains who the Patron(s) are, their specific associations, and why they are being called upon.

Bard tells brief story(ies) of the Patron(s) as befits their purpose within the context of the rite.

## **RECREATING THE COSMOS**

Ritualist explains the components of the Sacred Centre, and exhorts the group to reestablish it.

## **HONOURING THE SACRED CENTRE**

Ritualist, Seer, and Bard chant and circle sunwise around the container that will house the World Tree.

Chant

Ritualist, Seer, and Bard thrust their staves into the container at the end of the chant.

Ritualist declares the re-creation of the World Tree.

Ritualist moves to the Well, Seer moves to the Fire, and Bard remains at the Tree.

Ritualist invokes the Sacred Well and makes an offering of silver.

Seer invokes the Sacred Fire and makes an offering of oil.

Bard invokes the World Tree, asperses it with Well water, and censes it with incense lit from the Fire.

Ritualist declares the re-creation of the cosmos.

Chant

## **HONOURING THE THREE REALMS**

Seer leads an attunement to the Three Realms (Underworld, Midworld, Upperworld).

Seer invokes the Upperworld (Sky).

Bard invokes the Midworld (Land).

Ritualist invokes the Underworld (Sea).

## **OPENING THE GATES**

Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the chant to build the energies to open the gate.

Chant

Bard brings chant and drum beat down to a whisper, but keeps it going throughout, until Ritualist declares all gates to be open.

Ritualist makes an offering to the Gatekeeper.

Ritualist makes an offering to the Well and opens it as a gate, making the sign of the Triskele above it.

Ritualist makes an offering to the Fire and opens it as a gate, making the sign of the Triskele above it.

Ritualist invokes the Tree to stand as a bridge connecting all worlds.

Ritualist declares all gates to be open.

## **INVITING THE THREE KINDREDS**

Ritualist invites the Three Kindred to attend the rite.

Bard invokes the Nature Spirits and makes an offering to the Fire (or Tree if appropriate offering is available).

Ritualist invokes the Ancestors and makes an offering to the Fire (or Well if appropriate offering is available).

Seer invokes the Shining Ones and makes an offering to the Fire.

Chant

## **KEY OFFERINGS**

Ritualist invokes the Patron(s) of the rite.

Seer makes offerings three times during (each) invocation, and leads a call/response prayer for each.

Bard calls upon those who wished to offer personal praise offerings to step forward, one at a time, to do so. If the list was long, or complex, the Bard may announce each participant as their turn arrives.

## **PRAYER OF SACRIFICE**

Bard creates a quiet, steady drum beat to underpin the Ritualist's speaking.

Ritualist reaffirms what has been offered, and offers one more sacrifice.

Seer makes the offering to the Fire, and leads a call/response prayer.

Bard brings the drum beat to a crescendo as the offering and prayer are offered.

## **OMEN**

Ritualist asks the Seer to determine the omens for the rite.

Seer draws three Oghams, one for each of the following questions:

- have our sacrifices been accepted?
- what blessing(s) are offered in return?
- what further need do the deities have of us?

Seer instructs the participants to meditate on what each would personally ask of the Powers, especially in light of the omens drawn.

## **CALLING FOR THE BLESSING**

Ritualist raises the Waters above the Fire and calls for a blessing to be sent in return for the sacrifices and offerings made during the rite.

## **HALLOWING THE WATERS**

Ritualist places the Waters on the altar.

Ritualist offers a brief prayer to the Powers and inscribes the symbol of the first Ogham drawn over the Waters.

Ritualist offers a brief prayer to the Powers and inscribes the symbol of the second Ogham drawn over the Waters.

Ritualist offers a brief prayer to the Powers and inscribes the symbol of the third Ogham drawn over the Waters.

Ritualist presents the Waters of Life to the folk.

Ritualist offers Waters to the Seer, who then offers Waters to the Ritualist.

Ritualist or Seer (whoever has the Waters of the Bard's choice) offer Waters to the Bard.

Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in song as the Ritualist and Seer distribute the Waters to the participants.

Chant

## **AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSING**

Ritualist and Seer return the Waters to the altar.

Ritualist affirms that the blessing has been received.

## **\*WORKINGS\***

This portion is optional.

This portion may not appear in every ritual. It must be tailored to the specific working required, i.e., Dedicant Oaths, namings, handfastings, funerals, etc.

This section does not often appear in High Day rites unless someone has chosen to take their Dedicant Oath at that time.

### **THANKING THE POWERS**

Ritualist calls for the Powers to be thanked for the blessing and for attendance at the rite.

Ritualist thanks the Patron(s), ending with a call/response prayer.

Seer thanks the Shining Ones, ending with a call/response prayer.

Bard thanks the Nature Spirits, ending with a call/response prayer.

Ritualist thanks the Ancestors, ending with a call/response prayer.

### **CLOSING THE GATES**

Ritualist thanks the Gatekeeper, ending with a call/response prayer.

Ritualist invokes the closing of the Fire as a gate and makes the sign of the reverse Triskele above it.

Seer leads a short call/response prayer.

Ritualist invokes the closing of the Well as a gate and makes the sign of the reverse Triskele above it.

Seer leads a short call/response prayer.

Ritualist invokes the return of the World Tree to simple staves, and affirms that the gates are closed.

Seer leads a short call/response prayer.

Bard ceremoniously hands the staves back to their respective wielders.

### **THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER**

Ritualist announces that the rite is now ending.

Ritualist makes a final offering to the Earth Mother.

Ritualist encourages everyone to send any excess energies into the Earth as part of the final offering.

## **CLOSING THE RITE**

Seer leads a re-centering that includes separating the group energies back into the individuals, and ends with a focus on returning to the mundane world from the sacred as the folk recess from the Sacred Precinct.

Ritualist declares the rite has ended.

Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in song as they recess counterclockwise around the Sacred Precinct and exit.

Chant