

Three Branch River Grove, ADF
Core Order of Ritual

September 2016
Linda Sager Kazalski

REQUIREMENTS:

Salt – Grove Kit
Spring Water/Local Water Source
Honey – Grove Kit
Whiskey – Grove Kit or
Ale/Cider/Wine/Mead –
Juice –
Cornmeal– Grove Kit
Oil – Grove Kit
Herbs – Grove Kit
Fresh bread and butter
Tobacco – Grove Kit
Incense/Sage Wand – Grove Kit

Roles:

D1=DRUID1 –
D2=DRUID2 –
FIREMASTER –
SEER –
GATEKEEPER –

PRIOR TO RITUAL:

OFFERINGS/SUPPLIES

ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES:

Cornmeal
Saltwater
Incense/Sage Wand

OUTDWELLERS

Tobacco
Corn

Squash
Beans
Water from the well
Cider/Ale

HONORING THE EARTH MOTHER

Cornmeal or other flour

GATEKEEPER/Mannanan Mac Lir

Oil

KINDREDS OFFERINGS:

Ancestors – Bread and Butter/nuts/ale
Nature Spirits – Bird seed/Herbs
Gods/Goddesses – Hard Cider/Ale/Whiskey

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INITIATING THE RITE

**ALL We approach the sacred grove,
With hearts and minds and flesh and bone,
Join us now in ways of old,
We have come home.¹**

D1: ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES/PURIFICATION

LAND: (cornmeal sprinkled around the outside of the sacred space)

Let the Land be the foundation of this Grove.

SEA: (saltwater sprinkled around the outside of the sacred space)

Let the Sea be the boundary of this Grove.

SKY: (incense is lit at the fire and walked around the outside of the sacred space)

Let the Sky be the roof of this Grove.

¹ Words by Sean Miller, music "an Old English plainsong" traditional

OUTDWELLERS: A bowl of water from the Well together with an offering of tobacco are offered at their altar.

**D2: Gods and spirits of this land,
Whose ways are not ours,
Offerings now for you and yours,
In memory of your band.
We come in peace, to pray and sing,
Asking you withhold your sting.²**

**D2: We come from East and West,
North and South, to be together here.
Let us take three breaths...
Together with the Earth beneath us.
Together with the Sky above us.
Together with the Sea about us.³**

ALL: UNITY CHANT

**We are one with the Mother
We are one with the Earth
We are one with each other
By our lives, by our birth⁴**

*HONORING THE EARTH MOTHER - All kneel and touch the earth
(Offering of cornmeal or other flour)*

D1: We honor the Earth Mother, without whom nothing exists.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

RECREATING THE COSMOS

***ALL: The waters support and surround us.
The land extends about us.***

² Linda Sager Kazalski, 2016

³ OBOD

⁴ Rev. Jeffrey Wyndham (Ian Corrigan)

The sky stretches above us.
And at the center burns a living flame.
Let us pray with a good fire.
May all the Kindred bless us.
May our worship be true.
May our actions be just.
May our love be pure.
Blessings and honor and worship to the holy ones.⁵

OPENING THE GATE(S)

**D1: We stand at the shore and watch the mists close in
Waves rolling over and over, where shore meets ocean
Where sea and sky do meet the land, we call to you, Manannan.**⁶

A drum beat begins and rattles are used to fill the sound. All begin to chant, over and over:

ALL - Open the Gates. Open the Gates. Open the Gates...

*When the chants, drums and rattles are well established,
Gatekeeper (over the chanting):* **Manannan! Gatekeeper! Open the ways for us.
We walk your holy ways; we walk the Sacred Road. Share your power with us;
ward us as we walk in safety. Manannan, accept our sacrifice!**

*D2 makes an offering of oil to the fire. The chanting, drums and rattles continue.
They increase in speed and volume.*

*Gatekeeper holds a staff or spear, pointing the top of it at the top of the World Tree.
Gatekeeper begins to spin.*

When Gatekeeper's staff or spear first passes the Fire, Gatekeeper says:

Let the Fire open as a Gate!

Gatekeeper continues spinning at least one full revolution.

⁵ Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith via www.adf.org

⁶ Hearth Fire Grove Samhain via www.adf.org

As Gatekeeper's staff or spear passes over the Well, Gatekeeper says:

Let the Well open as a Gate!

Gatekeeper continues spinning at least one full revolution. As Gatekeeper's staff or spear passes by the Tree, Gatekeeper says:

Let the Tree connect the Worlds!

There is a loud drum roll ending in a strong stroke. Everything stops. Gatekeeper stops spinning, holds both hands (and staff) out and grounds it firmly.

Gatekeeper: Let the Gates be open!

ALL: shout: Let the Gates be open!⁷

INVOCATIONS

D1 – Ancestors of blood and spirit, your children invite you to join in this celebration. Accept this offering given in hospitality and in love. Ancestors – Hail and welcome!

Raise the _____ in offering and give the offerings to the fire

D2 – Spirits of the land, sea and sky, spirits of this place, here long before man, I invite you to join this celebration. Accept this offering given in hospitality and in love. Spirits of the land, sea and sky – Hail and welcome!

Raise the _____ in offering and give the offerings to the fire

D1 – Shining Ones, Gods and Goddesses, First Children of the Mother, Wisest of the Wise, I invite you to join this celebration. Accept this offering given in hospitality and in love. Shining Ones – Hail and welcome!

Raise the wine/ale/mead in offering and give the offering to the fire

D1: INVOCATION OF DEITY OF THE OCCASION, IF ANY

⁷ <https://www.adf.org/rituals/celtic/midsummer/ssgmidsummer.html>

ALL: PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

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.⁸

SEER: TAKING THE OMENS

A sacred grove and all is hallowed,
Gifts, given and received,
The Seer's eye turns shadowed,
The will of the Gods revealed.

The seer interprets the omens, leading the company to contemplate the things they would ask of the powers, especially as suggested by omen.

Have our offerings been accepted?
What do the Powers offer us in return?
What further needs do the Powers have of us?⁹

CALLING FOR THE BLESSINGS

D1: As in the ways of old
A gift is given freely
As in the ways of old
A gift is given in return.

(The pitchers are lifted saluting the fire, well and tree.)¹⁰

HALLOWING THE BLESSING

D2: Bright the flow of giving turns, we come before you.
Please remember us now and grant us the Waters.

All: Grant us the Waters.

D2: The flame of wisdom lights this cup stirring our lives.
We ask again: please grant us the Waters.

All: Grant us the Waters.

⁸ Words: Anthony R. Thompson, music: Ian Corrigan via www.adf.org

⁹ Adapted from Anthony R. Thompson via www.adf.org

¹⁰ "Whispering Lake Grove Samhain Ritual" by Raven and Carrion Mann, Liturgists Yearbook 2006 (Irish-Celtic)

**D2: Thrice we call, as in days of old,
As we've opened our hearts, so grant us the waters!**
All: Grant us the Waters.¹¹

**D1: AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSING
Accepting the Gifts surrounding us,
Absorb and swirl blessings so sweet
We gladly partake of these waters before us.
(After cup is imbued with energy)
These are the waters of life!¹²**

**ALL: Pour the waters, raise the cup.
Drink your share of wisdom deep.
Strength and joy now fill us up.
As the elder ways we keep.¹³**
(Pass the cup or horn around for all to share.)

SPECIAL WORKINGS

**ALL: PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO SERVE
Those who serve, we honor you
You who stand on the wall to protect us from harm
You who bind and tend us when we are ill or injured
You who make up the line between order and chaos
You who brave the very fury of the elements to save & protect us
Gods and Goddesses,
We ask your blessings for these warriors and guardians
Ancient and powerful dead,
We ask that you watch over and keep them safe
Spirits of nature, creatures of air, fire, earth and water,
Support and sustain them**

¹¹ From "Opening Rite – Three Realms 2006" by Z.L. Bennett, 2006 Liturgists Yearbook (Irish-Celtic)

¹² Chant for the Blessing Cup by ZL Bennett

¹³ Rev. Jeffrey Wyndham (Ian Corrigan) via <https://www.adf.org/rituals/chants/blessing/pour-the-waters.html>

Outdwellers, grant them respite, place no obstacles in their path
We pray that the Fire might warm you,
The Waters refresh you,
And the Tree shield and protect you, today and forever.¹⁴

D1: Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.¹⁵

D2: THANKING THE BEINGS

It is the hour of recall. May our memories hold what the eye has seen and ear has heard. As we prepare to depart let us give thanks to those who aid us.

Brigid, Lady of the Forge ...

(All) We thank you

Manannan Mac Lir, Lord of the Seas ...

(All) We thank you

Shining Ones ...

(All) We thank you

Nature Spirits of Land, Sea and Sky ...

(All) We thank you

Ancestors and Mighty Dead ...

(All) We thank you

_____ ...

(All) We thank you

D1: CLOSING THE GATE(S)

Now, by the Keeper of the Gates, we end what we began.
Let the Fire be flame, (*gesture to Fire*)

¹⁴ Wesley Jolly, 2016

¹⁵ Gaelic inscription

Let the Well be water, (*gesture to Well*)

Let the Tree be a tree, (*gesture to Tree*)

Let all be as it was before.

Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!¹⁶

D2: THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER (*pour out ritual remains onto the earth*)

Earth Mother, we thank you and return this, as we will return to you one day.

ALL: CLOSING THE RITE

And now our rite is at an end,

Again we part our ways

May truth and honor be your friend

And lucky be your days

I'll hold you in my heart,

I'll hold you in my mind,

And though our branches grow apart,

Our roots are intertwined.¹⁷

¹⁶ "Beltaine 2006" by Anthony Thompson, 2006 Liturgists Yearbook (Irish-Celtic)

¹⁷ "Samhain Order of Service for Shining Lakes Grove" by Rob Henderson, 2005 Liturgists Yearbook (Irish)