

The Solitary Druid Fellowship December Solstice Liturgy 2012

Blessings of the Solstice be with you!

Read through the entire liturgy before performing it. The language is meant to be read aloud, so feel free to practice.

Make note of the text inside of [brackets].

You will need a representation of the Fire, Well and Tree of the ADF cosmology.

Spend time in contemplation about your choice of Gatekeeper, the Deities of Occasion you shall honor (if any), and the offerings you plan to make. For information on specific hearth cultures motifs, refer back to the text, ***Our Own Druidry - an introduction to Ár nDraíocht Féin and the Druid Path*** (provided to all members upon joining ADF).

Remember that this liturgy is yours to customize. There are many sections left open for you to add your prayers, creative works, or moments of silence.

The asterisk (*) indicates a pause. Use this moment of pause to breathe deep and experience the fullness of the ritual. This is your rite. Engage with it deeply.

Most importantly, proceed in worship with an open heart, a willingness to be great, and have compassion for yourself. Enter into the ritual with that intention, and you will have much to give to the Kindreds. Yours will be offerings of more than just food and wine; yours will be offerings of the soul.

MAY YOU PRAY WITH A GOOD FIRE.

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Bright blessings to you.

I. Initiating the Rite

I am one and we are many.
Fellowship, in solitude.
Here I bring my offerings
To celebrate the Kindred Three.

In my mind and in my body,
I hold space in solitude
For all of those who walk alone.
May they be with me in this rite.

Here before the sacred fire,
Sacred well, and sacred tree,
May we all be purified.
And may the fire burn within.

II. Purification

[You may perform the purification ritual of your choice (anointing your head and body with water or oil, burning sage or incense, etc.) while speaking aloud the following words:]

May all that hinders me be released,
May all that binds me be released,
May the outwellers of my heart be released,
That I may be made pure.

[After speaking aloud these words, take several moments to experience the feeling of purification. Breathe deep.]

III. Honoring the Earth Mother

I place my hand upon the ground,
Earth Mother.

[Touch the ground, if possible.]

This body is an instrument of praise.
My mother is the earth,
And we are her children.
Holy Mother, I call upon you -
Bless the rite of your child.

IV. Statement of Purpose

[Insert into the blank place the name of the High Day associated with your hearth tradition, the deity or deities of your choosing, and the Gatekeeper you intend to work with during the Opening of the Gates.]

I have come to honor the Kindred,
To affirm my connection to the earth,
To celebrate this High Day of _____
with the solitaries of the Fellowship.

[Take this moment to make note of the season of your land, to recognize the state of nature, and to honor it.]

I pray with a good fire.

This ritual recognizes the great and noble Gods, _____
(& _____), and I call on the gatekeeper, _____.

V. Grounding & Centering

[You may use whatever method of G&C that is relevant to you. ADF members will be familiar with the Two Powers meditation, but this is not the only acceptable method.]

Below is a brief meditation. Spend enough time with each line to allow the words to sink deep into your consciousness.]

I stand with the strength of an Oak.
I move with the grace of the Willow.
I reach deep into earth,
High towards the sun,
And within my being,
I am still.

VI. Recreating the Cosmos

Here at the center of all things,
Before the Fire, Well, & Sacred Tree,
I create the hallows.

[Gather your prepared offerings, placing each into your offering bowl or at the base of the hallows after you speak the corresponding words.]

I bless the well, and make it sacred.
Waters of deep wisdom, flow within
me.

*

I bless the fire, and make it sacred.
Fire of heavenly light, burn within me.

*

I bless this tree, and make it sacred.
Tree of great unity, grow in me.

*

[At this point, you may complete the cosmology by honoring any hearth culture cosmological trilogy that is personally relevant to you (ex: Land, Sea & Sky; Underworld, Midrealm, Heavens; Wise Ones, Warriors, Farmers; etc.)]

VII Opening The Gates

And now I call upon my Gatekeeper.

[Substitute "Gatekeeper" with name, title, and appropriate praise language.]

[Gatekeeper], I call on you and ask
that you be with me in this place, and I
make to you an offering.

*[Place offering in offering bowl/receptacle.
Substitute the words within the brackets with
appropriate language for the contents of your altar.]*

Take this [candle], and transform it.
Let it become the Sacred Fire, gateway
to the heavens; gateway for the
Shining Ones.

[Gatekeeper], make this fire a gate!

*

Take this [water], and transform it.
Let it become the Sacred Well,
gateway to the underworld; gateway
for the Ancestors.

[Gatekeeper], make this water a gate!

*

Take this [wood], and transform it.
Let it become the Sacred Tree,
connecting heavens and underworld,
standing as a gateway in the midearth;
a gateway for the Spirits of the Land.

[Gatekeeper], make this wood a gate!

*

Through your power and magic, great
[Gatekeeper]...

Let the gates be open!

*

*[Take a moment to visualize the opening of the gates.
This space is sacred, and your Sacred Center is now
nearer to the world of the Gods and Spirits. When you
are ready, continue on by speaking the following
words:]*

Mighty Kindred, come close, that you
might hear my praise and receive my
sacrifice.

VIII General Offerings

[Take up your offerings, and turn your attention to each of the Hallows in turn. You may identify your offering by name where it appears in brackets (i.e. this offering of bread)]

I stand before the Sacred Fire,
At the Center of All Things,
And lift up [this offering].

This is my sacrifice of
Praise and thanksgiving,
Respect and honor,
Love, worship, and devotion.

Please accept this offering
In the spirit in which it is given.

Shining Ones, accept my sacrifice!

*

I stand before the Sacred Well,
at the Center of All Things,
and lift up [this offering.]

This is my sacrifice of
Praise and thanksgiving,
Respect and honor,
Love, worship, and devotion.

Please accept this offering
In the spirit in which it is given.

Ancestors, accept my sacrifice!

*

I stand before the Sacred Tree,
at the Center of All Things,
and lift up [this offering.]

This is my sacrifice of
Praise and thanksgiving,
Respect and honor,
Love, worship, and devotion.
Please accept this offering
In the spirit in which it is given.

Nature Spirits, accept my sacrifice!

*

IX Honoring Beings of Occasion

[This portion of the ritual is optional. Should you choose to include it, you may use the same form of offering and praise listed in the General Offerings section or add your own, and you may add any relevant ritual act that is customary to your cultural tradition.]

X Personal Praise Offerings

[This portion of the ritual is optional, but recommended. In ADF tradition, we are encouraged to bring a personal offering of song, poetry or art to honor the Kindred. Use this moment to express praise from the heart.]

XI The Prayer of Sacrifice

Mighty Kindred,
You have heard my praise
And seen the evidence of my devotion.
With this final offering
I lift up my heart, my being,
As a sign of my commitment to you.

Mighty Kindred, accept my sacrifice!

[Take a moment to sit or stand in the presence of the Kindred. Let your heart be open, and your countenance be filled with a generous spirit. You have made offerings, and affirmed your relationship to the cosmos. Let your entire being be filled with a sense of connectedness.]

XII Seeking The Omen

[Using the divinatory form of your choosing, cast a spread of three, asking the following questions in your mind:

- 1. How were my offerings received?*
- 2. How shall the Kindred respond?*
- 3. What more would you have me learn?*

Make note of the omen, recording it for later reflection.

In addition to the omens taken by SDF participants, an omen will be drawn for the entire Fellowship and shared on SolitaryDruid.org.]

XIII Calling for the Blessing

[Said while holding hands over drinking cup filled with beverage of your choice (i.e. ale, cider, whiskey, water, or a beverage appropriate to your cultural tradition.)]

Mighty Kindred,
I am open to your blessing.
I receive the gifts you offer.
May your generosity fill my cup.

[Lift up the cup.]

Into my being, I accept the blessings
of The Kindred.

[Drink deep.]

The blessings are received,
Into my body and spirit.
I have reaffirmed my relationship
With the world, and with the Kindred.

XIV Workings

[This portion of the ritual is optional. If there are particular magickal workings prepared for this working, do them now.]

XV Final Affirmation

On this sacred day of the Solstice,
As I align myself with the movement
Of the earth and the sun,
I have prayed with a good fire.
I have made offerings to the Kindred,
And I have received their blessings.

Now, I give thanks.

XVI Thanking The Beings

[In reverse order, thank the Kindred. Substitute their names and titles as they appear in the brackets and repeat the thanks for each of the Kindred.]

To the [Beings of Occasion/Spirits of
Place/Ancestors/Gods], I give thanks.

I thank you for your joining me on this
High Day, for receiving my offerings,
And for your great generosity.

I am blessed to be in relationship
With you.

[If you are moved to do so, speak your gratitude for the ways in which you experience the Kindred in your lives.

Let the spirit of gratitude fill your heart, and inform the words you speak.]

XVII Closing The Gates

Great [Gatekeeper], I give thanks to
you for aiding me in this rite.

I ask now that you undo what you
have done.

Take this Sacred Tree, and let it
become the [wood] once again.

*

Take this Sacred Well, and let it
become the [water] once again.

*

Take this Sacred Fire, and let it
become the [candle] once again.

*

Through your power and magic, great
[Gatekeeper]...

Let the gates be closed!

*[Take a moment to visualize the closing of the gates.
Your space has returned once again to the common,
ordinary place it was before.*

Breath in deep, and exhale.]

XVIII Thanking the Earth Mother

I place my hand upon the ground,
Earth Mother.

This body is an instrument of praise
and thanks. You are my mother, and I
am your child.

Your children give thanks
For the blessings and bounty of
This great earth.

May we keep you
In our minds and hearts,
And may we honor you in every
action.

XIX Closing The Rite

I am one and we are many.
Fellowship, in solitude.
I have made my offerings
To celebrate the Kindred Three.

In my mind and in my body,
I hold space in solitude
For all of those who walk alone.
May they be blessed in all they do.

I go forth into the world,
Strengthened by this Druid rite.
May we pray with a good fire,
And make the Old Ways new again.

It is done!

