

**SONORAN SUNRISE GROVE, ADF
IMBOLC RITUAL 2007
IRISH Pantheon**

Orator says: Children of the Earth! Welcome to the Imbolc Ritual of the Sonoran Sunrise Grove, ADF. We stand here at the threshold. Warrior, call a guardian for our Rite.

*** PROTECTION AND PURIFICATION ***

CALLING THE GUARDIAN

Warrior goes through the entryway to the altar of the Guardian Deity and says:

Mór-Ríoghain

Dark Lady, Phantom Queen
Transforming Goddess who burns away the Old
That we may be reborn,
Fly to us in Raven form
And guard us in this rite.

The Warrior offers wine to the guardian
Mighty Mór-Ríoghain accept our sacrifice!

Orator and Seer face the entryway. They smudged and asperse the opening:

Orator says: Oh entryway that supports the weight of the heavens it is between you that we create our threshold. Please hold open the roadway to the sacred center. Warrior, mark this space that the outdwellers shall not enter.

The Warrior using a sword makes draws a line at the entrance.

The Warrior says: Guardian we ask you to watch this threshold.

THE OUTDWELLERS

Orator says: Children of the Earth, as we prepare to make offering to the Outdwellers, please avert your eyes so as not to form a relationship with them, and also look to the Outdwellers in your own hearts. This is a celebration of the returning spring and renewal. All that we carry into the circle today will flower. Take only that which you wish to root, grow, and flourish.

Warrior! Make offering and appease the Outdwellers who will not support our ways.

Orator and Seer stand at the Gate to the Sacred Precinct.

Warrior says:

Beings not of this rite,
Those who stand against the Gods,
We ask you to stand outside the boundaries,
And trouble not our working!
Bíodh sé amhlaidh! (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE) So be it!

Warrior makes an offering of ale to the Outdwellers, pouring

*****Purification*****

The Seer say: Children of the Earth release the cares of your mundane life. Take a deep breath in and allow your mind to be still. Thoughts outside of this time are released. You are here spiraling ever forward in the present.

The Orator says: Feel the pull of our sacred space. Calling you, whispering on the wind, in this space we create our sacred realities. We can become all the Kindreds believe us to be. Purification allows us to transform into our sacred selves. Please come forward, be purified, and attune yourself to mythic time. Let go and cross the divide.

Orator and Sacrificer circle the Henge deosil, censuring and aspersing the space, and then return to their places. As they circle, they say, “By the light of the fire and the might of the water make this Grove be whole and holy.”

THE PROCESSION OF THE BRIDEOG

Orator and Seer proceed up the stairs to the women in waiting.

Candlelight procession

Orator leads procession with a young girl who is carrying the Brideog basket. The basket is left behind the main altar.

****** WELCOME ******

Orator rings bell thrice-three times while saying: Ancestors! (***rings bell three times***) Nature Spirits! (***rings bell three times***) Shining Ones! (***rings bell three times***) We have crossed the threshold into sacred space. Please reconnect with the sacred cosmos as we prepare to open the gates to the otherworlds, the place where the kindreds will reveal themselves once more.

****** THE EARTH MOTHER ******

Orator says: Earth Mother! Danu! Bearer of all life! We show you honor!

The People kneel and kiss the Earth.

Orator says:

Earth Mother Danu!
Whose heart beat pulses beneath our feet,
Rocky faced One who supports all life,
We feel your nurturing love,
Offerings we make to you great one,
A blend of grains we give to you,
Earth mother support and uphold this rite!

Earth Mother Danu, accept our sacrifice!

The People say: Danu, accept our sacrifice!

Rhythmic drumming begins to accompany the Bard.

The Bard leads the People in singing:

Earth Mother

O Danu, we honor your body
O Danu, we honor your bones
O Danu, we sing to your spirit
O Danu, we sing to your stones

Orator says: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!* (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE) So be it!

The People say: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!* (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE) So be it!

****** PURPOSE AND PRECEDENT ******

Orator says: We gather here to celebrate Imbolc, the time before birth when the ewes come into their milk.

Sacrificer says: We are here to offer worship to the triple goddess Brigit: She who protects, heals, and inspires.

Seer says: Renewal begins for mother earth; seeds take root and come to flower. Let it be so for us as well.

Orator says: As our ancestors did, so do we now: we are here to honor the Old Bargain between mortals and the Kindreds. So let us join together as one folk to make our offerings in joy and reverence!

Bíodh sé amhlaidh! (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE)

The People: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!* (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE)

***** IMBAS AND LORE *****
(*Inspiration* in English; *Awen* in Welsh)

Rhythmic drumming begins to accompany the Inspiration Invocation.

Orator says: Brigit! Great Triple Goddess! We ask you for inspiration for our Rite!

Sanctifier takes smoking sage bundle to the appropriate Shrine and censes the image. She returns the incense to the altar. While this is happening,

Our fiery arrow, great triple flame,
Loving lady, we call your name!
Brigit of the hearth fire,
Brigit at the forge,
Brigit of the Bards,
Triple font of inspiration we call you to this place,
May your inspiration make our words pleasing to the kindreds!

Sacrificer offers oil to the fire.

The Orator says: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!* (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE) So be it!

The People say: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!* (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE) So be it!

THE LORE

The tale of the slaying of the dragon is performed.

**** THE GROUP MIND ****

Orator says: We establish the Three Worlds of the Heavens, Midworld and Underworld when we attune ourselves with their powers, and magnify them within us.

The Seer leads the People in drawing up the earth power into themselves.

Seer says:

O Waters of the Earth, deep and dark,
Arise, primeval powers, fill us now
With all your wondrous possibilities,
That through the Earth our Mother we may ground and join as one.

The Seer leads the People in drawing down the sky power into themselves.

Seer says:

O Fires of the sky, O blinding light,
Descend and crystallize within us all
That spark of order on which life depends,

That through the Sky our Father we may shine and share as one.

Bíodh sé amhlaidh! (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE)

The People say: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!* (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE)

**** RE-ESTABLISHING THE SACRED CENTER ****

THE THREE REALMS

Orator says: Druids, let us now re-establish the Sacred Center of the Worlds.

The Bard leads the People in singing:

Here We Stand As One

(By Fiona Brigit)

With the Earth beneath our feet,
With the Sky that shelters all,
With the Tree connecting Worlds,
In this place of love and magic
Here we stand as one.

Orator says: Land and Sea and starry sky, you surround and sanctify.

Seer says: Let the land hold firm we pray, May all ill be turned away!

The People say: May all ill be turned away!

Orator says: Land and Sea and starry sky, you surround and sanctify

Sacrificer says: Let the sea not rise we pray, May all ill be turned away!

The People say: May all ill be turned away!

Orator says: Land and Sea and starry sky, you surround and sanctify

The Warrior says: Let the sky not fall we pray, May all ill be turned away!

The People say: May all ill be turned away!

WELL, FIRE AND TREE

The Lead Drummer continues the strong and rapid beat.

Seer goes to the Well with the silver. Sacrificer goes to the fire with the oil. After Seer/Sacrificer goes to the Tree with the burning sage bundle.

Meanwhile, the Orator moves clockwise around the Circle, leading the People in chanting the following 3 times. After the third time, the Orator stops, faces center and holds up her arms.

Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!

Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!

Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!

Seer offers silver to the Well, saying:

Sacred wells, of ancient Eire,

Connect from here, through time and space,

Cosmic potential rises to fill us,

Brigit's wells, flow within us!

The People say: Brigit's wells, flow within us!

The Orator continues moving clockwise and leads the chant:

Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!

Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!

At the end of the line, the Orator stops, faces center and holds up her arms.

Bard offers oil to the Fire, saying:

Sacred Fire, eternal flame,

Burning bright at Kildare,

Cosmic order transforms potential.

Brigit's Fire, burns within us!

The People say: Brigit's Fire, burns within us!

The Orator continues moving clockwise and leads the chant:

Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!

At the end of the line, the Orator stops, faces center and holds up her arms.

The Sacrificer censes and the Sanctifier asperses the World Tree, saying in unison:

Sacred Oak Church at Kildare

Mighty trees of ancient Eire,

Connectors of potential and pattern,

Sacred Tree, grow within us!

The People say: Sacred Tree, grow within us!

The Sacrificer rings the bell three times.

**** OPENING THE SACRED CENTER ****

THE GATEKEEPER

The Lead Drummer continues with the beat and Orator leads the People in singing:

Gatekeeper, Open the Portals

(By Sue Parker)

Gatekeeper, open the Portals
Between the Gods and Mortals.

Power freely flows
As our magic grows.

The Seer rises and faces the sigil altar. Sacrificer takes 3 small glasses of whiskey to the well, fire, and tree. The Sanctifier takes incense or the burning sage bundle to the sigil alter and censes the image.

The Celebrants leads the People in chanting:

Lady Fand, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

Lady Fand, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

Lady Fand, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

The Seer says:

Holy Fand who rides the waves,
Keeper of the white capped seas,
Great heroes have pledged their blades
For Your wisdom to receive

Lady Fand, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the well.

The People say:

Lady Fand, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

The Seer says:

Keeper of the Sacred Gate,
Use your strong and holy powers.
Let our voices resonate;
Join your magic here with ours!
Lady Fand, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the tree.

The People say: Lady Fand, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

The Seer says: Lady Fand, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the fire.

The People say: Lady Fand, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

The Seer says: Lady Fand, we have called you thrice; please accept our sacrifice.

OPENING THE GATES

Orator brings a staff to the center of the Circle.

Meanwhile, the Seer moves counter clockwise around the Circle, and leads the People in quietly chanting: Let the gates be open

The chanting, drums and rattles continue. They increase in speed and volume.

Orator holds the bottom of her staff, pointing the top of it at the top of the World Tree. She begins to spin counter clockwise, faster and faster. When her staff first passes the Well, Orator says: Let the well flow and open as a gate

She continues spinning at least one full revolution.

As her staff passes over the Fire, Orator says: Let the Fire burn and open as a gate

She continues spinning at least one full revolution.

As her staff passes by the Tree, Orator says: Rooted deep and crowned high oh tree connect the worlds

There is a loud drum roll ending in a strong stroke. ALL CHANTING STOPS. The Seer stops, faces center, and holds up her arms.

Orator stops spinning, holds both hands (and staff) in the air and shouts:

Osclaítear na cómhla breac! (OS-kluh-tir Na Kove-la-breck) Let the Gates be open!

The People shout : Let the Gates be open!

Orator: Children of the Earth, we are now at the center of the cosmos. We are woven into the sacred fabric of the universe. Here, the Kindreds can hear our thoughts and know our hearts. Let there only be Truth here.

***** KINDRED OFFERINGS *****

Orator says: Druids! Make our Offerings to the Kindreds – the Ancient Ones, the Noble Ones and the Shining Ones.

ANCESTORS

Orator says: Now we will make our offering to the Ancestors.

Seer says: Ancestors of our hearts, hearth, and blood,
Ladies who tended the fires at Kildare,
Those who welcomed Brigit at their hearth,
Hear our call!

You laid the way,
We see you in our reflections,
You resonate in the eternal memory.
We seek to understand your wisdom.

Ancestors of our blood, breath, and bone,
Join us by our well!
Ancestors accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer makes an offering of apples and silver to the well.

The People say: Ancestors, accept our sacrifice!

The Bard leads the People in singing:

Mothers And Fathers Of Old

(Words by Sable)

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 mysteries
And secrets long untold
Of the ancient ways we seek to reclaim
Mothers and Fathers of Old.

Orator says: Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel the Ancestors as they join us here.

After a few moments, Orator says: Now we will make our offering to the Nature Spirits.

NATURE SPIRITS

The drums begin again, pounding out a moderate beat. Sacrificer scatters herbs on the ground and hangs any trinkets on the World Tree, while

Up for grabs says:

Spirits of the winds, mountains, stones, and soils,
Animals of fur, feather, hoof, and skin,
Those who run, crawl, swing, and swim,
Trees, shrubs, and plants,
Streams, rivers, seas, and oceans,
Spirits of our most sacred places,
Our allies in this world,
We call to you, we hear you!
Land-spirits, accept our sacrifice!

The People say: Land-spirits, accept our sacrifice!

The Bard leads the People in singing:

Nature Spirits' Call

(Words and music by Nora Ford)

Fur and Feather and Scale or Skin,
All ye spirits are welcome in,
Leaf and stone and faeries, too,
May we seal our pact with you.

It's the stream of life that flows through us all
The babbling brook is nature spirits' call
Inner weaved to the web of life are we -
Come back to the sacred tree.

Orator says: Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel the Nature Spirits as they join us here.

After a few moments, Orator says: Now we will make our offering to the Shining Ones.

DEITIES

Sacrificer stands at the Fire and says:

Shining and Chthonic Ones,
Gods of the sky, justice, and the in-between,
Goddesses of inspiration, war, and fertility,
Thunderers, Wanderers, Riders on the Waves
Earth Mothers, Sovereigns, and Lusty beauties,
Those who shaped and formed the cosmos,
All Gods and Goddess of our people we call to you!
Shining and Chthonic Ones, accept our sacrifice!

Orator makes an offering of oil to the fire.

The People say: Shining and Chthonic Ones, accept our sacrifice!

The Bard leads:

Hail All The Gods

(original words by Paul Maurice)

Hail all the Gods, Hail all the Goddesses,
Hail all the holy ones all come together!
Powers of the sky, Powers of the sacred earth,
Powers of the underworld all come together.
Hail all the Gods! Hail all the Goddesses!
Hail all the Gods and Goddesses!

Orator says: Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel the Gods and Goddesses as they join us here.

****** PRAISE OFFERINGS ******

Orator says: Children of the Earth, as the spirit moves you, come forward and take the wreath and make your Praise Offerings to the Kindreds or your Patrons. You may offer silver to the Well, sing songs of praise, recite poetry, dance or do whatever would please the Kindreds most. You may also make a donation to the Grove by placing it on the altar.

Sacrificer stands quietly holding the wreath. As a person comes forward to make a Praise Offering, she hands the wreath to that person. When the Praise Offering is done, she takes back the wreath and silently holds it until the next person comes forward.

****** KEY OFFERINGS ******

The Goddess Brigit

Orator says: Bright Brigit! Protectress, Healer, inspirer...we call upon you now.

Orator invokes the Goddess. Sacrificer takes whiskey to the fire, Orator says:

Invocation of Brigit

Bright Lady,
Daughter of the good God,
Bringer of Spring.

Exalted one,
Great Smith at the forge,
We call on you now

Your grieving cry heard cross the land,
spoke of a mother's love,
the loss of Ruadan,
brought the first tears to Erin.

Ignite our minds,
With your Shining presence,
Lady of Healing light.

Allow poetry to drip off our tongues,
That we may honor you,
Oh Fiery arrow,
burning the sacred flame

Shining Lady, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.

The People say:

Shining Lady, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.

***** THE SHARED MEAL *****

Orator says: Brigit Lady, Inspirer, we offer to you the last fatted bull, that which has been tended lovingly through the harshness of winter, just as releasing the waters is an introduction of chaos into our cosmos.

Your Shining presence limits the chaos that slips into our lives. Thus, we share a meal with you on your feast night. Our reciprocal relationship we ask to establish here.

Seer holds the Bull Loaf aloft.

Orator says:

As earth becomes grain
And grain becomes flesh,
So this loaf is the flesh of the Land.

Sacrificer cuts the loaf in half. Seer gives half to the Orator and puts half on the altar.

Sacrificer takes ghee to the Fire. Orator takes loaf to the Fire.

Orator places the loaf in the Fire and pours the ghee on the bread.

Orator says: Kindreds, accept our sacrifice!

The People say: Kindreds, accept our sacrifice!

***** THE PRAYER OF SACRIFICE *****

Orator says:

O Great Brigit! O Noble, Ancient and Shining Ones!
Incense have we offered to Your shrines!
Offerings have we made through the Well, Fire and Tree!
And now our joy, love and reverence have filled this Wreath of Praise!

Kindreds! All this we give to You in the name of Hospitality.
May our Piety increase Your magic!
May our Courage increase Your Power!
And may our Fertile Spirits show the world Your abundance!

Mighty Kindreds, accept our sacrifices!

Sacrificer offers the wreath to the fire.

The People say: Mighty Kindreds, accept our sacrifices!

As the wreath burns, The Bard leads the People in singing:

The Sacrifice Song

(Words by Ian Corrigan)

Let our voices arise on the Fire,
Let our voices resound in the deep,
Let the Kindreds accept what we offer,
As we honor the old ways we keep.

(repeat once)

*** THE PIACULAR OFFERING ***

Orator says:

If out of ignorance or faulty memory,
If we for any reason have offended You,
O Kindreds of our People, hear us now.
Accept this offering as recompense,
And know our hearts and our intent are pure

****** THE OMEN ******

Orator says: Seer, what blessings and wisdom do the Kindreds offer us in return?

While the wreath offering burns,

The Seer takes the Omen. She interprets it, which blessings have been granted by the Powers. While the Seer is preparing to read the omen, the Druids prepare the Waters of Life.

Orator pours mead into the large drinking horn.

Sacrificer fills another horn with waters from the Well. They are hung on their hangers.

****** BLESSINGS ******

The Return Flow

Orator says:

Children of the Earth, all our offerings, all we have done so far in our rite, have led to this moment. This is magic time! We have made offerings to the Powers, and now we shall ask for their blessings in return. Visualize the blessings that each of you desire and need from the Kindreds. See it clearly in your mind's eye. And when we ask for the Waters of Life, when we say, "Give us the Waters of Life", see the blessing you desire descend into the upraised cup like a mist, filling the cup. And when we drink of the Waters, you will receive your blessing. So close your eyes and take a moment to visualize your needs, and the needs of our Grove, that we may all receive the blessings we desire.

The People meditate for a while on their needs and desires.

Orator says:

O Bright Brigit! O Ancient, Noble and Shining Ones! We have offered to you, so we ask for your gifts in return.

Orator elevates the Waters.

Hallow these waters! Bless our lives with Magic, Power and Abundance as we drink of your essence. Kindreds, we ask you, **give us the waters of life!**

The People say: Give us the waters of life!

After a pause, Orator says: An uisce beatha seo. (an USH-ka BA-uh show) Behold the waters of life.

Pour The Waters

(words by Ian Corrigan)

Pour the waters, raise the cup;
Drink your share of wisdom deep;
Strength and love now fill us up
As the elder ways we keep.

(Repeat until all have drunk from the horns)

***** THE WORKING *****

Orator says: Now children of the Earth it is time to light the spark of order present in all of us and float it on the waters of chaos we also in vibrate. First we must merge all the sacred water; then attune ourselves to the chaos and order that are without and within; and finally, we will light candles and float them on the water a symbol of our unity and individuality.

Lady Brigit you have released the waters of chaos and potential, offered us water from the well of wisdom, and now we infuse those waters with the waters of life that we may share the blessings of all the kindreds with Our Lady of Inspiration. ***(Seer, Sacrificer, and ??? each pick up a bowl of water and create a triangle around the Orator who is in the center holding the waters of life horn.)***

As the Bard walks by the Orator says: The blessings of the shining ones offered to the fiery arrow of inspiration that burns in our minds and hearts. ***(pour water into bowl)***

As the Sacrificer walks by the Orator says: The blessings of the nature spirits offered to the great smith who creates weapons at the forge. ***(pour water into bowl)***

As the Seer walks by the Orator says: The blessings of the ancestors offered to the great healer who releases our yearnings at this time of year. ***(pour water into bowl)***

*****The Orator moves out of the center. The three ladies step into the center and elevate their bowls as the Orator says:** Three waters merge, three waters converge, three waters pool, gifts from all Kindreds joined together, that our lady of light may reveal herself to us this night. ***(The ladies take the water and pour them into the pool in the cave. The orator places the horn back on the alter)***

Orator: So children of the Earth let us reconnect with the two powers of the cosmos, the merging of fire and water. The cosmos needs chaos as, chaos needs order.

Sit back, and relax allow the world to become still. All you can hear is the sound of your breathing; all you can feel is the pulsing of your own heart; all you know is the joy of this moment.

Allow your consciousness to become aware of the waters of potential moving through your body. Spilling out the tips of your fingers, pooling at your feet. Dark, primal powers

from deep within the earth, beckoning you. Allow yourself to float with the waters. You feel the current pulling you through Brigit's sacred well, down deep. Pulling you through the Earth past rock, root, and stone to that place below all. You float unaware of where you end and another begins. You are everyone and no one. The waters whisper the secrets of the collective unconscious. You are primitive and eternal. Listen.

Once again feel yourself breathing, your heart beating. Your mind is still. Allow yourself to become aware of the light of heaven radiating through your body. Shining out of your hands and lifting your body. You become a column of light, shining. Feel yourself rising up toward the source of your inspiration, past the mountains, through the clouds, above the planets, and the stars. You arrive at a final place of fire. Resting here you see the pattern of the universe dancing. Your mind is illuminated, and you are free. Feel your self awareness.

Once again feel that your mind is still. Your breathing, your heart beating. Hear the waters of the collective unconsciousness whispering. See the pattern of the cosmos dancing. Aware of everything. Your mind illuminated. Both powers are working through you. Their merging allows us to manifest our desires in the cosmos.

Tonight we honor the bonds of unity as we float our divine spark, ignited by the fire of inspiration, in the waters of all potential. The candle in your hand will be lit with fire from our vigil that honored Brigit. It is your single light, a manifestation of your authentic self. Fire and water merged create a you that moves outside of desire. Allow your illuminated mind to merge with the mysterious waters, water that arises out of the darkness reflecting the light of inspiration.

Once you feel yourself firmly balanced in both powers come forward, light your candle, and float it on the waters. ***(The Sanctifiers will hold candles that have been lit from the ritual fire. Celebrates will intone and drum as people light their candles and place them in the waters. Small groups of people may choose to sing hymns of praise.)***

Let our song of Inspiration ring, carried by the Winds up to the realms of the Shining Ones. We Call to you Brigit. Please walk among us once more. ***(Young Girl picks up the Brideog and walks around the circle)***

The people sing:

Brigit, Bright Lady,
We've rebuilt your sacred fire,
Brigit, bright lady,
It's your wisdom we desire.

Brigit, Bright Lady,
Healer, inspiration, friend.
Brigit, Bright Lady
We return to you again!

***** THE AFFIRMATION *****

Orator says: We have drunk of the Waters of Life! The Powers have given us true and wondrous blessings. We affirm the gifts of our Kindreds and acknowledge their power in our lives.

Children of the Earth, do you accept the gifts of the Gods?

The People say: We accept the gifts of the Gods!

****** CLOSING THE GATES ******

Orator says:The Mighty Ones have blessed us! So as we prepare to depart, let us give thanks to those who have aided us.

Orator says: O Bright Lady Brigit, protectress, healer, and inspiration.
Go raigh maith agat! (GUR uh MAH gut) We thank you!

The People say: We thank you!

Seer says: Gods and Goddesses of elder days; noble Spirits of the Land; mighty Ancestors; our Kindreds, we say, *Go raigh maith agaibh!* (GUR uh MAH-gev) We thank you!

The People say: We thank you!

Sacrificer says: Mighty Morrigan, Guardian of our Rite tonight, For your Watching and Warding, Through magic and arms, we say, *Go raigh maith agat!* (GUR uh MAH gut) We thank you!

The People say: We thank you!

Seer says: Lady Fand, Keeper of the Gates between, we say: *Go raigh maith agat!* (GUR uh MAH gut) We thank you! We make another sacrifice and ask you to join your magic with ours and aid us as we close the gates. Lady Fand, accept our sacrifice!

The People say: Lady Fand, accept our sacrifice!

Orator says: Now we end what we began.

The drums begin to play and the Bard leads the People in chanting, starting quietly and building in speed and intensity:

Let the gates be closed (drum)

Sacrificer holds the bottom of her staff, pointing the top of it at the top of the World Tree. She begins to spin deosil, faster and faster.

As the staff passes the fire, Sacrificer says: The gate of fire returns to simple flame!

As the staff passes the well, Sacrificer says: The gate of water becomes a well again!

As the staff passes the World Tree, Sacrificer says: The tree returns to the midworld where we live!

Sacrificer stops spinning, holds both hands (and staff) in the air and shouts:

Dúntar na cómhla breac! (DOON-tar Na Kove-la-breck) Let the Gates be closed!

The People say: Let the Gates be closed!

Orator says: Great Danu! We give you all remaining offerings, for what comes from the Earth may return to the Earth.

Orator, Sacrificer and the Sanctifier make all remaining offerings to the Well, Fire or World Tree Offering bowl.

Orator says: O Danu! For upholding the world and granting us Your blessings, we say:

Go raigh maith agat! (GUR uh MAH gut) We thank you!

The People say: We thank you!

CONTINUITY AND GROUNDING

Orator says: Once again, we have continued in our traditions, honoring the Gods, Ancestors and Nature Spirits, just as in times of old. We have made offerings to our Kindreds and received their blessings in return.

But great energy has been raised within us this day! Let us be grounded once more.

The Seer leads the People in grounding.

THE RECESSION

Orator then rings the bell thrice-three times and says: Please stand and hold hands.

Walk with wisdom, children of the Earth. This Rite is ended!

Bíodh sé amhlaidh! (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE) So be it!

The People say: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!* (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE) So be it!

The Bard leads the People in singing as they stand holding hands in the Circle.:

Walk With Wisdom

(words and music by Sable)

Walk with wisdom, from this hallowed place.
Walk not in sorrow, our roots shall ere embrace.
May strength be your brother, and honor be your kin,
And luck be your lover until we meet again.
(Repeat until Recession is ended)