

Irish Blessing Rite for St. Patrick's Day
Sassafras Grove, ADF, Pittsburgh PA
SpringTides
Tuesday, March 17, 2009

TIER ONE: BEGINNING THE RITE & ESTABLISHING THE GROUPMIND

Consecration of Time

Musical Signal (Nine Knells):

Opening Prayer: **Maria**

AN-SHO LESH, NA D'JEE-HA AH'ADRUAH We come to honor the blessed ones.

Consecration of Space and of Participants

Processional ("Come we now as people")

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. (Words and Music by Ian Corrigan)

Purifications (Land, Sea, Sky):

Purify with earth, water, and incense.

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

Invocation to Bardic Patron/Spirit of Inspiration (Oghma):

Offering-Mead

Oghma, Sunface, wordsmith of the gods
Honeyed words fall from your tongue
Tinkling as golden chains
Holding us enraptured in
Your shining presence.

Oghma, Honey-tongue, radiant bard
We seek the bountiful boon of your blessing
Sweeten our words and
Brighten our countenance

As we prepare to call to the Holy Ones
Oghma, Cermait, accept our offering!
Oghmah, Grianainech, grant us your grace.

(Diane Vaughn "Emerald")

Honoring the Earth Mother: Sarina-Offering Beer

Hail Danu,
First Mother
River Mother
Earth Mother

From far across the Atlantic sea
We children of the West call to you
Your land is our land
Your body is our body
Your waters flow in our veins
We honor you,
Mother of Ireland
Mother of the Gods
Mother of our tribe
We praise you for your Bounty
We praise you for your Spirit
We praise for your History
Earth Mother, Sovereign Lady
We give thanks to you with all due faith.

Song

*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: Daimon

*We are one, in our grove,
upon the earth, within the sea, beneath the sky.
We are joined, to send our call,
to the honored dead, to the mighty Sidhe, to the blessed gods.
We praise thee, in one voice, in our sacred grove.
We are one. (words and Music by Ian Corrigan)*

Declaration of Intention & Historical Precedent:

Before Patrick
Before Pelegious
Before Rome

In the beginning of days
In the time before time
In the age of myth
The Shining Ones came to Ireland

The Tuatha de Dannan,
Children of Danu
Mighty Warriors
Sweet tongued bards
Fearsome lovers,
Were honored by the folk.

Today, a day so often darkened by irreverence, politics and prejudice,
We unite to honor these Ancient Gods and Goddesses.

We honor our ancestors
Those who gave us flesh and blood
That we might walk in this world of form
Those whose examples have lit the torch
That guides us on our path
And especially the Ancient Wise
Druids, Bards and Ovates
Priests, story-tellers and seers
Whose ways inspire our ways
And whose tradition we seek to uphold

We likewise honor the spirits of this world
Those of fur, feather, and fin
And the Sidhe, the Fair Folk
Who dwell with one foot in this world
And one foot in the Otherworld.

We come together as a grove, a community
To make offerings
To offer praise
To remember...

TIER TWO: RECREATING THE COSMOS & PRELIMINARY POWER RAISING

Creating the Vertical Axis **Offerings-silver/incense**

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

** 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: **

*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 and Sun,
We will kindle a fire, our spirits will soar. **

*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. * (Words and music by Ian Corrigan
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All sing as:

Sacrificer makes offering to the Well (silver)
Sacrificer makes offering to the Fire (incense)
Sacrificer asperges and censes the Tree

Creation Myth:

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

Emerald-

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.

Sacred Tree, grow within us!
The Well, the Fire, the Sacred Tree
Flow and flame and grow in me ! (All repeat) (Earrach of Pittsburgh)

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

Gatekeeper Invocation Manannan Mac Lir –Offerings Apple/Whiskey

Maria

As our Gatekeeper for this rite, we call upon Manannan Mac Lir. We begin by calling forth his image and holding it fast within our minds.

Emerald

At first all we see is mist. . .a deep, thick fog rolling in from the sea, strengthened by the salty spray. Slowly it begins to part, and you see a man moving toward you in a glittering chariot pulled across the waves by a magnificent white mare. You see him clearly now, tall and broad-shouldered, with flowing white hair and beard, draped in a bright blue mantle, with eyes the color of the sea. A smile plays upon his lips as if he knows a private joke, yet his sun-browned face portrays a fatherly kindness. At his waist hangs his famous Crane Bag whose bottomless depth holds many treasures, and he clutches a great sword whose name is whispered to you on the wind. .
."Answerer."

Manannan: Son of the Sea! (make offering of beer)
Manannan: Lord of the Gentle Land! (make offering of apples)
Manannan: Traverser of Waves and Ways! (make offering of whisky)

Through the mists of time we call to you
Across the vastness of the ocean we call to you
Within our hearts that keep the old ways, we call to you

Sanctified we stand at the center of the world
In the light Fire with the flow of the Well
Help us now to cross the Veil
That we may see Way Between

Song:

*Manannan Open the Portal, between the Gods and mortals,
Power freely flows, as out magic grows.* (words and music by Liafal)

Emerald-The Gates are open!

All- The Gates are open

TIER THREE: Invoking the Kindred

**During the invocation, the sacrificer makes an initial offering.
Individuals may then come forward and make a personal offering
After the offerings, sing**

Worldly Spirits Invocation: Diane – Offerings-Oatmeal

We call to the Spirits with whom we share this world
To all of the creatures of water, wood and wind
Essence of flower, seed, cone and spore
The power that flows through shell, stone, and sand
You of spring, grove, and hill, and all the holy places
You of the Sidhe who hold court just beyond our mortal sight
Powers fey and powers tame, powers dark and powers bright
Worldly Spirits: Hail and Welcome!

Song: (“Worldly Spirit Chant”)

*Air Spirit wood spirit field spirit lake spirit
We are but one spirit living in the world.
Some dwell on land and some dwell on wind and some undersea
All living in the world.* (lyrics by Alaric Albertsson)

Ancestor Invocation: Daimon - Offerings-Hazelnuts and silver

We call to the Ancestors without whom we would not be
Those of our blood, we lived so that we may live
The heroes whose tales of greatness inspire our own great deeds
And to the Ancient Wise. . .
Our namesakes, the Druids
Magicians and Priests
Bards and Seers
Artists and Healers. . .Keepers of Knowledge and Defenders of the ways
We open our hearts and our minds to your wisdom
as we once again kindle the flame.
Ancestors: Hail and Welcome!

Song: (“From far beyond this mortal plane..”)
*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* (Words and music by Sable)

Deities Invocation: Offerings-Whiskey

We call to the Tuatha De Danann, the gods of Eire
You whose names we know from the tales of your mighty deeds
You whose names survive in those of rivers, hills, and towns
And you whose names are lost to the ages but whose power still flows
through the fair, green land.
Tuatha De Danann, we call to you! (all repeat)

And we call to the Irish gods most often honored by our Grove
Lugh of the shining spear, all-skilled, long-armed king
Dagda of the mighty club, All-Father, keeper of the cauldron of plenty
Brighid of the nine aspects, beloved foster-mother and Patron of Sassafras Grove

Though many have forgotten you, we still remember
Though many know you not at all, we seek to know you better.
Tuatha De Danann, gods of Eire: Hail and Welcome!

Song: (“Hail all the Gods..”)
*Hail all the Gods,
Hail all the Goddesses,*

*Hail all the Holy Ones,
We dwell together. (2x)
Hail all the Gods,
Hail all the Goddesses,
Hail all the Gods and Goddesses*

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

Seeking the Omen of Return – Earrach-Ogham

TIER FOUR: RECEIVING AND USING THE RETURNED BLESSINGS/POWER

Preparing for the Blessings

Regrounding/Recentering: **Daimon**

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

Receiving the Blessings

Calling (Asking) for the Blessings: **Maria**

Song-

*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.*

*When in ancient pagan days, Fire was lit in sacred groves,
Powers of the gods did flow, Bringing healing, wit, and love.*

*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.*

*We in our time likewise go, To the grove our trove to give,
To the gods, the dead, the sidhe, And their blessings we receive.*

*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. (Words and music by Ian Corrigan)*

TIER FIVE: UNWINDING AND ENDING THE CEREMONY

Thanking the Kindreds (in reverse order of arrival:)

Deities:

We call to the Tuatha De Danann, the gods of Eire
Lugh, Dagda, Brighid
Those whose names we know
And those who's names are lost to time
We thank you for the gifts you have bestowed.
Though we leave this sacred space
We will keep the ancient promise
You will not be forgotten
Go if you must, stay if you will
And may there peace between us now and always.
Shining Ones, hail and farewell!

Ancestors: **Daimon**

Ancestors of Blood and of tradition
We thank you for the gifts you have bestowed.
Though we leave this sacred space
We will keep the ancient promise
You will not be forgotten
Go if you must, stay if you will
And may there peace between us now and always.
Ancestors, hail and farewell!

Wordly Spirits: **Diane**

Worldly Spirits, Powers of the Land
Powers of the Sidhe-folk
We thank you for the gifts you have bestowed.
Though we leave this sacred space
We will keep the ancient promise
You will not be forgotten
Go if you must, stay if you will
And may there peace between us now and always.
Worldly Spirits, hail and farewell!

Thanking the Gatekeeper and Closing the Gate(s)/Threshold: Emerald

Restoration of the Ordinary: Maria

Let the Sacred Fire again be but a flame
Let the Sacred Well again be merely water

May the Sacred Tree grow always with in.
Let al be as it was before but bettered by our work.
Bíodh sé amhlaidh!

Draining Off Excess Power: Unmerging, Regrounding and Recentering:

Thanking the Earth Mother: Sarina

Danu,
First Mother
River Mother
Earth Mother
For all you have done
For all that you do
We offer our promise
To walk softly on the Earth your body
And remember with gratitude
The bounty you bestow.
Hail Danu!

Farewell to Bardic Patron/Spirit of Inspiration:

Oghma, Honey-tongue, radiant bard
We thank you for the blessings you have given
Honesty, eloquence, beauty
As we prepare to leave this sacred space
May we carry with us some measure of your grace
Oghma, we thank you. Hail and Farewell

Clear-cut Ending: Deconsecration of Time and Space:

Final Benediction – **Maria**

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)

Musical Signal (Nine Knells):

Recessional Song (“Walk with Wisdom”)

Written by Diane ‘Emerald’ Bronowicz and Maria Stoy; Creation Myth by Earrach of Pittsburgh