



Keepers of the Holly Chalice

Open Lammás

Brandywine Creek State Park

Sunday, July 29, 2012

Preparation: The circle is marked with seasonal items and an altar is placed in the center of the circle. Baskets are placed on the central altar for the symbolic sacrifices that we will make. The sacrifices can represent something you have worked on all year, something you planted and harvested, a small token, written symbols or a message. It represents what you will give up in thanks for the continuing sacrifice of the land and the Beings we share the Earth with. Paper and pencils are provided for guests to write their sacrifices on, if desired. The space is cleared and re-energized with a besom.

I. Processional

We carry our sacrifices into the circle and place them in a basket on the central altar. As we process into the circle, we sing:

*It's been long since the planting
We have tended with care
Now we stand at the harvest
Minds open and clear.*

*We give thanks for the bounty
May it last till next year
Now we offer our first fruits
Hearts open and clear*

II. Purification

We pass through the gate and purify with salt water and incense.

III. Casting the Circle

Kathy scribes the circle as the Quarters are called and the Gates are opened.

*Members of Keepers of the Holly Chalice
open the Chalice.*

IV. Seasonal Statement of Intent

Listen as Leanne speaks the words that tell of the turning wheel at this time of Lammás.

V. Calling on the God and Goddess

Leanne, as the Herald, asks Tailtiu and Lugh to awaken and join us in the circle as we chant:

*God and Goddess Live Within Every Soul
Blessed Their Gift, Blessed Are We!
When We Call Their Name,
They Awaken Within
Blessed Their Gift, Blessed Are We!*

Janice and Mark draw the Goddess, Tailtiu and God, Lugh into themselves. They tell their personal stories and speak of the Harvest. They ask us to call up our own sacrifices and anchor them into the items we placed on the central altar.

VI. Blessing the Sacrifice

Tailtiu and Lugh speak a blessing into the item(s) on the central altar. They pour water from the vessel on the central altar into the chalices at each Quarter.

VII. **Turning the Wheel**

As we walk deosil (sunwise) to turn the Wheel of the Year, we chant:

*Thanks Turns The Wheel Of The Harvest
Thanks Seals The Circle Of Life
Thanks Blesses All Our Beginnings
And Thanks Blesses The End*

When the energy is near its peak, the God begins free-form toning. We all take it up and pour energy into all that is on the central altar.

VIII. **Seeding the Future**

After the energy has been released, we walk in a spiral to the center and take a portion of birdseed from the bowl on the altar. Moving in a sunwise direction, deposit the seed around the perimeter until you have cast the seed around the entire circle and then return to your place in it.

Tailtue and Lugh impart any remaining messages to us. They pour the Four Waters out at each quarter as a gift and sacrifice to the Land.

IX. **Thanking the Great Ones**

The Heralds thank Tailtue and Lugh for their presence and their ongoing sacrifices and blessings and they depart. The Spirits of the Land, the seen and unseen are thanked.

X. **Closing the Circle**

Kathy closes the Gates and the circle is dismissed.

***Merry Meet, Merry Part and
Merry Meet Again !!***

Take an Element stone from the bowl as you depart this sacred space to remind you of all the sacrifices made for you and that you make, every day. Use it to connect with the Elements, your loved ones, tribe and community.

Chants:

"Open & Clear", Arcta Firebringer

"God & Goddess Live", Ivo Domínguez, Jr. (Panpipe)

*"Thanks Turns The Wheel" By Ivo Dominguez, Jr. and
James C. Welch*