

Sierra Madrone Grove, ADF

Winter Solstice/Hogmanay

December 29th, 2007

A Scottish Rite



Pre-Ritual Briefing

While the Sacrificer lights the Fire and Fills the Well, PD 1 gives a brief rundown the Ritual to the participants.

Initiation of the Rite

PD 1: Children of the Earth! Welcome to the Sierra Madrone Grove Winter Solstice Rite and Gathering. This is the time when the days are shortest, but it is also the time of hope for the longer days of the coming spring. We are here to honor the Kindred—but we are here to especially honor Áengus Óg, ‘the young son’. Soon we shall celebrate in the sacred Nemeton!

Ancestors! (The Sacrificer rings the bell three times.)

Nature Spirits! (The Sacrificer rings the bell three times.)

Shining Ones! (The Sacrificer rings the bell three times.)

Welcome! We shall meet here at the Sacred Center when we open the Gates to the Otherworld.

So be it!

All: So be it!

Out-dwellers:

PD 2: Please avert your eyes while the Warrior treats the Out-dwellers, those beings both spiritual and physical, so we may not form a relationship with them.

Warrior, please make offering to the Out-dwellers.

Warrior:

O Out-dwellers, you who do malice,

Take this offering of beer,

**Trouble not our work this day,
As our sacred work is done here.**

Warrior: Everyone, please look at the Out-dwellers within yourselves. Remove any ill will within your heart. As you enter the Sacred Space, you will be asked if you enter with wisdom. The appropriate response is, “I do.” You will be purified by water and flame.

Processional

(All process into the Nemeton while PD 1 and PD 2 censes and asperges them.)

All chant:

“Come we now as a people to gather at the sacred well. Come we now as a people together in the warmth and the light of the flame”.

Music and words by Ian Corrigan

(Repeat until all participants are all in the Nemeton)

(After all have entered PD 1 & 2 enter circling the Henge clockwise censing and aspersing the circle.)

All:

By the might of the water and the light of the fire, this Grove is made whole and holy.

(Repeat until Nemeton is completely censed and asperged)

Evoking the Earth Mother

PD 1: Earth Mother, we honor you today!

(All kneel and kiss the earth)

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

Author unknown

(Sacrificer offers corn meal to the offering bowl after the invocation)

PD 1: Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!

All: Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!

Inspiration

PD 2: So let us join together as one folk to make our offerings in joy and reverence!

Let us invoke the Great Goddess Bride (breed-uh) to guide us with her inspiration and wisdom!

A poem or song is recited here.

PD 2:

Bride!

Join us in our celebration!

Bless us with your inspiration!

Bride, accept our sacrifice!

(Sacrificer gives scented oil to the fire)

All: Bride, accept our sacrifice!

Purpose and Precedent

PD 1: Children of the Earth Mother, welcome to the Sierra Madrone Grove Winter Solstice Rite and Gathering. Today we are here to celebrate the midwinter—and the coming of the longer days. It is cold and dark, but as our ancestors did before us, we celebrate the light in the dark—the growing sun.

PD1 tells a story about Áengus Óg.

PD 3: Let us now create the group mind and start with the Universal Druid's Prayer.

*All: Grant, O Gods and Goddess, thy Protection,
And in Protection, Strength,
And in Strength, Understanding,
And in Understanding, Knowledge,
And in Knowledge, the Knowledge of Justice,
And in the Knowledge of Justice, the Love of it,
And in the Love of it, the Love of All Existences,
And in the Love of All Existences,
The Love of Gods and Goddesses and all Goodness
(From the British Druid Order)*

PD 3: Biodh amhlaidh! (bee awlah) Be it so!

All: Biodh amhlaidh! (bee awlah) Be it so!

Centering and Grove Attunement

(Words from Sonoran Sunrise Grove)

PD 2: And now _____ will lead us on a guided meditation.

(PD 1 leads the Two Powers meditation.)

PD 1:

**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.**

PD 2:

**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.**

PD 1: Chaos of the Earth, now fill us!

All: Chaos of the Earth, now fill us!

PD 2: Order of the Heavens, mold us!

All: Order of the Heavens, mold us!

PD 1 and PD 2: Join the powers deep within us!

All: Join the powers deep within us!

PD 1 and PD 2: With the merging of these powers let us join as one!

All: With the merging of these powers let us join as one!

Recreating the Cosmos

The Three Realms

All sing:

Land, Sea, and Sky, Land Sea, and Sky, Land, Sea, and Sky-oh!

(Repeat Three times)

Fire, Well, and Tree

PD 1: Now we will sanctify the Hallows that by which we make Holy!

All sing The Portal Song:

Words and music by Ian Corrigan

**By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky
We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.**

**Come we now to the Well, the eye and the mouth of Earth,
Come we now to the Well, and silver we bring,
Come we now to the Well, the waters of rebirth,
Come we now to the Well, together we sing:**

(Sacrificer offers Silver to the Well)

**By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky
We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.**

**We will kindle a Fire, Bless all, and with harm to none,
We will kindle a Fire, and offering pour,
We will kindle a Fire, A light 'neath the Moon & Sun,
We will kindle a fire, our spirits will soar.**

(Sacrificer offers Scented Oil to the Fire)

**By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky
We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.**

**Gather we at the Tree, the root & the crown of all,
Gather we at the Tree, Below & above,
Gather we at the Tree, Together we make our call,
Gather we at the Tree, In wisdom & love.**

(Bile is censed and asperged by Sacrificer)

**By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky
We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.**

PD: Sacred Well, Flow within us.

All: Sacred Well, Flow within us.

PD: Sacred Fire, Burn within us.

All: Sacred Fire, Burn within us.

PD: Sacred Tree, Grow within us!

All: Sacred Tree, Grow within us.

Calling the Gatekeeper

Inspired by Sonoran Sunrise Grove with parts written by SSG and Sean Harbaugh

**PD 3: O Mhanainnein MacLeirr, Keeper of the Gates,
Ward and protect us on our way,
O Mhanainnein, Sea King, Keeper of the Realms,
Accept our sacrifice today!**

(The Sacrificer makes an offering of whiskey to the Fire)

PD 2:

**Mhanainnein, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!
Mhanainnein, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!
Mhanainnein, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!**

PD 1:

**Mighty God of in-between,
Guiding souls to Summerland,
Opener of Gates unseen,
Help our consciousness expand.**

PD 2:

Mhanainnein, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

PD 1:

**Keeper of the Sacred Gate,
Use Your strong and holy powers.**

**Let our voices resonate;
Join Your magic here with ours!
Mhanainnein, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!**
(The Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire)

Gatekeeper, accept our sacrifice!

All: Gatekeeper accept our sacrifice!

OPENING THE GATES

(The PD 2 starts the chant and PD 1 takes the staff circles clockwise.)

PD 2: Open the Gates, Open the Gates, Open the Gates

PD 2, PD3, Sacrificer together:

Let the Well open as a Gate!

Let the Fire burn and open as a Gate!

Let the Tree connect the Worlds!

PD 1: A MHANAINNEIN, OSCLAÍTEAR NA GEATAÍ! (amananan, oscleechar na gyatee) **Let the Gates Be Open!**

All: OSCLAÍTEAR NA GEATAÍ! Let the Gates Be Open!
(amananan, oscleechar na gyatee)

PD 2:

Children of the Earth, we are now woven into the fabric of the Otherworlds. Here, the Kindred can hear our thoughts and know our hearts. Let there be only Truth here.

Inviting the Three Kindred

Ancestors

PD 1: Let us now give honor to the Three Kindred, the Ancestors, the Spirits of the Land, and the Shining Ones.

(PD 1 starts the chant “Ancient and Strong” and the Sacrificer places Ale at the base of the Well.)

All sing:

**Ancestors calling to me
Power ancient and strong
Elders, sage, wise ones be
We have known you all along**

(Words by Phoenix)

PD 1: Mighty Ones, accept our offering!”

All: Mighty Ones, accept our offering!

PD 1: Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel the Ancestors as they join us here.

Ancestors, we welcome you here.

Now we will make our sacrifice to the Nature Spirits.

Nature Spirits

(PD 2 starts the chant “Fur and Feather” as the Sacrificer offers herbs.)

All sing:

Fur and feather and scale and skin,

**Different without but same within,
Many of body but one of soul,
Through all creatures are the gods made whole.**

(Words and music by Sable)

PD 2: Noble Ones, accept our offering!

All: Noble Ones, accept our offering!

**PD 2: Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel
the Nature Spirits, the Sidhe, and the Noble Ones as they join us here.**

Spirits of the Land, we welcome you.

PD 2: Now we will make sacrifice to the Deities.

Deities

(PD 3 starts the chant “Hail All the Gods” as the Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.)

All sings:

**Hail all the Gods,
Hail all the Goddesses,
Hail all the Holy Ones,
We dwell together.**

**Powers of the sky,
Powers of the sacred earth.
Powers of the Underworld,
We dwell together.**

**Hail all the Gods!
Hail all the Goddesses!
Hail all the Gods...and Goddesses**

(Words: First verse, Trad.; Second verse, Richard MacKelley; Bridge section, Gwynne Green.
Music: Paul Maurice, Sean Miller, Gail Williams.)

PD 3: Shining Ones, accept our offering!

All: Shining Ones accept our offering!

PD 3: Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel the Gods and Goddesses as they join us here.

Key Offerings

Sacrifice to Aengus Og

(PD 1 will invoke and Sacrificer offers whiskey to Aengus Og)

PD 1: Áengus Óg, accept our Sacrifice!

All: Áengus Óg, accept our Sacrifice!

Praise Offerings

(PD1 explains the Praise Offering segment)

Prayer of Sacrifice

PD 2:

O Bright Ones, Nature Spirits, and Ancestors,

Together with all your energy,

We join this power into one,

Great sacrifice to you All!

(Raise whiskey and bread)

O Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

That our love to you strengthens the energy,

**That we together show the universe,
The fertility and wonder of our synergy.**
(Sacrificer gives whiskey and bread into the fire)

PD 2: Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

All: Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrifice Song (by Ian Corrigan and friends)

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

(Repeat)

The Omen

PD 3: Let us now see how our offerings were received.

(Group is led in a humming chant. When this is done Seer 2 will decipher the Omen.)

Hallowing the Blessing

PD 1: 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 Kindred. 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, that we may all receive the blessings we desire.

(The Grove Sacred Cup or with the Waters of Life is presented and raised.)

**PD 2: O Kindred, as we lift this cup up high,
Fill it O Kindred with your essence,
Fill the cup with your power and magic,
Hallow these Waters with your blessings!**

PD 1: Mighty Kindred! Noble Ones! Shining Ones! Hallow these waters!

Ancestors, we ask you, Give us the Waters!

All: Give us the Waters!

PD 2: Nature Spirits! Give us the Waters!

All: Nature Spirits! Give us the Waters!

PD 3: Shining Ones! Give us the Waters of Life!

All: Shining Ones! Give us the Waters of Life!

(PD slowly lowers the cup, seeing the power of the Kindred filling it as he does so)

PD 1: Behold, the Waters of Life!

(The PD fills everyone's cup in the circle while the chant is sung, when all is done the sacred toast is made and all drink)

All Chant:

Blessings of the Mighty Ones Upon Us,

Blessings of the Noble Ones Upon Us,

Blessings of the Shining Ones upon Us,

Blessings of the Kindred Upon Us.

(repeat as necessary)

Affirmation of the Blessing

PD 1: Children of the Earth Mother, do accept the gifts from the Kindred?

All: We accept the gifts from the Kindred!

PD 1: As do I

The Work

(PD 1 will invoke the Kindred and perform a request for a new Grove Nemeton. At the end of the invocation the Sacrificer will offer the bottle of whiskey to the Fire. The participants will do a chant during the sacrificing stage of the spell-work/invocation. After the chant the participants will hold hands in a circle, walk clockwise and begin to visualize the magic being sent to the Kindred. While rotating all will sing)

Chant – We Are a Circle Moving

**We are a circle moving, one with another, we are
Moving together, we are one!**

**We are a circle moving, one with another, we are
Moving together, we are one!**

I am Spirit and I flow in You.

You are Spirit and You flow in me.

**We are a circle moving, one with another, we are
Moving together, we are one!**

(Written by Marae Price)

Thanking the Beings

PD 3: NA DÉITHE, GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH! (*Na Day-uh, gora ma-agiv*) **Gods and Goddesses, we thank you!**

All: NA DÉITHE, GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH! (*Na Day-uh, gora ma-agiv*) **Gods and Goddesses, we thank you!**

PD 1: Aengus Og! GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIT!
(Gora ma-agit) **We thank you!**

All: Aengus Og! GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIT!
(Gora ma-agit) **We thank you!**

PD 2: SPRIDEANNA NA TALAIMH, GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH!
(Shprijh-dennuh nuh tulluv, gora ma-agiv) **Nature Spirits, we thank you!**

All: SPRIDEANNA NA TALAIMH, GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH!
(Shprijh-dennuh nuh tulluv, gora ma-agiv) **Nature Spirits, we thank you!**

PD 1: ÁR SINSIR, GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH!
(Aur shinshur, gora ma-agiv) **Ancestors, we thank you!**

All: ÁR SINSIR, GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH!
(Aur shinshur, gora ma-agiv) **Ancestors, we thank you!**

PD 2: Bride, bringer of wisdom and inspiration, wife of Aengus. GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIT! (Gora ma-agit) **We thank you!**

All: GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIT! (Gora ma-agit) **We thank you!**

PD 1: Mhanainnein MacLeirr, we make another offering to you.

(Sacrificer pours whiskey into the fire)

We thank you for your presence, and now we ask you to aid us in ending that which we have done.

PD 1: Gatekeeper, accept our sacrifice!

All: Gatekeeper accept our sacrifice!

Closing the Gates

PD 2:

Now we end what we began.

(PD 2 starts the chant and PD 1, with staff, circles counter-clockwise.)

Chant: Close the Gates... Close the Gates... Close the Gates

PD 2, PD 3, Sacrificer say together:

Let the fire be flame!

Let the well be water!

Let all be as it was before!

A MHANEINNAIN, DUNTAR NA GAETAÍ!

(amananan, doontur na gyatee)

Let the Gates be closed!

All: A MHANEINNAIN DUNTAR NA GAETAÍ!

(amananan, doontur na gyatee)

Let the Gates be closed!

Thanking the Earth Mother and Final Closing

PD 1: Children of the Earth, once more we are nestled in the Midworld in the arms of the Great Mother. Like times of old we have given offerings to the Ancestors, the Nature Spirits, and the Deities and they have given their blessings in return.

Biodh amhlaidh! Be it so!"

(bee awlah)

All: Biodh amhlaidh! Be it so!"
(bee awlah)

PD 2: _____, Great Power has been raised. Please ground us once more.

(PD 1 reverses the Two Powers and grounds everyone)

PD 2: Earth Mother, we give to you all the remaining offerings because what comes from you must return to you. For upholding the world and bestowing upon us your blessings, we say, GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIT! (Gora ma-agit) We thank you!

All: GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIT! (Gora ma-agit) We thank you!
(The bell is chimed nine times)

PD 1: Children of the Earth Mother, thank you for coming to our Rite.

May the road rise with you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sunshine warm upon your face.

May the rain fall softly on your fields.

And until we meet again,

May they hold you in the hollow of Their hands.

Walk with wisdom our Rite is ended!

Sierra Madrone Grove, ADF

Winter Solstice 2007

Celebrants

Presiding Druid 1: Rev. Sean W. Harbaugh

Presiding Druid 2: Betula

Presiding Druid 3: Lindsay

Sacrificer: Jill

Seer: Arielle

Warrior: Hazel Seraih