

Protogrove of the Singing Oak Springs

February Feast Rite | February 10, 2018 | Madison, WI

Preparing the Rite

Welcoming – *All are bid welcome to the inaugural rite of Protogrove of the Singing Oak Springs (ADF).* (Introductions, preview/explain the ritual, ask for volunteers for any unassigned parts, establish rapport, & any other preliminary business.)

Beginning - Silence & Meditation, then guitar music or a chant.

Opening Prayer – Focus on Brigid, agricultural significance, and other culturally relevant information. Simple & brief.

Kindling the Hearth Fire – Several candles are lit to serve as our sacred fire. Words of blessing such as: *the first fire is lit to honor Brigid, the goddess sacred to the hearth and home. All who gather at this fire, be welcome and be blessed.*

Purification - Lustration. *We cleanse ourselves from the everyday cares of the world, so that we might enter this sacred time and space with eyes to see, ears to listen, and a hearts to receive. We approach the gods, ancestors, and spirits in a spirit of fellowship, respect, and gentleness.* Sprinkle blessed water on participants.

Honoring the Earth Mother – *We honor the earth mother, the source of all life and the foundation of all. Your memory is longest, mother, and reaches back even to the beginning.* A candle is lit and placed upon a bowl of earth.

Offering to the Outdwellers - *Gods and spirits who dwell on the periphery, whose mysteries we do not pretend to comprehend, accept this offering and accept our peace. Stay if you can, go if*

you must, but we ask that you not disturb this sacred rite. A libation is poured and bread is offered. (?)

Statement of Purpose – More in depth but still brief explanation of the rite.

Establishing the Sacred Center

The Fire - A group of candles and incense (boiled) are lit. *We dedicate this sacred flame to the Gods of Old. All of the gods and goddesses are welcome here, as we honor Bright Brigid this night.*

The Well - Coins or silver are placed into a small cast-iron pot to honor the ancestors, the dead, and the gods and beings of the underworld. *Tonight we seek peace with all spirits of the underworld, and come here only to honor, remember, and listen to them should they speak. (?)*

The Tree – Lustral water is sprinkled on the bile. *This sacred tree represents that which connects the realms. Its roots dig into the earth, the source of all life, and the place to which all the living must one day return. Its trunk is here for us now, to touch and climb, and to remind us that we are only one part of this world. Its boughs stretch up to the heavens, welcoming the warmth of the sun and the music of the stars. Tonight we honor this tree as a being which connects us to that which is beyond.*

Opening the Gates

This is a night for turnings, a night for transformation, a night to remember the past and prepare for the future. As we prepare to honor the gods, ancestors, and spirits of the land, we ask Mannanan Mac Lir to open the gates between this reality and that which lies beyond.

Great Mannanan Mac Lir, lord of the seas and protector of the Isle of Man, walker between the worlds, we ask that you open this gate tonight, that we may commune with the gods, ancestors,

and spirits of the land. Enchant our rite with your magic, Mannanan, shroud us in your mystery, and open the gates!

Great Mannanan Mac Lir, accept this offering and hear us as we ask you... OPEN THE GATES BETWEEN THE WORLDS! Energetic guitar music is played, and then silence and meditation for a few moments.

Inviting the Three Kindreds

Our hearth fire burns, our well rings with the sound of silver, and our bile dances in the heavens. The gates are now open, and so we make our offerings to the Kindreds...

Spirits of the forests, lakes, and air, we are honored by your presence, welcome! Blessed Ancestors and Heroes of Old, you are most welcome here! Gods of Sky, Sea, and Mountains, welcome! Gods of the wilderness and the gods of the city, welcome! Gods of all realms, welcome!

Offerings to the Kindreds

The Shining Ones

We are here tonight to honor Brigid, Goddess of Bright Fire, Keeper of the Hearth, and her promise of coming spring. On this night, we give thanks for the first stirrings of spring, of the bounty that is to come, and all the work for which we must prepare. We give thanks for the home fires that comfort us in the dark of winter, for our families and friends, who sustain us through the cold season, and for all the crafts and arts that you have bestowed upon us.

To Brigid, Bright Flame of the Hearth, accept our sacrifice!

Response: Accept our sacrifice!

To Brigid, who brings comfort and wisdom, accept our sacrifice!

Response

To Brigid, whose presence reminds us that winter is almost passed, accept our sacrifice!

Response

A libation is poured and other offerings made.

Other Deities

*And to all the gods this night, accept this sacrifice and our devotion, and may your blessings find their way into our hearts and homes. Accept our sacrifice! Response. **An offering is made.***

Ancestors

*All of us stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. Our mothers and fathers whose passing still lingers in our memory, as well as those from of old, whom we have never known. Tonight, great ancestors, accept our sacrifice! Response. **An offering is made.***

Spirits of the Land + Sky + Water

Tonight we also recognize and honor the spirits with whom we share this world, be they of earth, sky, or water. As Druids, we know in our bones that it is our responsibility to live in harmony with these beings, and to treat this land as a sacred space. *Tonight, spirits, accept our sacrifice! Response. **An offering is made.***

Seeking the Omen

On this night of celebration, remembering, gratitude and magic, we would know how the gods have received our sacrifices.

Hallowing the Waters/Blessing Cup

Honey mixed with water from a sacred well is poured into a ceremonial cup. We charm it by passing it over the candles, and adding sacred herbs. *Bright Brigid, we ask you to bless this sacred cup that we share, that we may drink deeply of your generosity, inspiration, and wisdom. Bless this community as we drink.*

Prayer, Meditation, Special Intentions

Charming Ritual (All)

Renewal of Dedicant's Oath (Tiber)

Thanking the Kindreds

Beloved Dead, Spirits of our Ancestors, thank you for your presence this night. Return in peace to the realm beyond, until we meet again. Beloved dead, go in peace! Response. (Same person who made the offering.)

Spirits of the land, lake, and sky, we thank you for joining us tonight. May we meet again in friendship and magic. Spirits of the land, go in peace! Response. (Same person who made the offering.)

All gods who have joined us this night, we are grateful for your presence. Bright Brigid, we thank you for all your blessings and warmth as we mark the coming of the first signs of spring. All gods, go in peace. Response. (Same person who made the offering.)

Closing the Gates

And now, Mannanan Mac Lir, master of the seas and walker between the realms, we beg your assistance once again. Our rite is ending, help us close the gates between the worlds. Soft music is played.

Earth Mother Blessing

Concluding the Rite

Our rite draws to a close, and we prepare to return to the space and time of our daily lives. Remember what has taken place here tonight, and take this magic with you. And now, we feast and celebrate as a single kin, as walkers in the ways of old, as friends and family, and especially, as Druids.