

Mabon 2007 • ADF Druid Style • LIOC

Pre-ritual checklist done, setting up Fire, Well, Tree, etc. in ritual space; Folk gather near porch.

AT does pre-ritual briefing; **MB** behind w/ lit incense, **MH** w/ chime, branch/water on ground.

Purification of Folk / Outsiders

MH rings chime three times to begin the ritual, puts in pocket, picks up branch and water bowl.

AT puts ritual sheets in pocket, retrieves Outsider cup full of soda, raises it and says:

Outsiders! You who come from the outer dark,

You who stood against the gods and man,

You who are cold of heart and cruel of mind,

Fir Bolg, Fomorians, all forces of chaos who would disrupt our rite, (“fur bohlg”)

Take this, and trouble not our work.

AT then “throws” the soda (with left hand) laterally so that it lands neither in the ritual space nor in the path of the forthcoming procession, also looking askew. **AT** then says to the Folk:

Likewise we look within ourselves for those parts that are hostile, petty, or small-minded,

Which would distract us from the harmony we create today with the gods and each other.

Take a moment... Feel those parts of you, acknowledge them,

and then release them for this rite...

(pause)

Children of Earth, do you release all ill will?

All respond with:

We release all ill will!

AT: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!* (“bee shay ow’-lee”)

All: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!*

Procession and Opening Prayer

AT turns around to **MB** and **MH** and **All** start singing **Come We Now As a People**:

Come we now as a people, (words/music: Ian Corrigan)

To gather at the sacred well.

Come we now as a people,

To gather in the warmth and the light of the flame.

AT goes between **MB** and **MH** (who are facing each other), getting censed & asperged. The Folk then follow one-by-one until **MB** & **MH** finally cense/asperge each other and close the line.

AT leads Folk into the ritual space slowly, doing one complete circle around space and stopping at the East entrance to the circle, all while singing **Come We Now As a People**. **MB** and **MH** join **AT**, enter circle, put procession items (chime/bowl/branch, incense, cup) on/near altar. **AT** says the Opening Prayer:

AT: *Tá muid anseo leis na Déithe a adhradh.* (Taw meej an'-show leshna day-uh ah-rah)
All: *We are here to honor the gods!*

Honoring the Earth Mother

Drummer starts heartbeat and **MB** honors **Áine Chliar** (awn'-ya cleer), the Earth Mother:

*O Earth Mother, our lives are nursed from your bounty.
You are the food that nourishes us, the wealth that enriches us, even the very ground we walk on.
O great mother Áine, all joy and prosperity comes from you, and it is you who sustains us.
For the love and bounty you bestow upon us every day, Earth Mother, we honor you now.*

Celebrants lead **All** to honor the Earth Mother by kneeling and kissing, or touching, the ground.

MB offers corn meal on the ground around circle and says: *Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice.*

All: *Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!*

All sing **Blessed Is She** (3x):

(words/music “traditional”)

*Blessed is She who brings the life to the land,
Blessed is She.
Flow out from your sources, sacred river,
Blessed is She.*

Bardic Inspiration

MH invokes **Brighid**, goddess of bards, healers, and smiths:

MH: *Bright Brighid, Daughter of the Daghdha, Flame of Inspiration,*

*Maker of metal, Maker of good health, Maker of song,
With you as our mother we need fear no sickness,
With you as our mother we need fear no dull swords,
With you as our mother we need fear no empty words.
Our tribe is triple-blessed, O shining light of the hearth,
and we your children ask you to alight in our hearts,*

*Alight in our heads, and alight in our voices,
That we may give praise to the gods with good skill.*

MH makes an offering of oil to Brighid with ladle and says: *Brighid, accept our sacrifice.*

All: *Brighid, accept our sacrifice!*

All sing **Let the Way Be Open** (3x): (words/music: Abby Spinner, Magnus McBride)

*Sing through my voice,
Play through my hands,
Let the way be open!*

Grounding and Uniting in the Grove Meditation

(**MB** leads Two Powers / Grove Meditation, ending with “we are one”.)

All sing **We Are a Circle Moving** (3x): (words/music: Marae Price)

All: *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.*

(note: this will wrap the last time through)

Statement of Purpose

MH: *What we have sown through the year continues to bear fruit for us in the second harvest, when the days grow shorter and become even with the night. The Mother of All is fruitful and the Kindreds await. Let us remember our Ancestors, let us celebrate with the Nature Spirits around us, and let us honor the Shining Ones, so that we may enjoy their blessings throughout the harvest season.*

Establishing the Sacred Grove: Fire, Well, and Tree

AT: *Now with the Folk united in one grove and one purpose, let us bless the sacred elements of our world, the Fire, the Well, and the Tree.*

Fire

MB goes to Fire and says:

O sacred fire that consumes and transforms,

True and holy light of the Shining Ones,

Be blessed with our offering! O sacrificed and sacrificer,

Let holy flame warm our spirits and our lives.

MB adds wood to Fire, offers incense to Fire (lighting 3 sticks; offering 1, taking 2).

MB: *I kindle the sacred fire in wisdom, love, and power.*

Sacred fire, burn within us.

All: *Sacred fire, burn with us.*

MB re-enters circle, censes site by walking around circle w/ incense, gives incense to **AT**.

Well

MH takes branch out to Well and says:

O sacred waters that flow and swirl beneath all being,

Well of ancient wisdom, keeper of deep riches,

Be blessed with our offering! O great source of all,

Let us know the elder depths within ourselves.

MH offers silver into Well, then ladles waters from the Well to the blessing cup 3 times.

MH: *In the depths flow the waters of wisdom.*

Sacred waters flow within us.

All: *Sacred waters, flow within us.*

MH dips branch in Well, takes blessing cup and branch back into circle, puts blessing cup down on altar, asperges site around circle, gives branch to **AT**.

Tree

AT goes to Tree and says:

O sacred pillar, boundary of all worlds,

Stand at the center of the sky,

Stand at the center of the sea,

Stand at the center of the land on which we dwell.

Let us be deepened in your depths,

Raised to your heights,

And strengthened in your strength.

AT dresses & censes the Tree with branch and incense.

AT: *From the depths to the heights spans the world tree.*

Sacred tree, grow within us.

All: *Sacred tree, grow within us.*

Land/Sea/Sky and Completion of Consecration of Space

MH: *Fire and well and sacred tree, flame and flow and grow in me!*

All: *Fire and well and sacred tree, flame and flow and grow in me!*

MH: *Let the land stay firm beneath us!*

All: *Let the land stay firm beneath us!*

MH: *Let the sea be calm around us!*

All: *Let the sea be calm around us!*

MH: *Let the sky hold fast above us!*

All: *Let the sky hold fast above us!*

MH: *Land and sea and starry sky, all surround and sanctify!*

All: *Land and sea and starry sky, all surround and sanctify!*

MH: *By the might of the waters, and the light of the fire, this grove is made whole and holy.*

All: *By the might of the waters, and the light of the fire, this grove is made whole and holy.*

MH: *By the might of the waters, and the light of the fire, this grove is made whole and holy!*

All: *By the might of the waters, and the light of the fire, this grove is made whole and holy!*

MH: *By the might of the waters, and the light of the fire, this grove is made whole and holy!!*

All: *By the might of the waters, and the light of the fire, this grove is made whole and holy!!*

MH: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!* (“bee shay ow-lee”)

All: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!*

(words/music: Ian Corrigan)

All sing **Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe** (3x):

*Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe,
Powers of Earth and Sky and Sea,
By Fire and Well, by Sacred Tree,
Offerings we make to ye.*

Opening the Gates Between the Worlds

MB calls to **Manannan**, god of the sea and the misty ways leading to the Otherworld:

MB: *Oh Manannan, powerful son of the sea, holder of the magics of the crane bag, we ask you to hear our call. Oh Lord of the Otherworld, bearer of the silvered apple branch, join with us this day so that you may guide us safely in our workings. Mist-shrouded rider of the maned waves, accept our offering and open the gates between your realm and ours.*

MB and Celebrants sing, with others if they know it (1x): (words/music: Marae Price)
We stand at the border and watch the mists close in.

*Waves rolling, rolling,
Where shore meets the ocean, where land meets sea and sky,
We call to you, Manannan,
Manannan, Manannan,
We welcome you as you one day will welcome us.*

MB makes an offering of apple to Manannan and says: *Manannan mac Lir, accept our sacrifice!*

All: *Manannan mac Lir, accept our sacrifice!*

All: *Gatekeeper open the portals,* (words/music: Liafal)
*Between the gods and mortals,
Power freely flows,
As our magic grows. (3x)*

Drummer starts speeding up drum beat...

MB and **MH** begin leading **All** to chant: *Open the gates, open the gates, open the gates...*

AT gestures to Fire and says: *Let the Fire open as a gate!* **All** continue chanting...

AT gestures to Well and says: *Let the Well open as a gate!* **All** continue chanting...

AT gestures to Tree and says: *Let the Tree connect all the worlds!*
All continue chanting: *Open the gates, open the gates...* for a few more moments...

Drummer makes a loud drum roll ending in a single strong stroke, **All stop chanting.**

AT says: *Osclaítear na geataí! Let the gates be opened!* (“os-kluh-teer’ na gay’-tee”)

All repeat: *Let the gates be opened!*

AT pauses for a few moments, then says:

Children of Earth, the gates are now open and the Gods, Dead, and Sidhe can hear our words and know our hearts, so let only truth be present therein. Now we call upon the Kindreds, inviting them to come and receive the honor that is their due.

Drummer returns to normal pace of heartbeat drumming.

Honoring and Inviting the Three Kindreds

Ancestors

MB gets bread and says:

*Hear us, Old Ones, our ancestors and kin,
You whose blood flows in our veins.
From you we spring and with you we will grow in health.
Ancestors, remember us as we remember you.*

MB makes an offering of bread to the ancestors and says: *Ancestors, accept our sacrifice!*

All: *Ancestors, accept our sacrifice!*

All sing **Blood of the Ancients** (3x):
Murphy)

(words/music: Charlie

*It's the blood of the ancients,
That runs through our veins...
The forms change,
But the circle of life remains.*

Nature Spirits

MH gets bird seed and says:

*Hear us, Spirits of the Land,
You of stone and stream, of beast and herb and tree.
From you we learn to live in harmony with our world, and ourselves.
Nature spirits, aid us as we aid you.*

MH makes an offering of bird seed to nature spirits, says: *Nature spirits, accept our sacrifice!*

All: *Nature spirits, accept our sacrifice!*

All sing **Hoof and Horn** (3x):

(words/music: Ian Corrigan)

*Hoof and Horn, Hoof and Horn,
All that dies shall be reborn.
Corn and Grain, Corn and Grain,
All that falls shall rise again.*

Gods

AT: *Hear us, Shining Ones of eld, you who uphold the worlds.
You who guide us and protect us, O patrons and matrons,*

*In you we grow in wisdom, strength, and purity.
Gods and goddesses, honor us as we honor you.*

AT makes an offering of oil to the gods and says: *Gods and goddesses, accept our sacrifice!*

All: *Gods and goddesses, accept our sacrifice!*

All sing **Hail All the Gods** (3x):

(credits: <http://tinyurl.com/ywmhqc>)

*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.*

(Note: last verse “wraps around” to first verse, including on last time through)

Meditation of Merging the Energies and Re-Centering

(**MB** leads meditation of merging and re-centering, ending with “the host is gathered”.)

Honoring the Spirits of the Occasion

MH: *It is the time of Mabon, the even day, when the waning light of summer is matched by the waxing darkness of winter. The faint echoes of summer breeze are still around, but the windy chill of winter begins to blow as well. We have gained harvest and weal from the summertime, and now we will make offerings to the Shining Ones that they may ward us and we may weather the winter well.*

Honoring Goibniu

MB tells story re: **Goibniu** (if time), then picks up offerings and says: (gove'-new)

In the time of the second harvest, the Great Smith of the Tuatha De strikes his anvil for the good of all.

He is Goibniu the Strong Armed, the Thrice Striker, Forger of the Unerring and All-Quenching Spears, Brewer of the Ale of Immortality, Keeper of the Cow of Plenty and maker of halters and plows.

Hear us now, Gobban Saer, First of the Trí Dée Dana and Host of the Feast of Ages, Son of Danu and Father of Keening, Spear Singer and Sword Saver for Seven Strife-ful Years.

We your children pray you to come in, to let your strength fill our sacred space, and to indwell our rite and give us your blessing.

We make due offering to you. We give you...

(iron offered into shaft)

Iron, that the powers of shaping be strong inside us,

(ale poured onto ground)

Ale, that the spirits of inspiration and youth shine within,

(grain scattered onto ground or into shaft)

And grain, that our tools be sharp and our harvests sure.

Be welcome among us, Great Craftsman. Goibniu, accept our sacrifice!

MB:

All: *Goibniu, accept our sacrifice!*

Goibniu = "gove'-new"

Tuatha De = "too'-uh day"

Gobban Saer = "goh'-bahn say-er"

Trí Dée Dana = "tree day'-ee dah'-nah"

Honoring Cailleach Baere

AT tells story re: **Cailleach Baere** (if time), then picks up offerings and says:

As the Earth slips into darkness the Hag of Baere is wielding her scythe and cutting the green corn down, to sow it again later in winter's night.

She is the Cailleach, the wise and cunning old woman, who passed into seven periods of youth while her husbands passed away behind her, grandmother to peoples and races of the Earth.

Her eyes are keen and sparkling like the cold river stream, her hands are gnarled like the twisted roots of ancient trees, and her skin is old and wrinkled like the scattered leaves of autumn.

When the Cailleach calls, deep within the forest, deep within the land, we can feel it in our bones, like the roots of old.

It is time to come home, into the darkness of the woods, where the old hag will cut us open, and we will grow new again, our frailty and weakness cut down like the corn.

Hear us now, Cailleach Baere, Great Ancient Grandmother, Lady of the Deep Forest, Old Witch of the Roots and Cauldron.

We your children pray that you be with us, that you look kindly upon our holy rite, and that you come into our Grove and give us your blessing.

We make due offering to you. We give you...

(stone offered into the shaft)

Precious stone, that the Bones of the Earth may be clothed again in life,

(whiskey poured into the fire)

Whiskey, that the Waters of Life May flow in us and Spirit indwell flesh,

(bone placed at base of the Tree)

And bone, that the old and unnecessary fall away into peaceful rest.

AT: *Be welcome among us, Great Grandmother. Cailleach Baere, accept our sacrifice!*

All: *Cailleach Baere, accept our sacrifice!*

Cailleach Baere = “cal’-ee-ack behr’-uh”
scythe = “sythe” (from dictionary.com)

Main Praise Offering

AT: *Children of Earth, we have called the gods, the spirits of the land around us, and our own ancestors and honored dead, and they have come.*

We have called Goibniu and Cailleach and given them honor, and they have received our praise. Let us join our voices together now in one final offering...

Raise your voice high, make a sound, an om if you will, or a humming, or any other noise that you feel in your heart expresses your love for the Kindreds.

Reach deep within your heart and let out a sound of love and praise, and send that energy out to the Kindreds. Children of Earth, lift up your voices now...

AT raises arms and starts the humming/singing/om-ing, **Celebrants** and **All** join in.

All continue to om, hum, etc. until it naturally stops *or* until **AT** lowers arms to signal end.

Final Prayer of Sacrifice

AT leads the Folk in the final prayer of sacrifice: *Children of Earth, relax now... and reach deep within your hearts and touch that tender place of worship... hear the music of love and devotion that we play together tonight... and see before us the Kindreds lovingly awaiting our final prayer of sacrifice... Holy ones, accept these final offerings with all our love and thanks...*

(oil poured) *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice.*

All: *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!*

(oil poured) *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!*

All: *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!*

(oil poured) *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!!*

All: *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!*

AT: *Shining Ones, Noble Ones, and Mighty Ones, we have given you praise and honor! A gift calls for a gift, and we pray to you as we offer up these sacrifices. Accept them, open our hearts, and give to us of your blessings.*

All sing **Let Our Voices Arise on the Fire** (3x):

(words: Anthony Thompson)

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

(music: Ian Corrigan)

AT: *Now with the Kindreds duly praised let us seek an omen for the blessings of return.*

Omen for the Blessings

MB begins leading the Folk in singing **Speak to Us**, while **AT** takes the omen with ogham:

MH prepares three pitchers by pouring 1/3 of water from blessing cup/horn into each of them.

All: *Speak to us,* (words/music: Phoenix)
Speak to us, goddesses,
Speak to us,
Speak to us, all the gods. (sung until **AT** has completed omen and stands up)

AT reveals the omen, finishing with: *These are the blessings of the gods. Bíodh sé amhlaidh!*

All: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!*

Induction, Receiving the Blessings

AT says, while **MB** and **MH** each pass out cups to ½ the circle; cups for **MB/MH/AT** on altar:

Children of Earth, all our work, all our offerings and praise, all we have done in our rite today, have led up to this moment. We have made offerings to the Powers, we have divined what blessings they give us in return, and now we will receive those blessings.

Think for a moment about your own life... What use have you for the power of ___? What use have you for the power of ___? And what use do you have for the power of ___?

And think also of the group around you, of your fellow pagans and even your loved ones. How can these blessings help them? What other boons would you ask of the Powers now?

Think for a moment on each specific thing you would ask of the Powers for your life and the lives of those in this group and in your heart. Feel, hear, and see in your mind's eye what you most want and most need.

And when we raise the pitchers in a moment, when we say, "Kindreds, give us the Waters", see the power of the blessings you desire descend into the pitchers like a mist,

filling them up to the brim and pulsing with potential.

*And when your cup is filled with these Waters of Life, and when you drink of them, know that you take the powers of the Gods into you and your life, and that your heart's desires **will** be fulfilled.*

Now let your eyes close and take a final moment to think on your needs, and the needs of those around you and those you love, and call out with your spirit to ask that the blessings you seek will fill our vessels.

(pause for a few moments of meditation on personal and group needs)

AT, MB, and MH each get a pitcher and raise it high, each facing 1/3 of the circle...

MB: *Children of Earth, we call for the blessing of the Ancient Ones. Together we cry...*

Kindreds, give us the waters!

All: *Kindreds, give us the waters!*

MB: *We join our hearts, that each of us be blessed. Together we call...*

Kindreds, give us the waters!

All: *Kindreds, give us the waters!*

MB: *And as we are blessed, let all the worlds be blessed. For a third and final time we pray,*

Kindreds, give us the waters!

All: *Kindreds, give us the waters!*

(pitchers still held high...)

MH says:

O Bright Craftsman Goibniu! O Dark Grandmother Cailleach! O Mighty, Noble and Shining Ones, we have given to you, and now we ask you to bless us in turn, as a gift calls for a gift. Hallow these waters, O holy powers. Grant us the blessing we seek. Let the wisdom, love and power of the Gods, Dead and Sidhe flow in these cups of Blessing. Seo iad uisci na beatha. Behold, the Waters of Life! (“shee ahd ishka nah bah-hah”)

All: *Behold, the Waters of Life!*

(pitchers lowered)

AT, MB, and MH fill own cups, divide the circle into 1/3 each and take their pitchers to put a splash of water in each attendee's cup, while LIOC choir leads Folk in **Power of the Spirits**:

Power of the spirits...

Flowing through me...

(words/music: Ian Corrigan)

*Power of the spirits...
Shining in me...
Power of the spirits...
Growing with me...
Power of the spirits...*

(as often as necessary until all drink the blessing)

Celebrants return to the center, put pitchers on altar, drink their own cups, then end the song.

Affirmation of the Blessing

MH: *Children of Earth, we have drunk of the Waters of Life. We have taken in the true and wondrous blessings of the Kindreds, and we accept these gifts and acknowledge their power in our lives. Children of Earth, do you accept the blessings?*

All: *We accept the blessings!*

MH: *Then let these blessings flow to every part of our lives. Biodh sé amhlaidh!*

All: *Biodh sé amhlaidh!*

Thanking the Kindreds and Spirits

MH: *We have called upon the Kindreds and they have answered us! With joy in our hearts let us carry the magic from our sacred grove into our lives and work. Each time we offer to the powers they become stronger and more aware of our needs and worship. So as we prepare to depart let us give thanks to those who have aided us.*

MH: *Go raibh maith agait... Cailleach, We thank you!*

(gor uh mah ah'-git)

All: *Cailleach, We thank you!*

MH: *Go raibh maith agait... Goibniu, We thank you!*

All: *Goibniu, we thank you!*

MH: *Go raibh maith agaibh... Gods and Goddesses, We thank you!*

(gor uh mah ah'geev)

All: *Gods and Goddesses, we thank you!*

MH: *Go raibh maith agaibh... Nature Spirits, We thank you!*

All: *Nature Spirits, we thank you!*

MH: *Go raibh maith agaibh... Ancestors, We thank you!*

All: *Ancestors, we thank you!*

MH: *Go raibh maith agait... Manannan mac Lir, We thank you!*

All: *Manannan, we thank you!*

MH: *Go raibh maith agait... Brighid, We thank you!*

All: *Brighid, we thank you!*

MH: *Earth Mother, to you we give all that remains, for what comes from the Earth must surely return to the Earth. We pray that you uphold us in the world as you have in our rite.*

MH pours all remaining offerings (including water in pitchers) out onto the Earth, and says:
Go raibh maith agait... Earth Mother, We thank you!

All: *Earth Mother, we thank you!*

Closing the Gates

MB calls to **Manannan**, asking for his aid in closing the gates:

MB: *Oh Manannan, wise grey one, with you we keep the old bargain... Lend your aid once more to our cause, join your magic again with ours, and help us close the ways between.*

Drummer starts speeding up drum beat...

MB and **MH** begin leading **All** to chant: *Close the gates, close the gates, close the gates...*

AT gestures to Fire and says: *Let the Fire be flame!*

AT gestures to Well and says: *Let the Well be water!*

AT gestures to Tree and says: *Let the Tree stand alone!*

All continue chanting: *Close the gates, close the gates...* for a few more moments...

Drummer makes a loud drum roll ending in a single strong stroke, **All stop chanting.**

AT says: *Dúntar na geataí! Let the gates be closed!* (“doon’-tar na gay’-tee”)

All repeat: *Let the gates be closed!*

Drummer returns to normal pace of heartbeat drumming.

Re-grounding

(**MB** leads short meditation, ending with “and now, let us finish the work we started”.)

Affirmation of Continuity, Ending the Rite

MH: *We have done as our ancestors did and as our children will do and the Gods have answered! Let us go out into the world secure in the knowledge that our offerings have pleased the gods and that we go forth under their protection. The ritual is at a close. Biodh sé amhlaidh!*

All: *Biodh sé amhlaidh!*

MH rings the chime three times to announce the end the rite.

Recession

All sing **In the Company of Friends** while recessing away from the ritual area:

Join your heart once more with your comrades

(words/music: Marae Price)

Ere you turn your face to the wind

And walk the road from this holy place

In the company of friends.

(as often as necessary to recess)