

Imbolg Ritual, Sunday February 1, 2004, 7PM
Sunnyhill Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills
First Meeting of SPIRITWAYS
Sunnyhill CUUPS Group
Written by Annabelle Clippinger

Imbolg Ritual: A Candlelighting to Brighid

Needed:

Four altars and altar candles. Small candles. Matches.

Tools: Athame, Wand, Cup and Pentacle

Bride and her Bed, and the Priapic Symbol, placed on Northern Altar

Dixie cups and Juice and Cakes for Communion

Bowl of salt and bowl of water

Incense and holder, a feather

Essential oil for group consecration

Body of Ritual:

This ritual is highly formalized, and is merely an example for our use of this type. For our next meeting, I recommend a more informal approach, so we can try multiple ritual strategies.

Group Blessing:

All gather together near the eastern altar upon the ringing of the bell, and **Dianna** begins the group consecration by using the essential oil and making a pentagram on one participant's forehead and saying words of blessing as she does so, such as "**With this mark I bless and consecrate you to enter the sacred circle**" (but it could be a different phrase as each participant sees fit.) Each participant, upon receiving the consecration, blesses the next one in the same way.

The Casting of the Circle:

All enter into center of circle.

Gerry uses his wand to cast the circle, using words or not as he sees fit.

The Consecration of the Circle by the Elements:

Annabelle, mixing the salt into the water bowl, consecrates the perimeter of the circle deosil, sprinkling and saying: **Oh circle, be thou a meeting place of love and joy and truth, a shield against all wickedness and evil, and a rampart of protection for all who stand herein. Therefore do I consecrate thee by the power of earth and water, and by the spirit of all that is sacred.**

Tacey, lighting the incense and waving the smoke with the feather, treads the circle the same way, saying: **Oh circle, be thou a meeting place of love and joy and truth, a shield against all wickedness and evil, and a rampart of protection for all who stand herein. Therefore do I consecrate thee by fire and air, and by all that is sacred.**

Dianna says: The circle has been cast and consecrated, let us now invoke the elemental spirits and call Goddess and God into our circle.

Invocation of the Elemental Energies and Goddess and God:

Tamara: Hail spirits of the east powers of air, great eagle of the dawn, we call upon you to bring the blessings of the wind and of idea into our new circle. Hail and welcome, Blessed be.

All: Hail and welcome, Blessed be.

Dylan: Hail spirits of the south powers of fire, great lion of noon, we call upon you to bring the charge of creativity and spiritedness into our new circle. Hail and welcome, Blessed Be.

All: Hail and welcome, Blessed be.

Gerry: Hail spirits of the west and powers of water, great pools of twilight, we call upon you to bring the depths of emotion, of joy and of inner seeking into our new circle, Hail and welcome, Blessed be.

All: Hail and welcome, Blessed be.

Dianna: Hail spirits of the north and powers of earth, tall trees of midnight, we call upon you to bring the groundedness and earthiness, and of deep center, into our new circle. Hail and welcome, Blessed Be.

All: Hail and welcome, Blessed be.

Annabelle: Robin, playful one whose charming looks begin to thaw the ice and stir the fires of the cauldron of reawakening, we call and invoke thee. Join with us and bless this rite. Hail and welcome, Blessed Be.

All: Hail and welcome, Blessed be.

Gerry: Bright Mother, Lady Brighid, whose bright spark awakens us from our spiritual sleeping, we call and invoke thee. Hail and welcome, Blessed Be. Join with us and bless this rite.

All: Hail and welcome, Blessed be.

Song:

Kathryn passes out the candles, and lights the first candle on the second line of this song.

Annabelle:

Sings the "**Song to Brigid**"
--written by Georgia Campbell

**Out of the deep and the darkeny gloom
Brigid's light sparks in the heart of her womb
And her light's shining still, at the top of her hill
At the breast of the Goddess in Avalon**

**Oh open your soul to the hearkening day,
The warmness of spring is a robin away
And the trickling rill from the top of her hill
sends a quickening thrill to Avalon**

**So out of the deep and the darkeny gloom
Brigid's light is shining right here in this room
And her light's shining still, at the top of her hill
At the breast of the Goddess in Avalon.**

Brigid's Bed:

Dianna: Her light is returning and with us here. May the blessings of the coming days of warmth draw us closer together. Candles are put out. Annabelle collects them.
(Tacey hands Dianna the Brigid's Bed)
Let us each touch Brigid's belly for luck and for wishes made silent and aloud.

Dianna touches the belly of Brigid in her bed, passing it on, and each participant touches her belly and may say aloud a wish or hold it silently. When this is complete, Dianna returns Brigid's bed to the northern altar.

The Blessing of each participant as Goddess and God:

Annabelle: to each man, she places a hand on their breast, saying: **Robin, you are the Lord of the coming spring, and of the energy of divine love.**

Gerry: to each woman, he places a hand to her forehead, saying: **Brigid, you are the holy bright coming of the light, and the Lady of all divine warmth.**

All are seated.

Consecration of Wine and Cakes -- juice in this case (including the Symbolic Great Rite)

Dianna, using her athame, blesses the chalice by placing the athame in the cup, and saying: **God to Goddess, Male to Female, Matter to Spirit, Death to Rebirth.**

Dylan: blessing the cakes by passing his hands above them, saying: **Brighid and Robin, I ask you to come through me now to bless these cakes and make them food for spirit and body.**

Tamara: **This communion now is blessed.** She begins by passing the cakes and feeding the person next to her, saying: **May you never hunger!** Around the circle it goes until everyone has had one.

Dianna pours from the consecrated chalice into the dixie cups which are passed one by one, **May you never thirst!**

Dismissing the elements:

Tamara: **Spirits of the east powers of air, great eagle of the dawn, thank you for your blessings tonight. Hail and farewell, Blessed be.**

All: **Hail and farewell, Blessed be.**

Dylan: **Spirits of the south powers of fire, great lion of noon, thank you for your blessings tonight. Hail and farewell, Blessed be.**

All: **Hail and farewell, Blessed be.**

Gerry: **Spirits of the west and powers of water, great pools of twilight, thank you for your blessings tonight. Hail and farewell, Blessed be.**

All: **Hail and farewell, Blessed be.**

Dianna: **Spirits of the north and powers of earth, tall trees of midnight, thank you for your blessings tonight. Hail and farewell, Blessed be.**

All: **Hail and farewell, Blessed be.**

Annabelle: **Robin, Lord of love and light, thank you for your blessings tonight, stay if you will, go if you must. Hail and Blessed be.**

All: **Hail and Blessed be.**

Gerry: **Lady Brighid, Bright Mother, you have awakened in us the spirit of warmth and light, thank you for your blessings tonight, stay if you will, go if you must. Hail and Blessed be.**

All: **Hail and Blessed be.**

Circle Opening Song:

Annabelle sings

**May the circle be open but unbroken,
May the love of the Goddess be ever in your hearts
Merry Meet and Merry Part, and Merry Meet again!**

All clap to break the energy.