

Samhain
Sassafras Grove, ADF, Pittsburgh PA
The Cabin, North Park
Saturday, October 25, 2008
6:30 PM

Officiant: **Emerald**
Liturgical Planning Team: **Michelle (APL), Dave, Maria, Degan**
Operations Director: **Janet**
Sacrificers: **Deana & Degan**
Host: **Vicki**

TIER ONE: BEGINNING THE RITE & ESTABLISHING THE GROUPMIND

Consecration of Time

Musical Signal (Nine Knells): **Earrach** on horn, **Drummers** on site

Opening Prayer: **Emerald**

We come to honor the blessed ones.

Consecration of Space and of Participants

Processional “Come We Now as a People” (Ian Corrigan)

*Come we now as a people
To gather at the sacred well
Come we now as a people
To gather in the warmth and the light of the flame*

We will process from the Cabin to the ritual site. The path will be lined with lit jack o’lanterns.

Purifications (Land, Sea, Sky): **Blessers Chosen on Site**

Purify with earth, water, and incense.

As each person enters the ritual space, they will be given a coin to offer to the Ancestors later in the rite.

The Warding of the Site/the Acknowledgment of the Outsiders: **Emerald**

*You amongst the living and the dead
Who stand against the gods and men
Immortal beings not of our ways
And all spirits who would do us harm
Take this and stay beyond our light
And trouble not our work this night* (Diane “Emerald” Vaughn)

Invocation to Bardic Patron/Spirit of Inspiration (Brighid): **Earrach (Alaric)**

*Hail Brighid, patron of Sassafras grove.
Through the years you have stood beside us
Guided and protected us.
Lady of poetry and song
Bless us once again with your gift of inspiration.
May the spark from your Sacred Fire ignite our hearts
That we might speak with passion
May the waters of your Holy Well flow through us
That we might speak with wisdom
May our songs be sweet
May our actions be just
May our love be pure
May our worship be true (Maria Stoy)*

Honoring the Earth Mother: **Diane**

*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 causeth 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 we ask thee, so shall we give thanks to thee, Goddess, with due Faith.
(Translation from "Early English Magic and Medicine" by Dr. Charles Singer, Proceedings of the British Academy, Vol. IV)*

All touch or kiss the ground.

Song: ("Earth Mother, We Honor Your Body")

*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*

Ground, Center, and Establish Group Mind: **Vicki**

Close your eyes, and relax. Breathe deeply. Let your diaphragm expand as you inhale, allowing you to breathe more deeply, to bring in more oxygen. As you exhale, imagine that you are expelling all of your tension, all of the day's irritations, all of the planning, and all of the worries, one by one, with each breath. Focus on your breathing, focus on clearing away all the negativity, all the things you don't want to be there.

*Now imagine yourself standing up and walking away from this *room (if inside)/clearing (if outside)*. You head away from the lights and the traffic, and into the woods. You are walking along a path through the woods, and you can feel the cool night air around you. You hear the wind whispering among the branches. You smell the sap from the pine trees, and the leaves on the forest floor *muffle your footsteps (if it's wet outside)/crunch softly under your feet (if it's dry)*. After a while, you come to a lake. It's peaceful, and calm, and very quiet. There's no one around; no boats, no people, not even animals.*

You step into the water, barely getting your feet wet, and you are surprised. Lake water at this time of year should be freezing cold, but this water is merely cool and pleasant. You decide to wade deeper into the water. You feel the water cover your feet and ankles, and you begin to extend your consciousness down into the water. As you wade deeper and deeper, your consciousness also extends deeper and deeper into the water of the lake. You realize that through the waters of this lake, you can connect to other waterways. Through the waters of this lake, you can connect to the land beneath it, to the water soaking into the fertile soil, to the cavern springs and the deep waters of the wells. Through the waters of this lake, you feel the connection to the rivers of our land, and through those waters you are connected to other rivers, other lakes, all the way to the ocean, and through the waters of the ocean, you are connected to the entire Earth. You are now completely immersed in the water of this lake. Its energy is all around you. It's rhythmic. It rises and falls, washing through you, almost humming with the energy it carries. You are connected to this energy, and it is a part of you.

You now roll onto your back, and find that you are floating easily in the water. You look upwards, into the night sky. You begin to extend your consciousness upwards towards the sky, while maintaining your connection to the water. You climb higher and higher. You can feel the wind rushing past your face as you continue upwards through the cool air, up past the branches of the nearby trees, up through the moistness of the clouds, up past the upper atmosphere where meteors burn, and up into the stars. Against the total blackness of the outer reaches of space, the stars shine with a bright and fiery radiance. You can feel their light shining down onto you and into you, steady and strong. You find that you can see more clearly than ever before. Through the light of these fires in the sky, you can connect with the fires of other people, with other beings, with anything that has that divine spark of life. Through this light, you can connect with the gods. The starlight is now all around you, and you are completely immersed in it. You can feel the energy of the light, bright and clear, and ringing like a bell. You are connected to this energy, and it is a part of you.

You now come back to the part of yourself that's floating in the lake, and stand up in the water. You can feel the energy of the water below you, and you can feel the energy of the stars above you. Those energies are a part of you, and they start to merge in your being. The cool rhythm of the water meets the warm brightness of the fire, and out of that merging, something new comes into being. You realize that are human, and as such you are a unique being. Just as you have connected to the powers of water and fire in the Otherworld realms while still remaining right here, in this room/clearing, you realize that you have the ability to maintain that connection for a time while remaining in the physical world. You can walk in both worlds. That new thing that came into being from connecting with the power of the fires above and the power of the waters below, that new thing that came from the merging of those two powers: that is magic. While still in the lake, you open your eyes, and look around at the people who are here tonight. They too have connected to the two powers as you have. They too have the ability to walk in both worlds; they too have magic. And you realize that you are not alone. We are here with you this night. We are connected. We are one. We are a Grove. (Victoria Grammer)

Song: (Chorus from "Center of the World") (Diane "Emerald" Vaughn)

*The Waters flow around us
The Fires burn 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*

Declaration of Intention & Historical Precedent: Emerald

Samhain makes the death of the year, the time of deepest Autumn, and the final harvest before Winter claims the fields as its own. At this time, the veil once again becomes thin, and we more can more easily reach out to those who came before. We stand on the threshold of the Wasteland and the chaos and uncertainty our journey between one year and the next can bring us. This night we call all of our honored Ancestors to our fire to remember them, to honor them, and seek their blessing and guidance as we prepare to journey into the Wasteland. We ask Cernunnos, god of the inbetween, to act as our gatekeeper and guardian as we do this sacred work. (Diane "Emerald" Vaughn)

TIER TWO: RECREATING THE COSMOS & PRELIMINARY POWER RAISING

Creation Myth: Taren

We lay the foundation for recreating the cosmos by telling the story of the origin of our people. [To be told like a campfire story.]

Michelle: *Who are we? From whence do we come? What is the story of our people?*

Taren

Not hard..

*A great misty cloud had gathered together in the void
Swirling and spiraling; spiraling and swirling
Drawing ever-in upon itself.
At its center a radiance shone forth
And drove outward the surrounding cloud
Gathering the waters together here below.
And so it was that the stuff of creation drew apart
To form the Fire Above
And the Waters Below.
The Solar Fire warmed the Cauldron of Creation
And stroked upon its waters with thunderbolts
And begat upon it Life.
And the Life begat the Creatures
And the Creatures begat the Ancestors
And the Ancestors begat Us-- the Living People.
Upright like you, Great Tree
We bear upon us the mark of Creation
Then, now, and for all time.*

*Rooted in the ancestral waters of the World Below,
Spanning this Middle-World of form
And reaching ever-upward to embrace the Fire Above. (Earrach of Pittsburgh)*

Creating the Vertical Axis

Evoking Spirits of Water & Fire & Honoring the Great Tree/Sacred Center (“Fire, Bright Fire”)

All sing as:

Sacrificer makes offering to the Well (offering)

Sacrificer makes offering to the Fire (offering)

Sacrificer asperges and censes the Tree

Fire, bright fire

Gate to the Shining Ones

Fire, bright Fire

Our passage to the Sky

Fire, bright Fire

Warmth of our Community

Spark of Life, We honor you now

Well, deep Well

Gate to the Underworld

Well, deep Well

Our passage to the Sea

Well, deep Well

Wisdom of the Ancestors

Waters of Life, We honor you now

Tree, great Tree

Gate that reaches everywhere

Tree, great Tree

With you we share the Land

Tree, great Tree

Our passage to the Otherworld

Source of Life, We honor you now (Words and music by Pandora)

Taren

The Well, the Fire, the Sacred Tree

Flow and flame and grow in me! (All repeat)

Invoking the Gatekeeper and Opening the Gate(s)/Creating the Threshold

Transition: **Michelle**

*Sanctified we stand at the center of the world
In the light of the fire with the flow of the well
We call to Cernunnos, god of the threshold
That we may open the ways between* (Diane “Emerald” Vaughn)

Gatekeeper Invocation (Cernunnos): **Maria, Dave, & the Congregation**

All sing:

*Cernunnos carry us
Cernunnos carry us
Cernunnos carry us over*

*Crossing the threshold
From sleeping to waking
Through living to dying
And over*

(Based on “Rhiannon Carry Us” by Thorn Coyle, Cernunnos version by Maria Stoy)

During the pauses between stanzas, **Maria** and **Dave** will alternately call out invocations to Cernunnos; **Maria** with odd numbers, **Dave** with even.

1. *God of the inbetween*
2. *See both ways at once*
3. *Bestower of wealth*
4. *Protector of Sailors*
5. *Both man and beast*
6. *Neither wild nor tame*
7. *Guide of the Dead*
8. *Clear the way*

Drumming and antler clacking will accompany the song.

Emerald and **Michelle** will lead singing.

As we sing, **Sacrificers** will uncover and light Cernunnos altar, decorated with Cernunnos images and symbols, and will make offerings to Cernunnos.

Gateway: **Maria, Dave, & Congregation**

To open the gates, we will repeat song four more times. During each of the two pauses, **Maria** and **Dave** will call out in unison:

*Let the Well open as a Gate! The Gate is open!
Let the Fire open as a Gate! The Gate is open!
Let the Tree open as a Gate! The Gate is open!
At the Sacred Center, the Gates are open!*

End song, **All** repeat: *The Gates are open!* (Gateway created by the Liturgy Team)

Janet will make her seership offering, light her candle from the fire, and go behind the Hallows to begin preparing for the omen.

Filling Out The Cosmic Picture: The Kindred Invocation Triad

Deities Invocation: **Brett (Taren)**

*Deities, from across the worlds we call to you!
Thunderous gods of judgment and might, rulers of the skies and seas.
Goddesses of sovereignty, ladies of the land, keepers of keys and defenders of cities
You of the wilds, primal and dark, enflaming our passions and inciting catharsis
You who watch over field and flock, bestowing upon us the wealth of the earth
You who keep the hearth's fire, and you who are the fire itself.
You who protect travelers of land, sea, and sky and help us to travel between the worlds
You who ground us in courage and wisdom, yet open our eyes to visions and dreams
You who inspire the words on our tongues, the work of our hands, and the love in our hearts
Whether you shine on high, abide below, or dwell with us in the middle realms
Deities, from across the worlds we call to you! (All repeat) (Diane "Emerald" Vaughn)*

Song: ("Hail All the Gods")

*Hail all the gods
Hail all the goddesses
Hail all the holy ones
We dwell together*

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

Worldly Spirits Invocation: **Alaric**

*Worldly Spirits, from across the veil we call to you!
To all the creatures of water, wood and wind
Essence of flower, seed, cone and spore
Powers that flow through shell, stone and sand
You who hold court just beyond our mortal sight
You of spring, grove, and hill and all the holy places
You who come to us in dreams and guide us in the other worlds
You spirits who share our lands and our homes
And you who claim the wilds as your own
Whether you fly in the skies, swim in the waters, or dwell upon the land
Worldly Spirits, from across the veil we call to you! (All repeat) (Diane "Emerald" Vaughn)*

Song: ("Spirits of Nature")

*Spirits of Nature, we call you
Earth & Sky and Wind & Rain*

*Spirits of Nature, we call you
To remember us again*

*Spirits of Nature we call you
Those with whom we share our home
Spirits of Nature we call you
Fin and feather, flesh and bone*

Chorus: *We call to you,
 Those we touch and those we dream
 We call to you
 To be heard and to be seen (words and music by Diana Paar)*

TIER THREE: MAJOR SENDING OF POWER TO THE BEING(S) OF THE OCCASION

Descriptive Invocation to Being(s): Maria, Emerald, Dave, Degan, & Michelle

Emerald will say a brief introduction. Something like:

We now call to our Ancestors, those without whom we would not be, those without whom we would not be who we are, those who have shaped the world around us, those who have brought us to where we are on our path.

All repeat last line of each invocation.

Ancestors of Civilization: Degan

Ancestor of Civilization, across the ages we call to you!

*You who tamed the cattle and sowed the fields of the first farms; you gave us the villages, towns and cities.
You who made the first bricks and sculptured the stone and clay; you gave us buildings, homes and temples
You who invented the alphabets and writing systems; you allowed us to record our sacred stories and histories.
You who made the first drums and the first string instruments; you gave us the sacred hymns and the music of
 the dance.*

You who built the first alters and worshiped the old gods; you gave us religion.

*You were the first children of the Earth Mother blessed with the divine spark of wisdom, virtue, and faith.
As the gods inspired you and led you to discoveries, you passed on what you made and discovered to those who
 came after you.*

*When life in this world was short and brutish, you not only survived, but you thrived. You were strong and
 hardy, and among you were geniuses.*

*We are your children, and all we have built is built on your foundations, thus we honor you and we are proud to
 call you our forbearers.*

Ancestors of Civilization, across the ages we call to you!

Ancestors of Blood: Maria

Ancestors of Blood, across the ages we call to you!

*You who gave us flesh and bone that we might walk in this world of form
You who adopted, fostered and nurtured us when our blood could not
You who immigrated from lands far across the sea and built a new life for your children and grandchildren.
You who worked the fields, the rivers, the mines and the mills to provide food, clothing and education.
You who taught us to fish, hunt, garden, crochet and sew
You who first taught us right from wrong
Who cooked for us, bandaged knees, kissed away fevers
You who told us the stories of your past and of ours
And gave us the traditions we still hold dear in our own homes.*

Ancestors of Blood, across the ages we call to you!

Ancestors of our Land: Michelle

Ancestors of Our Land, across the ages we call to you!

*You who stood on this Land where we live before all others
You who lived simply, taking from the land only what you needed
You who were one with nature
You who loved and respected the Land and all Her inhabitants
You from whom we learn to go back to natural ways for healing
And You, Ancestors who came here to a strange new world to make a new life
You who worked and toiled to create a bright new future for your children and their children
You who found a new peace and harmony in your freedom to build your dreams
We honor our Ancestors, both indigenous and those who built our foundations*

Ancestors of Our Land, across the ages we call to you!

Ancestors of Hearth: Emerald

Ancestors of Hearth, across the ages we call to you!

*You who worshiped our gods before us
You who walked the lands that gave them birth
You who kept the old ways alive despite the encroaching darkness
Your ways inspire our ways.
Your history and sagas teach us right action
Your artwork and poetry speak to our souls
We hear your voices in the words of our songs
We feel you beside us as we offer at our fires
We know you live on as we keep the traditions alive*

Ancestors of Hearth, across the ages we call to you!

Heroic Ancestors: Dave

Heroic Ancestors, across the ages we call to you!

*You whose insights, wisdom, leadership, and spirituality have guided Humanity to develop systems of ethics and
worship that enrich our heritage and inspire our many spiritual paths
You of myth and history, who championed justice and a place in the sun for the ancient peoples from whom we
have sprung
You whose writings and examples led brave souls to envision the first free modern societies in North America
and Europe
You who have fought to create and defend This Fortunate Nation
You who have struggled for full equality for women
You who have fought for full inclusion of minorities—racial, religious, sexual, ethnic, aboriginal, and other
minorities
You who created our Constitutional Bill of Rights to protect minorities from tyranny by the majority
You who set up an independent judiciary to strive for equal enforcement of law for all
You who fought, often unsung, over the centuries, to expunge corruption from government and to enhance fair
representation of the governed*

Heroic Ancestors, across the ages we call to you!

Degan, Maria, Michelle, Emerald, Dave
Ancestors, across the ages we call to you! (All repeat)

(Each invocation written by person who gave it.)

Offerings and Primary Power-Raising

Each of the five of us will prepare and make an offering appropriate to our category of Ancestors which we will make after we finish our invocation. Ancestor offerings will be made to the Well or the Earth.

End this section with **All** singing “Mothers and Fathers of Old” (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*

Individual Praise Offerings

Song: (“Well of Memory”)

*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 our hearts we know
Our descents will remember
Our love flows, Your loves flows (Diane "Emerald" Vaughn)*

All sing "Well of Memory." Each person will file past the Well and offer their coin infused with their love and praise for the Ancestors. If people brought other physical offerings, they can make them at this time as well. [Individual spoken praise will be given during dinner.]

Conclusionary Sacrifice/Prayer of Sacrifice: **Emerald & Sacrificers**

Deana and **Degan** will offer the plates of food/vessels of drink from the Ancestor Dinner.

Emerald will give Prayer of Sacrifice, ending with "Ancestors, accept our offerings!" **All** repeat last line.

Seeking the Omen of Return (crystal skull): **Janet**

As **Janet** takes the omen, **All** will sing "Ancestors Calling to Me."

*Ancestors calling to me
Powers ancient and strong
Elders, Sages, Wise Ones be
We have known you all along (words by Phoenix)*

When **Janet** is ready we will end the song. **Emerald** will ask:

What do the Ancestors give us to take with us into the Wasteland?

Janet will pronounce the omen.

*Many guests that are unseen are here tonight.
Their love and thanks are with all of you tonight.
Look not to the hand that moves, for that is distraction and chaos.
But rather to the hand that does not, for it controls the chaos.
Move softly and quietly into the wasteland.
Love and protection is with you.*

All say *Bíodh sé amhlaidh, So be it!*

Alaric, as Grove Scribe, will write down the omen for posterity.

TIER FOUR: RECEIVING AND USING THE RETURNED BLESSINGS/POWER

Preparing for the Blessings

Regrounding/Recentering: **Vicki**

Close your eyes. Imagine yourself back in the waters of the lake, only now instead of being alone, we are all there, as one people, as one Grove. Stand up, and begin wading back to the lakeshore. You find that your connection to the two powers remains intact as the water level recedes and as you emerge from the lake. You wait for the others to emerge from the lake, and then begin to walk back down the forest path, and you find yourself back in this room/clearing. You can still feel the movement of the water and the light of the stars lingering in you. Your connections to the two powers are still there, and they are still strong within you. With the merging of these two powers, we have connected to the Kindred, and we have connected to our Ancestors. Now it is time to prepare for their blessings and listen to their message.

Meditation on Personal and Group Needs: **Emerald**

Incorporating theme of going into the Wasteland and the message from the Ancestors.

Induction of Receptivity: **Michelle**

Michelle goes to **Janet** and lights the Blessing Candle from her candle.

Receiving the Blessings: **Michelle**

Calling (Asking) for the Blessings:

Message/Blessing of the Ancestors will be magically infused into the candle flame.

*Ancestors of Civilization, Blood & Family, This Land, Our Hearths and Our Heros
You, who are always with us,*

Guiding us, Supporting us with your wisdom, lessons and love

We thank you for your message of _____.

We ask that you now let this flame be infused with your Blessings, so that we may each take a piece of your light into Wasteland of the Year with us. (Michelle Handa)

Hallowing the Blessings

Michelle holds Blessing Candle aloft.

Behold the flame that sees us through the dark time of the year!

Affirmation of the Blessings:

Is it your will to receive the blessings of the Ancestors?

Hopefully **All** will reply: *It is!*

Then let it be done.

Dave and **Maria** will start at either end of the horseshoe and pass out lanterns.

Deana and **Degan** will each light a candle from the Blessing Candle and light each person's candle, also starting from either end of the horseshoe (meeting in the middle).

Emerald will sing "Never-Ending Road "Amhrán Duit."

*The road now leads onward
As far as can be
Winding lanes
And hedgerows in threes
By purple mountains
And round every bend
All roads lead to you
There is no journey's end.*

Chorus: *Here is my heart and I give it to you
Take me with you across this land
These are my dreams, so simple and few
Dreams we hold in the palm of our hands*

*Deep in the winter
Amidst falling snow
High in the air
Where the bells they all toll
And now all around me
I feel you still here
Such is the journey
No mystery to fear.*

*The road now leads onward
And I know not where
I feel in my heart
That you will be there
Whenever a storm comes
Whatever our fears
The journey goes on
As your love ever nears (Lorena McKennitt)*

Presentation of the Beads: Degan

Call for Any Work Yet Undone: Emerald

Maria will make her Senior Druid oath of service.

TIER FIVE: UNWINDING AND ENDING THE CEREMONY

Thanking BotO and Kindreds (in reverse order of arrival:)

Beings of the Occasion: **Degan, Maria, Michelle, Emerald & Dave**

Degan

Ancestors of Civilization. . .

Maria

Ancestors of Blood. . .

Michelle

Ancestors of our Land. . .

Emerald

Ancestors of Hearth. . .

Dave

And all our Heros.

Emerald

Honored Ancestors all, we thank you for _____ that we take with us through the Wasteland, and for all of the many blessings you have given us throughout our lives. Ancestors, we thank you!

All

Ancestors, we thank you!

Wordly Spirits: **Alaric**

*Worldly spirits who fly in the skies, swim in the waters, and dwell upon the land
We thank you for blessing us with your presence this night
As we continue to share our world in peace and harmony.
Worldly Spirits, Hail and Farewell! (All repeat) (Diane "Emerald" Vaughn)*

Deities: **Brett (Taren)**

*Deities who shine on high, abide below, and dwell with us in the middle realms
We thank you for blessing us with your presence this night
As our bonds of *ghosti grow ever stronger.*

Deities, Hail and Farewell! (All repeat) (Diane "Emerald" Vaughn)

[Make sure **Janet** comes back from behind the Hallows!]

Thanking the Gatekeeper and Closing the Gate(s)/Threshold: Maria & Dave, & the Congregation

Maria and **Dave** again address Cernunnos, this time more quietly and without the song.

1. *God of the inbetween*
2. *See both ways at once*
3. *Bestower of wealth*
4. *Protector of Sailors*
5. *Both man and beast*
6. *Neither wild nor tame*
7. *Guide of the Dead*
8. *Close the way*

Sacrificers make a final offering to Cernunnos (**Janet** will provide).

Maria & Dave

Let the Well close as a Gate!

All

The Gate is closed!

Maria & Dave

Let the Fire close as a Gate!

All

The Gate is closed!

Maria & Dave

Let the Tree close as a Gate!

All

The Gate is closed!

Maria & Dave

At the Sacred Center,

All

The Gates are closed!

Sacrificers blow out candles on and re-cover Cernunnos altar.

Restoration of the Ordinary: Emerald

Let the Well be but water

*Let the Fire be but flame
We've been touched by the magic of the Sacred Tree
We will never be the same. (Words and Music by Diane "Emerald" Vaughn)
(All repeat)*

Affirmation of Past/Future Continuity and Success: Maria (as Senior Druid)

*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! (All repeat)*

Draining Off Excess Power: Unmerging, Regrounding and Recentering: Vicki

*Close your eyes, and find that energy that came from the merging of the Two Powers within you. Bring it outside yourself, cup it in your hands, and hold it in front of you. You can feel it, a spiraling and swirling mixture of the powers of fire and water. It is excess energy; we do not require it for our work this night. Open your fingers, and separate your hands, and let that energy ground into the Earth.
Now find your connection to the stars, to the celestial fires above, and let go. Begin to draw that connection back down, down through the atmosphere, down through the clouds, down past the branches of nearby trees, and back down into yourself through your fingers or the crown of your head. That ability to connect to the Celestial Fires Above will remain in you, and you may reform it anytime you wish. But for now, withdraw it into yourself.*

*Now find your connection to the waters below, to the misty world of life and possibilities, and let go. Begin to draw that connection back up through the sea, up through the lakes and rivers, up through the caverns and the soil, and back up into yourself through the bottoms of your feet or the base of your spine. The ability to connect to Sacred Waters Below will remain in you, and you may reform it anytime you wish.
You are now as you were before, but changed. You are back in yourself, back here in this room/clearing, back in the physical world. You are back. Open your eyes. (Victoria Grammer)*

Thanking the Earth Mother: Diane

Earth, Divine Goddess, Mother Nature, we thank you for your continued support and sustenance. Earth Mother, we honor you. (All repeat)

Farewell to Bardic Patron/Spirit of Inspiration: Earrach (Alaric)

*Lady Brighid of poetry and song
Patron of Sassafras Grove
We thank you for once again bestowing upon us your gift of inspiration.
Lady Brighid, Hail and Farewell! (All repeat)*

Clear-cut Ending: Deconsecration of Time and Space: Emerald

Final Benediction

Announcement of End

Musical Signal (Nine Knells): **Earrach** on horn, **Drummers on site**

Recessional Song (“All Souls Night”)*

*Bonfires dot the rolling hillsides
Figures dance around and around
To drums that pulse out echoes of darkness
Moving to the pagan sound.*

*Somewhere in a hidden memory
Images float before my eyes
Of fragrant nights of straw and of bonfires
And dancing till the next sunrise.*

Chorus

*I can see the lights in the distance
Trembling in the dark cloak of night
Candles and lanterns are dancing, dancing
A waltz on All Souls Night.*

*Figures of cornstalks bend in the shadows
Held up tall as the flames leap high
The green knight holds the holly bush
To mark where the old year passes by.*

Chorus

*Bonfires dot the rolling hillsides
Figures dance around and around
To drums that pulse out echoes of darkness
Moving to the pagan sound.*

*Standing on the bridge that crosses
The river that goes out to the sea
The wind is full of a thousand voices
They pass by the bridge and me.*

Chorus - 2x (Lorena McKennitt)

End of ritual will blend into drumming, dancing, and merriment.

*We actually ended up singing “Walk With Wisdom” and went inside because it was COLD. But this is how it was supposed to end.