

IMBOLC/CANDLEMAS '08 – Treibh na Tíntean

Making Butter – Denise

Meditation – Mike

Intro – All : Tonight we prepare for the visitation of Brigit. She comes tonight to bring us tidings for the rest of this year. We are gathered here to honor our sacred mother. She is the daughter of the Dagda, guardian of our hearth and home, an inspiration to poets and a healing Goddess who hangs her cloak on the rays of the sun.

SPIRIT: By the power of the Living Flame, I welcome you to this our sacred circle!

Cleansing – Mike

Invoking the Grounhog! – Denise

Directions –

EAST: Powers of Air, Guardians of the Watchtower of the East—winds that fan the fires of the forge, winds that cool the brow of the Smith, winds of ancient knowledge of smithcraft, of metals and of stones—come to this circle tonight. So mote it be!

NORTH: Powers of Earth, Guardians of the Watchtower of the North—minerals of the earth, steel and stone, wood and bronze, gold and charcoal, hammer and anvil, sword and shield, helm and torc, enduring matter that was before and will endure after all else has past—come to this circle tonight. So mote it be!

WEST: Powers of Water, Guardians of the Watchtower of the West—liquid that quenches the hot metal to temper it, cool draught which quenches thirst after the heat of the forge, cleanliness of the ritual bath—come to this circle tonight. So mote it be!

SOUTH: Powers of Fire, Guardians of the Watchtower of the South—flame of forge that heats the iron, flame which melts apart and welds together, flame that transforms the metal that it may be worked, flame which hardens so that all else will yield before its sharpness and strength—come to this circle tonight. So mote it be!

SPIRIT: We invoke the Sacred Three: Maiden, Mother, Crone...To save, to shield...To surround...The hearth, the house...All the household...This eve, this night...And every night...Each single night. So mote it be!

Casting – All: We cast this circle as sons and daughters, / Spinners and weavers, / Tool makers, potters; / As dancers and dreamers, / Fixers, changers, / Singers and screamers. / We cast this circle with our ancestors and guardians, / God and Goddess too, / You who teach and who speak true, / Who plant, who reap, / Who soar, who creep, / Who cook, who drum, / Who have been and yet to come, / Unreasonable women, / Unmanageable men. / We cast as pagan, druid and witches, / Loving hearts or furious bitches. / We are sweet water, we are the seed; / We are the storm wind to blow away greed. Into this circle we bring to birth / the love that reclaims our earth.

Covenant –As we gather here, in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit.

Invocation – **All:** We welcome you, Brigit, on Imbolc Eve, / we pray for your blessing, new life to receive, / O Mother of Poetry, teach us your art, / that your inspiration may enter each heart.
O Mistress of Magic that stands by the fire / and shapes the bright metal to the form you desire;
O Mother of Smithcraft, please teach us your art, / that the power of changing may enter each heart.
You kindle the springtime to quicken the earth, / from under your mantle the old has new birth,
O Mother of Healing, please teach us your art, / that peace and contentment may enter each heart.

All: From the veiled mists of the Grove, we call thee. Your antlers ride the sky, Horned One, and carry with them the legacy of Kingship. Come to my side, Lord of the Forests, bring Your strength and stability that are the mountains rising high. Bring Your joy and ecstasy, that we might know Your nature. Come to this ritual and be with us tonight.

15 Candles for Brigid – *A dedication, invocation & celebration:*

E: Your first candle lit is your sunrise birth, the flame of your house reaching Ceugant's brow.
N: Second is the spark of your union with Bress, son of Elathan.
W: Third is the pillar of fire as you took the veil, rising high and clear.
S: Fourth is eternal life's spring that sings your name in crystal gaze.
Sp: Fifth is the flame on your altar that never dies.
E: Sixth is the sigh of your breath as new life grows from old, your bridge of Truth.
N: Seventh is a milk white cow, of red ears, the Earth Mother's nectar, sweet.
W: Eighth is a veil of truth in flowering thorn, your weary path.
S: Ninth is your son Ruardan to be reborn.
Sp: Tenth is the white light of the flowering word, born at sunrise.
E: Eleventh is the grove at Kildare, with solid oak and crystal spring.
N: Twelfth are the shrines throughout Aibion, in Church, Well and Wall.
W: Thirteenth is your will of black iron, forged in the determination of 1000 eyes.
S: Fourteenth is a healing—the white dog at the portal, the chalice of your smile.
Sp: Your last is your first, the beginning of the turning sea, the ending of the three. The dancing sun in the hearts of all! The candle that never dies!

Sweeping the Circle – *(Move to the edges of our circle, spread out evenly; pass the besom and sweep the part of the circle you are standing in, then pass it on.)*

East: Brigit of the mantles, Brigit of the twining hair, Brigit of the peat heap...

North: Brigit of the augury, we ask of Thee the sacred three: ...

West: ...to save, to shield, to surround the hearth.

South: Brigit of the white palms, Brigit of the kindness, Brigit of the calmness...

Spirit: We ask the three this eve, while in Your sight, bless our hearth each single night.

Blessing the Candles –

East: We bless thee, creatures of wax and light, casting out all negativity.

North: Serve your purpose, flaming bright, infused with magic and healing.

West: Instruments of light and strength, wick and wax though you be,

South: I give you life of needed length to aid in creativity.

Spirit: In the name of the Goddess and the God, so mote it be!

All chant for cone of power: Fire of Brigit / Flame in my heart / Goddess' protection / I bid start.

Communion

Thanking God and Goddess –

All: We thank you for golden mornings; we thank you for sparkling seas; we thank you for prairies, valleys, mountains and stately forest trees. We thank you for flashing sunshine and life-bestowing rain; for birds among the branches and springtime come again!

Thanking the Directions –

EAST: Powers of Air, Guardians of the Watchtower of the East, we thank you for blessing us. We in turn bless you as you return to your realm.

NORTH: Powers of Earth, Guardians of the Watchtower of the North, we thank you for blessing us. We in turn bless you as you return to your realm.

WEST: Powers of Water, Guardians of the Watchtower of the West, we thank you for blessing us. We in turn bless you as you return to your realm.

SOUTH: Powers of Fire, Guardians of the Watchtower of the South, we thank you for blessings us. We in turn bless you as you return to your realm.

SPIRIT: May the holy maiden Bride protect you from all dangers. May Brigit's waters heal you. May Brigit's winds inspire you. May Brigit's fire warm you.

All: The circle is open, but unbroken. May the peace of Brigit be ever with you. Merry meet, and merry part, and merry meet again!

Burning the Greens