



**VANCOUVER
ISLAND DRUIDS
AND
THE GARRY OAK
PROTOGROVE**



Ár nDraíocht Féin: A Druid Fellowship

**Ostara Zoom Ritual
March 26, 2023**

Tools	Offerings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well • Matches • Tables (2) • Bell • Offering Bowl • Blessing Cup • Bowl of water & towel • Glass of water • Pitcher of water • Divination tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ale x2 • Sage • Jug of water • Cone incense • Wine • Oil • Silver • Bread • Whiskey • Herbs

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81511533164?pwd=R2YzMkZWwHZDanc0ME1naFFpbC9tdz09>

Diane

Welcome! To all of you who are here, I am glad to see you. We will begin with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory.

We honour the Spirits and Ancestors of the Land from which we hail.

We recognize the Traditional Unceded Territories of the Coast Salish Peoples.

We recognize the Traditional Unceded Territories of the Hul'qumi'num speaking Peoples.

We recognize the Traditional Unceded Territories of the Kwakwaka'wakw (kwow-kwə-kowwowk) Peoples.

We recognize the Traditional Unceded Territories of the Nuuchahnulth Peoples.

We recognize the land of the Siculi, Sicani, and Elymians.

We honour you; we ask for forbearance as we do our own Work here and now,

On these lands You hold sacred.

May your descendants know Justice in their lifetimes.

(based on acknowledgement written by Ceinan Kimbrough / Jay Logan 2019)

Establishing the Boundaries

Diane lights sage

David

**By the Fire and Well,
Let the blessed land upon which we stand be the founding of this Sacred Grove.
Let the land hold firm and support us!**

Diane pours water into a bowl

David

**By the cleansing of Water,
Let the primal sea be the boundary of this Grove.
Let the Sea surround our island and protect us!**

Diane lights the fire and places incense

David

**By the Light of the Fire,
Let the shining Sky be the roof of this Grove.
May the Sky smile down and warm us!**

Purification

Diane

Druids,

Wash your hands in the bowl of pure water.

Drink from the glass.

**This way our bodies are pure for the celebrations,
And our words are good and honest for this ritual.**

Initiating the Rite and Opening Prayer

Anje

Look up to the sky.

The Spirits of the sky call down to us.

All

Spirits of the sky, call down to us.

Anje

Look to the land.

The Spirits of the land whisper to us.

All

Spirits of the land, whisper to us.

Anje

Look to the sea.

The Spirits of the sea sing to us.

All

Spirits of the sea, sing to us.

Anje

**The voices of the Spirits fill our hearts and through our hearts we are connected here at the
juncture of sky and earth and sea.**

All

Let us pray today with a good fire.

Two Powers Meditation

Diane

**Druids, stand with your feet solidly on the Earth.
Close your eyes so that you may see inwardly.
Breathe in the scent of the Earth Mother.
Hold her magick in your lungs, feel it fill your body, and then
release the breath to the sky.
Breathe in the scent of the Earth Mother.
Hold her magick in your lungs, feel it fill your body,
and then release the breath to the sky.
Breathe in the scent of the Earth Mother.
Hold her magick in your lungs, feel it fill your body,
and then release the breath to the sky.
Before you see a meadow; lush, green, and beautiful in the springtime sun.
Across the meadow a figure approaches.
She, too, is lush and green, luminous and beautiful in the springtime sun. She takes
your hand and leads you across the meadow and into the forest.
Together, you walk along a path, and from between the trees,
The Nature Spirits gaze at you.
She leads you to a pond.
In the centre of the pond is an island with an ancient Garry Oak. Hand in hand,
you float across the pond and step foot upon the soil. You look around and realize
you are now alone with the Ancient One.
You run your hands along the rough bark, feeling every bump and edge.
You turn your back and lean against the tree.
The ancient Garry Oak absorbs you and you become one.
Your blood mixes with the sap.
Every cell of your body melds with that of this ancient tree.
Your legs stretch down into the Earth as roots, past the soil, through the
bedrock and into the Deep Waters upon which this Earth floats.
Breathe deeply and feel the energy of the Earth Mother flow up through
your roots and into your body.
Feel the energy swirl through your legs
Up into your hips
Filling the Cauldron that sits in your groin.
Feel the energy swirl through your belly
Up into your chest,
Filling the Cauldron that sits in your heart.
Feel the energy swirl up your neck
Through your face
Filling the Cauldron that sits in your head.
Feel the energy spill out of your head and surround and protect you
The way a shell protects an egg.
Your arms stretch up as branches, into the sky,**

Touching the sun, the moon and the stars.
You have become the tree, and as the tree,
You have become the grove, and as the grove you have become the
forest, and as the forest you have become all forests that spread
Under the Sky Father.
Feel the energy swirl down through your scalp
Around your cranium
Filling the Cauldron that sits in your head.
Feel the energy swirl down your neck,
Through your chest,
Filling the Cauldron that sits in your heart.
Feel the energy swirl down through belly
Around your hips
Filling the Cauldron that sits in your groin.
Feel the energy run down your legs
And spill out of your feet and surround and protect you
The way a shell protects an egg.
You will remain as the Ancient One, the Garry Oak, throughout this ritual.
Open your eyes.

Honouring the Earth Mother

Ian

**O, Earth Mother!
Your power and energy pulsate beneath our feet.
Druids, can you feel Her?**

All

We feel Her.

Ian

**O, Earth Mother!
Your stony plates float upon the Deep Water and uphold us.
Druids, can you feel Her?**

All

We feel Her.

Ian

**O, Earth Mother!
Your children wish to honour you.
Druids, do you honour Her?**

All

We honour Her.

Diane pours wine into the offering bowl.

Statement of Purpose

Diane

**Druids, Children of the Earth,
We have come here today to honour the season,
The goddess Rhiannon, her husband Pwyll, and their son Pryderi.
It is the Feast of Alban Eilir, the Spring Equinox, Ostara.
It is the Feast of our Goddess Rhiannon and Her husband, Pwyll, Prince of Dyfed, Lord of
Annwfn.**

**This is the time of balance,
when dark gives way to light and Spring is well underway.
As our ancestors did, so do we now.
We are here to offer worship to the Parents of Pryderi,
who was lost and then found.
For Rhiannon's son was lost,
and the Goddess was blamed by false witness.
Lord Pwyll's love for Rhiannon saved Her,
but she was sorely punished,
Doomed to carry visitors on Her own back
From the gates of Arberth to the Court within.
But the boy was returned before he was four years old.
Rhiannon was vindicated and balance restored.
Just as balance was restored for Rhiannon, Pwyll, and Pryderi
Today, on the Equinox, balance exists in our natural world,
The day and night take equal measure
But there is no balance for the people of the Ukraine
Who bravely fight for their land and culture,
And face death with courage.
This energetic imbalance will spread beyond their bounds.
And to the rest of our world.
So today, we will also pray for and honour the brave folks of the Ukraine.**

All

**May our worship be true.
May our actions be just.
May our love be pure.
Blessings, honor and worship to the Holy Ones.**

Bardic Inspiration

Tommy

**O Taliesin,
You who stole the Awen from Cerridwen
And used your knowledge to create songs and poetry and tales
Gift us this day with the inspiration of your sweet words.
May our voices fill this space with the joy and light you bring.
Fill our heads, our hearts and our voices with your precious gift.**

Diane makes an offering of oil into the offering bowl.

Tommy

Taliesin, accept our sacrifice.

All

Taliesin, accept our sacrifice!

(Re)Creating the Cosmos

Diane

**Sacred Fire,
You who touch the sky,
You who feed from the earth,
You who are connected with the celestial waters.
You who send our messages to the Shining Ones.
We offer you this sacrifice so that you may be blessed,
And that you may consume and transform it,
And lift our sacrifice to the sky.**

Diane offers incense to the Fire.

Raquel:

**O sacred fire that burns, that consumes and transforms,
That lights our world with the true and holy light of the Shining Ones, accept our offering!
Let your holy flame warm our spirits and our lives. Sacred Fire, burn within us!**

All

Sacred Fire, burn within us.

Diane pours water into well saying:

**Ancient Well, you who reach deep into our Mother,
You whose walls are built with the bones of our Ancestors,**

**You who stretch down past the Noble Spirits who live underground,
You who give us all the Waters of Life.**

Diane offers silver to the Well:

Rachel

**O sacred waters that swirl beneath all things,
That flow from the Earth Mother and down to the sea,
Accept our offering!
Show us the sacred place, the elder depths, the centre of truth within ourselves.
Sacred Well, flow within us!**

All

Sacred waters flow within us.

Diane

**Tree of Life, you who stretch your roots down into the earth
And into the waters upon which the world floats,
You who stretch your branches into the sky
To touch the sun, the moon, and the stars,
You who stand at the centre of our world,
You who shade and protect us.
Diane smudges the tree and says:
O sacred tree,
You who stand at the center of the sky,
At the center of the sea,
At the center of the land upon which we dwell.
Carry us to your depths!
Raise us to your heights!
Fill us with your strength and resilience.
Sacred Tree, grow within us!**

All

Holy Tree, grow within us.

Opening the Gates

Diane

**Gwynn ap Nudd.
You who are the Welsh Lord of the sea and God of the misty journey.
Master of tricks and illusions.
Riding on your sea-borne chariot,
You guard the Otherworld and the Afterlife.
O, Gwynn ap Nudd, we ask you to hear our call.**

**Join with us today and protect us in our ritual.
We bring you ale.**

**With this gift,
We ask that you open the Gates
Between your Realm and ours
And stand guard to keep us safe.**

Diane pours ale into the offering bowl and says:

**Let the Fire open as a Gate!
Let the Well open as a Gate!
Let the World Tree connect all the Worlds!
Let the Gates be open!**

**All
Let the Gates be open!**

Inviting the Kindred/Key Offerings

Diane

**Druids, Children of the Earth, the Gates sit open, ready for our rite.
Through these Gates we can call to the Shining Ones,
To the Ancient Ones,
And to the Mighty Sidhe.
Our hearts are open to the Kindred,
So, let only honesty and truth be there for them to witness.**

**Shining Ones who have lived in this world since the beginning of time.
Gods and Goddesses who guide and protect us – our matrons and patrons.
First children of our common Mother!
You are the wisest and mightiest
You fill us with the wisdom we lack,
You gift us with the lessons we need,
You give us strength when we stumble
And purity when we step into the darkness.
We call to you to join in our magick.
Diane pours oil into the offering bowl.**

Diane

Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

All

Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

Diane

We, the children of the earth call out to the Mighty Dead.

You who have taught us.

You have given us life lessons both good and bad

But lessons all needed and valuable.

You who have walked the path before us.

We have been you and we will be you again.

Our hearts, souls, and very cells mingle with yours.

Here us, Ancient Ones,

Those of our blood, of our hearts, of the land

The Ancient Wise and the Restless Dead, hear us.

Your blood flows in our veins,

Your love in our hearts,

And your spirit in the land.

We call to you to join in our magick.

Diane places a piece of bread in the offering bowl.

Diane

Ancient Ones, accept our sacrifice

All

Ancient Ones, accept our sacrifice!

Diane

We, the children of earth call out to the spirits of this land.

Noble Ones,

Spirits of the Land whom we can see

Those of hoof and paw, wing and gill.

Spirits of the Land whom we cannot see

Spirits of the Land, the Water, and the Air.

You teach us to live in peace with the Mother.

Hear us, Noble Spirits,

Our companions, our teachers, and our partners in this mundane world.

Spirits of the land,

Kin of stone and soil, clouds and wind, heat and flame, pools and stream;

Spirits of the land,

Kin of herb and flower, of spreading hedgerow and mighty trees, root, stem, leaf and fruit.

Spirits of the land,

Kin of wintery fur, brilliant feathers and opalescent scales,

You who walk or fly or swim or crawl.

Noble Ones, allies, help us to be good stewards and so we call to you to join in our magick.

Diane sprinkles herbs into the offering bowl.

Diane

Noble Ones, accept our sacrifice!

All

Noble Ones, accept our sacrifice!

Invitation to the Deity of the Occasion

Diane

**Oh, Rhiannon, Great Queen!
You ride a snow-white mare.
Dressed all in gold,
You shimmer in the evening light
Just beyond our reach.
Generous and fertile Lady,
Patience and strength are yours.
Offerings we make to You!
But most of all, we give our love and our devotion,
The power of ourselves.
We call to you, Daughter of the Otherworld!
Join us here, we pray.
Come to us here that we may love and honour you as you deserve.
And when this rite is ended, we'll grieve to see you go.**

Diane offers whiskey to the offering bowl.

Diane

Rhiannon, Great Queen, accept our sacrifice!

All

Rhiannon, Great Queen, accept our sacrifice!

Prayer of Sacrifice

David

**Druids, we have a responsibility to help bring balance to our cosmos.
We make offerings to stave off the chaos
And, as such, we become partners with our Kindred.
Druids, hold your cupped hands before you.**

Anje

**This sacred space sits like a bowl,
Holding all the love, honour and energy
We have intended for the Kindred.
Our priest holds burning
incense in her cupped
hands.**

Tommy

**O Beings of the Occasion,
We gather the love, honour and energy of your folk
Into our cupped hands
So that it may mingle with the incense.**

Ian

**As the smoke rises from the incense,
Let it carry not only this familiar scent
But also all the love, honour and energy back through the Gates
And into Your world as a sacrifice from us to you.**

Diane

**Carry our voices up on the smoke!
O Kindred!
Hear us as we offer this sacrifice!
Take our worship and reverence into Your hearts!
Accept our sacrifices!**

All:

Accept our sacrifices!

Omen and Blessings

Diane

**O Rhiannon, Great Queen,
O Shining Ones, Ancient Ones, and Noble Ones,
On this day we have gathered,
And we have given you praise and honour and sacrifice!
In the spirit of reciprocity and ghosti-,
A gift calls for a gift.
And now I will take the Omen
And as I do, close your eyes, raise your glass,
And direct your energy through the Gates to the Kindred.
I call on the Kindred
What blessings do you have for us?**

Diane takes Omen and reads out the Blessings

Diane

**Children of the Earth
Come and take a cup so that we can all partake in the blessings.**

All folk take a cup of water

Diane

**Druids,
We have given our gifts with joy and reverence.
A gift calls for a gift.
Kindred, bring your blessings upon us.
We are your folk
And are proud to call ourselves so.
We stand at the centre of the World Tree.
Rhiannon, hallow these waters,
Fill them with hope and possibility!
Druids raise your cups!**

All lift glasses of Waters of Life

**Feel the Blessings of Rhiannon flow along your arms,
Feel the Energy of Rhiannon flow into your hands
And feel the Energy of Rhiannon fill the cup.
Druids,**

**Behold the Waters of Life!
A gift has been given to us.
The Blessings of the Kindred have been infused into the Waters.
These mundane cups have become the Cups of Inspiration.
Behold the Waters of Life!**

All

Behold the Waters of Life!

Diane

**Drink deeply, drink your fill,
For the fecundity of the Blessings are upon us.**

All drink

Thanking the Beings

Diane

**Friends, family, folk.
The Mighty Ones have blessed us and blessed our kin, our friends, our community.
With joy in our hearts
Let us carry the magick from our sacred grove
And into our lives and work.
Each time we offer to the powers
They become stronger and more aware of our needs and our worship.
So now as we prepare to depart let us give thanks to those who have aided us.
Taliesin, we thank you!**

All

We thank you!

Raquel

**Gods and Goddesses of elder days,
Spirits of this land,
Ancestors of blood, of spirit, and of place, we thank you!**

All

We thank you!

David

Goddess Rhiannon, we thank you!

All

We thank you!

Anje

Earth Mother, we thank you for birthing us, feeding us, clothing us, and protecting us.

All

We thank you!

Tommy

To all the powers that have aided us, we say again, we thank you!

All

We thank you!

Ian

**Gwynn ap Nudd,
You have held the Gate open so that we might commune with the Kindred,
You have kept us safe in our rite,
Gwynn ap Nudd, we thank you!**

All

We thank you!

Diane

**Now by the keeper of the gates and by our magick
We end what we began.**

All

**Close the Gates!
Close the Gates!
Close the Gates!**

Diane
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!

Diane
Mother of all, to you we return all we leave unused.
Uphold us in the world as you have in our rite.

Diane
With both gratitude and humility
For my part in this ritual today
I say to all of you,
This rite is closed.
To each and all,
health, happiness
and well-being

