

Protogrove of the Valley Oak

Lughnasadh

Heavily adapted from the Sierra Madrone Grove
Book of Ritual written by Rev. Sean Harbaugh
Adapted by Victoria S.

Initiation of the Rite/Consecration of Time

PC1: Today we honor Lugh and celebrate the Harvest of Grain

PC1: Ancestors! (The Sacrificer rings the bell three times.)

PC1: Nature Spirits! (The Sacrificer rings the bell three times.)

PC1: Shining Ones! (The Sacrificer rings the bell three times.)

PC1: Welcome! We shall meet here at the Sacred Center when we open the Gates to the Otherworld.

PC1: [Opening Prayer]

PC1: So be it!

All: So be it!

Outwellers

Warrior: Creatures of dark and distraction, spirits who are against our purpose. Your work is not our work this day. We offer you this _____, and bid you to avoid our rite this day. Know that we are well warded and well-warned have you been.

Consecration of Space and Participants

All sing:

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)

Repeat until all participants are all in the ritual space

After all have entered the ritual space, the individuals doing the censuring and aspersing enter circling the Henge clockwise censuring and aspersing the circle.

All: By the might of the water and the light of the fire,
this Grove is made whole and holy.

Repeat until ritual space is completely censed and asperged

Calling upon the Earth Mother

PC1: We call out to the Earth Mother
You who support us.
You who hold us.
You who have birthed us and will once again take us.
We thank you for your bounty and the
Growth to come.

All sing:
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

(Author unknown)

Sacrificer offers an appropriate grain to the offering bowl or ground.

PC 2: Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!

All: Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!

Centering and Grounding Inspiration

Bard: Lady Brighid of the Bards, Blessed Fire of inspiration,
Fire the flame within our hearts, Lead our creative explorations.
Lady Brighid hear our song,
As we give up our rings of praise,
Let your blessings make us strong
As we serve you all our days.

Sacrificer offers scented oil to the fire

Bard: Brighid accept our sacrifice!

All: Brighid, accept our sacrifice!

Purpose and Precedent

The Presiding Clergy explains the purpose of the ritual and any historic, seasonal, or cultural precedent.

Centering and Grounding

The Seer leads the ritual participants on a guided meditation

Grove Attunement

All: Grant, O Gods and Goddess, thy Protection,
And in Protection, Strength,
And in Strength, Understanding,
And in Understanding, Knowledge,
And in Knowledge, the Knowledge of Justice,
And in the Knowledge of Justice, the Love of it,
And in the Love of it, the Love of All Existences,
And in the Love of All Existences,
The Love of Gods and Goddesses and all Goodness

PC1: Be it so!

All: Be it so!

PC 1: O Waters of the Earth, deep and dark,
Arise, primeval powers, fill us now
With all your wondrous possibilities,
That through the Earth our Mother we may ground and join as one.

PC 2: O Fires of the sky, O blinding light,
Descend and crystallize within us all
That spark of order on which life depends,
That through the Sky our Father we may shine and share as one.

PC 1: Chaos of the Earth, now fill us!

All: Chaos of the Earth, now fill us!

PC 2: Order of the Heavens, mold us!

All: Order of the Heavens, mold us!

PC 1 and PC 2:
Join the powers deep within us!

All: Join the powers deep within us!

PC 1 and PC 2:

With the merging of these powers let us join as one!

All: With the merging of these powers let us join as one!

Recreating the Cosmos

The land, sea, and sky are recognized.

PC 1: The waters support and surround us

The land extends about us

The sky stretches out above us:

At the center burns a living flame.

May all the Kindreds 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.

(Words and music by Ceisiwr Serith)

All sing "The Portal Song"

CHORUS:

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:

CHORUS

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 & Sun,

We will kindle a fire, our spirits will soar.

CHORUS

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.

CHORUS (with gusto)

(Words and music by Ian Corrigan ©Stonecreed Grove, ADF)

PC 1: Sacred Well, Flow within us.

All: Sacred Well, Flow within us.

PC 2: Sacred Fire, Burn within us.

All: Sacred Fire, Burn within us.

PC 1 and PC 2:
Sacred Tree, Grow within us!

All: Sacred Tree, Grow within us.

Opening the Gates

PC 1: Now let us open the Ways Between...

Calling the Gatekeeper

All quietly chant 'open the gates, open the gates' (repeat as necessary)

PC 1: Oh Manannan, powerful son of the sea, holder of the magics of the crane bag, I ask that you 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 in our workings. Mist-shrouded rider of the maned waves, accept my offering and open the gates between my realm and yours.

The Sacrificer makes an offering of whiskey to the Fire

PC1: Open the Gates

All: Open the Gates! (chanted during the gate opening)

PC 1: Let the Well open as a Gate! Let the Tree open as a Gate! Let the Fire open as a Gate! Let the Gates be open!

[stops the chant]

PC 1: Let the gates be open!

All: Let the gates be open!

PC 2: Children of the Earth, we are now woven into the fabric of the Otherworlds.
Here, the Kindred can hear our thoughts and know our hearts. Let there be
only Truth here.

Inviting the Three Kindred

This is the place where we call upon the Ancestors, Nature Spirits, and the Gods and
Goddesses.

PC 1: Let us now give honor to the Three Kindred, the Ancestors, the Spirits of
the Land, and the Shining Ones.

Ancestors

All sing "Ancient and Strong":

Ancestors calling to me
Power ancient and strong
Elders, sages, wise ones be
We have known you all along

(Words by Phoenix.)

PC 1: Mighty Ones, accept our offering!

All: Mighty Ones, accept our offering!

The Sacrificer places Offering at the base of the Well

PC 1: Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel the
Ancestors as they join us here.

PC 1: Ancestors, we welcome you here.
Now we will make our sacrifice to the Nature Spirits.

Nature Spirits

All sing "Fur and Feather":

Fur and feather and scale and skin,
Different without but the same within,
Many of body but one of soul,
Through all creatures are the gods made whole.

(Words and music by Sable.)

PC 2: Noble Ones, accept our offering!

All: Noble Ones, accept our offering!

The Sacrificer sprinkles grain upon the ground.

PC 2: Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel the Nature Spirits, the Sidhe, and the Noble Ones as they join us here.

Pause

PC 2: Spirits of the Land, we welcome you.

PC 2: Now we will make sacrifice to the Deities.

Deities

All sing "Hail All the Gods":

Hail all the Gods,
Hail all the Goddesses,
Hail all the Holy Ones,
We dwell together.

Powers of the sky,
Powers of sacred earth.
Powers of the underworld,
We dwell together.

Hail all the Gods!
Hail all the Goddesses!
Hail all the Gods...and Goddesses

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

PC 1: Shining Ones, accept our offering!

All: Shining Ones accept our offering!

The Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.

PC 1: Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel the Gods and Goddesses as they join us here.

Key Offerings

Offering to the Being of the Occasion

PC 1: People of the Earth, I speak of the great God, Lugh Lamh-Fada, the son of the Sun, the bearer of the spear of light, and the master of all arts. On the day he arrived at the royal hill of Tara, he shone with the brilliance of the rising sun. And the gatekeeper challenged him and tried to turn him away, saying that they had a man for each of the skills that Lugh Lamh-Fada possessed. But Lugh was the Many Talented One, and the royal court had no one who could do all of them himself, and so he was admitted within the royal enclosure and placed on the throne of sovereignty for nine days. A wonder was upon the people of the royal court at Uisneach, where the King of Ireland hosted a great gathering of the Tuatha de Dannan, who saw him approaching from the west. For they thought he was the morning sun, although the sun rises in the east. And it was Lugh who stirred and inspired the armies of the Tuatha de Dannan to rise up against the Fomorians who were oppressing them. And it was Lugh whose casting spear took out the evil eye of his grandfather Balor, the chief of the Fomorians, and so made an end of him. And he was the only one who could do this, for he was descended from both tribes. At this time his name and story lives forever. .

*from: The Mysteries of Druidry: Celtic Mysticism, Theory and Practice
By Brendan Cathbad Myers, Isaac Bonewits*

PC 1: Lugh Lamh-Fada, son of the Sun, bearer of the spear of light, and master of all arts, we call to you!

PC 1: Lugh, accept our sacrifice.

All: Lugh, Accept our Sacrifice

Praise Offerings

This is the chaotic portion of the ritual. Individuals have the option to evoke their personal deities, make requests, and place special offerings in this segment. This is the *"anything goes" portion of our ritual.*

Prayer of Sacrifice

This is the major 'power raising' offering made to all invited beings in the ritual.

PC 2: O Bright Ones, Nature Spirits, and Ancestors, Together with all your energy we join this power into one, great sacrifice to you All!

Sacrificer raises Offering

PC 2: O Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice! That our love to you strengthens the energy, That we together show the universe the fertility and wonder of our synergy.

PC 2: Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

All: Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer gives Offering into the fire

All sing "The Offering Song"

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.

Words by Anthony Thompson, music by Ian Corrigan

The Omen

The Grove is led in a humming chant. When this is done the Seer will decipher the Omen.

Hallowing the Blessing

PC 1: Mighty Kindred! Noble Ones! Hallow these waters!
Ancestors, we ask you, Give us the Waters!

All: Ancestors! Give us the Waters!

PC 2: Nature Spirits! Give us the Waters!

All: Nature Spirits! Give us the Waters!

PC 1 and PC 2:
Shining Ones! Give us the Waters of Life!

All: Shining Ones! Give us the Waters of Life!

PC slowly lowers the cup, seeing the power of the Kindred filling it as they does so...

PC 1: Behold, the Waters of Life!

All Chant:

Blessings of the Mighty Ones Upon Us,
Blessings of the Noble Ones Upon Us,
Blessings of the Shining Ones upon Us,
Blessings of the Kindred Upon Us.

Words and melody by Jen Hoover

Affirmation of the Blessing

PC 1: Children of the Earth Mother, do accept the gifts from the Kindred?

All: We accept the gifts from the Kindred!

PC 1: As do I

Thanking the Beings

All of the beings invited to the ritual are thanked for sharing their power with us.

PC 1: Lugh Lamh-Fada, master of all arts, we thank you!

All: We thank you!

PC 1: Ancestors, noble dead, we thank you!

All: We thank you!

PC 2: Gods and Goddesses, we thank you!

All: Gods and Goddesses, we thank you!

PC 2: Nature Spirits, we thank you!

All: Nature Spirits, we thank you!

Bard: Brigid, we thank you!

All: Brigid, we thank you!

PC 1: Manannàn mac Lir, we make another offering to you. We thank you for your presence, and now we ask you to aid us in ending that which we have done, and closing the gates we have opened.

Manannàn, accept our sacrifice!

All: Manannàn accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer pours whiskey into the fire

Closing the Gates

PC 2: Now we end what we began.

PC 1: Let the fire be flame!
Let the well be water!
Let all be as it was before!

Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

Thanking the Earth Mother and Final Closing

PC 1: Children of the Earth, once more we are nestled in the Midworld in the arms of the Great Mother. Like times of old we have given offerings to the Ancestors, the Nature Spirits, and the Deities and they have given their blessings in return.

PC 1: Be it so!

All: Be it so!

The Seer reverses the Two Powers/Guided Meditation and re-grounds everyone. The remaining offerings are dispersed on the ground.

PC 2: Earth Mother, We thank you!

All: We thank you!

The bell is chimed nine times

PC 1: Children of the Earth Mother, thank you for coming to our Rite.

PC 1: May the road rise with you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sunshine warm upon your face.
May the rain fall softly on your fields.
And until we meet again,
May they hold you in the hollow of Their hands.

Old Irish Poem – Author Unknown p

PC 1: Walk with wisdom our Rite is ended!