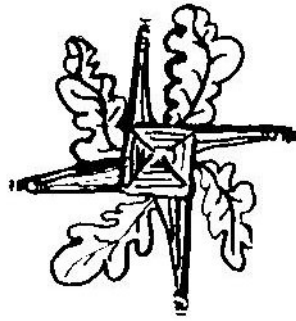


## DOIRE BHRIGHID BASIC RITUAL



Prepare seasonal decor appropriate to the celebration, including something to represent our patron deity, Brigid. Since our grove is dedicated to trees, it would be nice to include something of the trees as well. If possible, include a musical instrument (harp, bell, drum, flute, etc.)

Participants enter the circle. On entering, pause for several breaths, consciously leaving your daily concerns aside, allowing yourself to relax. Perform the Light Body Exercise.

Herald

Light Body Exercise

Sit with your back upright and feet placed firmly on the floor, with your hands resting comfortably on your thighs. Close your eyes and relax your body. If necessary, move in your chair until you feel comfortable. Focus for a while on your breathing. When you feel relaxed and calm, move the focus of your awareness to the soles of your feet. Try to become as aware as possible of only the soles of your feet. Imagine them shining with light and filled with vitality. After a while, move your awareness to your ankles, and so on, working slowly up your body until you reach the crown of your head. Then become aware of your whole body, filled with light, radiance, vitality and strength.

Druid

Grove Meditation (with Zither)

Imagine yourself walking in a pristine woodland. You are surrounded by trees, shrubs, plants and flowers. This is an eternal forest of all seasons, where trees both blossom and bare fruit. Some show their stark winter branches, some drop gold and scarlet leaves of autumn. This is the primordial woods, from which all trees come. Walk among the trees and heed those that call out to you. (pause)

There is a light in the forest, and intrigued, you follow the path towards it. The light leads you to a glade that opens up before you. Inside the glade stands the Lady, Brigid Herself,

luminescent in shining white garments with gold trim. She holds her bright arms out to you, and you go to her with perfect love and trust. Know that you are welcome here, in the Grove of Brigid, Doire Brighid. (pause)

Herald                    When you wish to finish the exercise, give thanks for the benefit of this exercise to your invisible Guides and Helpers, and then become aware of your physical body again, remember your surroundings, and slowly open your eyes. Do not get up immediately, but stay seated awhile before finishing the work by standing up.

Herald Rings Bell.

Herald                    By the power of star and stone  
By the power of land within and without  
By all that is Fair and Free  
We welcome you to this rite of \_\_\_\_\_,  
In the grove of Doire Bhrighid.

Eastern Bard            Let us take three breaths.  
Together with the Earth beneath us.  
Together with the Sky above us.  
Together with the Sea around us.

Herald                    With the blessings of Earth, Sea and Sky, may our ceremony begin!

All                        Awen, Awen, Awen

Druid faces the East, and makes a salutation:

Druid                    O Brighid, Goddess of Fire and Water, of flame and well. We feel your blessing and protection. We dedicate our grove to your service and honor and worship you in our ceremonies.

We ask for your blessings on this our ceremony of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(pause and turn to face inward). O Spirit of this circle, Spirit of this place, we ask for your blessings, guidance and inspiration on this, our ceremony.

Say the Druid's Prayer for Peace:

Druid                    An important part of our work as Druids is to mediate peace. We must first create peace within ourselves. In this world, our work is as important as it ever was. Take a few moments to meditate on peace, and to feel peace within you. It may help to find an image

that you associate with peace, which you can then use to help you awaken the feeling within yourself. Some examples are a quiet lake, a sphere of soft light; or a particular colour. If you are not very visual, you can try imagining a piece of music, or a musical note or chord, or simply the sound of the word “peace” as you say it silently to yourself. Notice also how your body feels: let yourself breathe peace.

Gaelic Speaker calls for peace in the ancient tongue, then the Druid leads the Prayer for Peace, call and response:

Gaelic Speaker      *Guma faigh mi sìth. **Gooma fie mee shee***  
*Guma roinn mi sìth. **Gooma roy-een me shee***  
*Guma dealraich mi sìth. **Gooma jell-rake me shee***

Druid                      Deep within the still center of my being, may I find peace.

All                              May I find peace.

Druid                      Silently within the quite of the grove, may I share peace.

All                              May I share peace

Druid                      Gently within the greater circle of humankind, may I radiate peace.

All                              May I radiate peace.

Druid                      We will now intone the Gaelic word for peace, *SÌTH*

All (cascading)      *SÌTH* (pronounced **SHEE**).

Gaelic Speaker, followed by Druid walks to the north, face outward and ask for peace in the North, moving to the South and ask for peace, then move to the West, then the East, forming the Celtic Cross. This call and response.

Druid                      Let us begin by giving peace to the quarters, for without peace can no work be.

Gaelic Speaker      *Gumah bithidh sìth anns an Tuath*  
(in the North)      **Gooma bee-yug shee awns an Too-awth**

Druid/All              May there be peace in the North

Gaelic Speaker      *Guma bithidh sìth anns an Deas*  
(in the South)      **Gooma bee-yug shee awns Jay-us**

Druid/All	May there be peace in the South
Gaelic Speaker (in the West)	<i>Guma bithidh sìth anns an Siar</i> <b>Gooma bee-yug shee awns an Sharr</b>
Druid/All	May there be peace in the West
Gaelic Speaker (in the East)	<i>Guma dithidh sìth anns an Ear</i> <b>Gooma bee-yug shee awns an Ayr</b>
Druid/All	May there be peace in the East
Gaelic Speaker	<i>Gumah bithidh sìth anns an Tuath</i> <b>Gooma bee-yug shee awns an Too-awth</b>
Druid/All	May there be peace throughout the whole world.
Druid	Let us join in the prayer that unites all Druids, spoken first in the Ancient Druid tongue.
Gaelic Speaker	Thoir dhuinn, O Spiorad, do dion <b>Whore zween O Spirit doe YEE-un</b>
	Agus anns an dion, Neart <b>Agas aouns un GEE-un nee-yarsht</b>
	Agus anns an Neart, Tuigse <b>Agas aouns un nee-yarsht, TOOK-shah</b>
	Agus anns an Tuigse, Eòias, <b>Agas aouns un TOOK-shah, YO-laush,</b>
	Agus anns an Eòlas, an t-Eòlas Ceartais <b>Agas aouns un YO-laush, un YO-laush kyarsh-tish</b>
	Agus anns an t-Eòlas Cheartais, an gràdh a ghabhas sinn ann. <b>Agas aouns un YO-laush kyarsh-tish, un grawg a gash sheen aoun</b>
	Agus anns an gràdh ut, an gràdh a tha air uile a th'ann <b>Agas aouns a grawg-OOT, un grawg ahah air OO-lah a-houn</b>
	Agus anns a' ghràdh a tha air uile a th'ann <b>Agas aouns a grawg ahah air OO-lah a-houn</b>
	An Gràdh Spiorad agus uile Mathas. <b>Un grawg Spirit agus OO-lah Mahaus</b>

All Grant, O Spirit (Great Spirit, Gods, Goddesses), they 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 Spirit (Great Spirit, Gods, Goddesses) and all  
goodness.

Chant cascading Awens.

Druid casts the circle, sunwise, with wand or staff, saying:

Druid As this circle is cast,  
The known world subsides.  
We stand in the eye of the sun,  
by the glow of the moon,  
and the light of the stars.  
We are here and now,  
between past and future.  
The Earth below us,  
the heavens above us,  
the Grove around us.  
This is sacred time.  
This is sacred place.

(Druid circumnavigates deocil, holding wand or staff outward)

The Circle is Cast  
By Hand and Art  
Held steadfast  
'Ere we depart.

Western Bard starts at the West, and purifies the circle with water (bowl), saying:

Western Bard May this circle be blessed and purified with Water.

Southern Bard starts at the South and consecrates the circle with Fire (candle), saying:

Southern Bard May this circle be sained and consecrated with Fire.

Four participants standing at the four quarters, starting with East, and greet the Four Guardians. They turn to face outwards and raise one or both hands in salutation and say:

- Herald                      Let the four direction be honored, and let the gateways of the Quarters be opened, that power and radiance might enter our circle for the good of all beings.
- Eastern Bard                With the blessing of SEABHAC (**SHEH-VAK**), the Hawk of Dawn soaring in the clear pure air, I call upon the powers of the East.
- Southern Bard              With the blessing of DAMH (**DAHV**), the Great Stag in the heat of the chase, and the inner fire of the Sun, I call upon the powers of the South.
- Western Bard                With the blessing of BRADAN (**BRATTAN**), the Salmon of Wisdom who dwells within the sacred waters of the pool, I call upon the powers of the West.
- Northern Bard              With the blessing of ART (**ARSHT**), the Great Bear of the starry heavens and the deep and fruitful earth, I call upon the powers of the North.

### CENTRAL WORKING

### CLOSING

- Druid                         Let us all hold hands and say the Druid's Vow.
- Gaelic Speaker             *Bheir sinn mionnan air an siths agus an gràdh a sheasamh,*  
**Vair sheen m-yòu-nan air aoun shees agas aoun graw a hëss**
- Cridhe gu cridhe agus làmh ann an làmh,*  
**Kree-ah grew kree-ah agas láv aoun-un láv,**
- Mhothaich, O Spiorad, agus bi gar cluinntinn*  
**Vo-aigh, O Spirit, agas be garr clue-eeen-cheen**
- Daingnicheadh seo, ar geàlladh naomh.*  
**Dàwn-ya-shug show, are gya-lig nyeev**
- ALL                             We swear by peace and love to stand,  
Heart to heart, and hand in hand  
Mark, O Spirit, and hear us now,  
Confirming this our sacred vow.

When all are ready, Druid returns to the center of the circle and prepares to close the gateway.

Druid stands at the East, facing the center and say:

Druid                      As the radiance of this ceremony fades, let it remain as a light in our hearts. May my memory hold what the eye and ear have gained.

Now extinguish the central candle. Chant cascading Awens. Then say:

Herald                      May the spirits of the Four Directions be thanked for their blessings.

Northern Bard              In the name of ART (**ARSHT**), the Great Bear of the starry heavens and the element of Earth, I thank the powers of the North.

Western Bard                In the name of BRADAN (**BRATTAN**), the Salmon of Wisdom and the element of Water, I thank the powers of the West.

Southern Bard                In the name of DAMH (**DAHV**), the Great Stag and the element of Fire, I thank the powers of the South.

Eastern Bard                 In the name of SEABHAC (**SHEH-VAK**), the Hawk of Dawn and the element of Air, I thank the powers of the East.

Druid uncasts the circle with wand or staff, counter-sunwise, and says:

Druid                      As water recedes and fire dies down,  
Let the circle sink back to the ground.  
Let holy light illumine our hearts.  
And our memory hold all, 'ere we depart.

Herald                      May the blessing of Holy Brigid, and the Great Spirits be always upon us. I declare this ceremony of \_\_\_\_\_ is closed in the apparent world. May its inspiration continue within our beings.