

KEEPERS OF THE HOLLY CHALICE
GRAIL OF THE BIRCH MOON

Lughnasad at Faerewood

Saturday August 2nd, 2014

Moon Void of Course between Libra and Scorpio

Sacrifice to the Land: Two baskets will be placed on the central altar for the sacrifices that we will make. This could be something you've worked on all year, something you planted and harvested, or some small token or note that represents what you will give up in thanks for the continuing sacrifice of the land and the beings we share the land with.

I. Process

We will process to the circle while singing, carrying the representations of our sacrifices with us:

*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
— Arcta Firebringer*

II. Purification

We will purify at the gate with salt water and incense. (Faith and Maggie) Each person picks up the hand mirror and looks into their own eyes to see the Self.

III. Casting the Circle

Joe casts the circle.

IV. Statement of Intent

This ritual is about learning the meaning of harvest and sacrifice and about our own personal sacrifice. Listen and hear the words that tell of the turning wheel at the Lammas season. (Kathy)

V. Calling on the God and Goddess

The Herald (Leanne) asks Lugh and Tailtiu to join us in the circle. We sing as they go into aspect:

*God And Goddess Live Within Every Soul
Blessed Their Gift Blessed Are We
— Ivo Dominguez, Jr. (Panpipe)*

Mark and Janice draw Lugh and Tailtiu into each other and tell their own stories, speaking of the importance of harvest and sacrifice. They ask us to bring our own sacrifice into the ritual and we place our items in the baskets on the central altar.

Lugh and Tailtiu raise the cakes and ale, speak a blessing into them, and set them back on the altar. As they do this, we walk in a circle and charge the items as 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
— Jim Welch*

When the energy is near its peak, the God begins toning. We all take it up and pour the raised energy into the water, cakes & ale and the representations of our personal sacrifices. After the charging, Lugh and Tailtiu pour some water from the central altar into the chalices at each quarter.

Tailtiu and Lugh will give cakes and ale individually to each person. After everyone has been served, the God and Goddess depart from their Priest and Priestess.

VI. Thanks & Dismiss

The Herald thanks Lugh and Tailtiu for their presence and their ongoing sacrifice as they depart.

The circle is dismissed and the four charged waters are poured out as a sacrifice to the land at each quarter.

Merry Meet, Merry Part and Merry Meet Again!

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We need volunteers for Ale, cakes, and decorations for the 4 quarters (Faith, Jessica, Kat, Maggie, Faith, Sandy)

There will be a brief pre-ritual talk on Lugh & Tailtiu (Mark & Janice) and the void of course moon (Tony).

Everyone bring: folding chair(s), your personal chalice, decorations for the quarters, robes. Non-Keepers need to bring a cup or chalice to drink from also so tell your guests. Head count to us for handouts.

Please bring appropriate food to share afterwards for feasting. Contact Mark for what to bring (so we don't end up with too many duplicate dishes)