

The Three Faces of Brigit

Across one end, hang a white curtain that reaches from the floor to above head height. Behind the curtain near the wall, place candles so that the figures behind the fabric will be backlit.

In the main part of the room, set up an altar, with the usual tools, plus a tall, white pillar candle, and before it place a medium-sized to large cauldron. On the other side of the altar put another cauldron, tray, or pot half-filled with sand. Into it place candles enough for each participant in the ritual.

At the far end of the room place three chairs to serve as thrones for the three aspects of Brigit. You can cover them loosely with fabric of three different colors. Beside each throne, place a large white candle, matching the one on the altar, and some wooden matches.

Three women will play the role of Brigit in her three aspects. They should all wear simple white robes, but the first (*Denise*) also has a green cloak for poetry and inspiration; the second (*Kathy*) a red cloak for fire and smith craft; and the third (*Sandy*) a blue cloak for water and healing. (*Sandy's note: we can simply wear green, red and blue. Or, I have other ideas too.*) In addition, the first wears a crown and carries a staff or scepter; the second carries a hammer; and the third carries a chalice.

The ritual should begin with the room lit only by the white candle on the altar. Have the leaders cast the circle, while participants wait outside the room (*Maybe Scott could lead a meditation?*).

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 smith craft, 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 – Holy Brigit, Triple Goddess, You Who are Healer, Smith, Poet—we welcome You. We have created this altar in Your honor, and in the hope that Your essence will dwell here to heal, re-create and inspire us. Lady of Flame, Light of Hope and Life, bless us, bless this altar, bless our ritual and blessed be your eternal fire. So mote it be!

Then, moving behind the curtain, the three Brigit's will wait standing in line, one behind another. In this way they will appear as one silhouette when the candles behind them are lit.

When they are ready, the leaders (*Mike, Richard and Scott*) should open a gateway, smudge and welcome each person into the room and the circle with these words:

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

Now we rejoin the regular ritual at the **Covenant**. Later, when Mike blows out the candle and speaks, Sandy will light candles behind the 3 Brigit's. When Denise speaks, she holds her scepter out to the side; when Kathy

speaks, she holds her hammer above her head; when Sandy speaks, she holds her chalice out to the opposite side of Denise's.

Brigid's Day/Imbolc/Candlemas '09 with Treibh na Tintean

Coloring & Making Butter

Meditation – (in conference room) 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.

Cleansing

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

The Three Faces of Brigit

(Everyone sits, and Mike blows out the altar candle)

Last autumn, we watched the nights grow longer, and embraced darkness and silence of winter. Now the fields lie fallow, the sun is dim in the pale sky, and the cold lingers. In this season it is hard to remember the warmth and light and new life of spring; but they come. They come. The Goddess reminds us that winter is not forever. Brigit reminds us.

(Brigit 1 speaks:) I am Brigit, Queen of the Slim Fairy Folk, Elder Goddess of the Fomorians and Mother of the Tuatha de Danaan, Exalted Lady; and before the beginning of days, I was. I am also Song-sweet Brigit of the Tribe of the Green Mantles, and I sent songs and music on the wind before ever the bells of the chapels were rung in the West or heard in the East. I am the heart of poetry, and I have been a breath in your mind since before your first birth.

(Brigit 2 speaks:) I am Brigantia, the Eternal Flame, Mistress of the Secrets of the Forge; and I shape the world with iron and fire. And I am the Warrior Queen of the Brigantes, Leader of the Immortal Host, Defender of the Clans, the Victorious One. And the day has dawned that will see me coming into the hearts of men and women like a flame upon dry grass, like a flame of wind in a great wood, like a flame of justice that will reach the very heavens!

(Brigit 3 speaks:) I am Bride of the Isles, the Lady of the Sea, Conception of the Waves, the Healing Power of Pure Love. I am the sacred chalice that contains the mystery of life, I am the crystal water of the holy wells, and I am the white foam on the breast of the rushing rivers in springtime. In the Land of Eternal Youth, my name is Mountain-traveler; and in the Country of Ancient Years it is Seek-Beyond. My womb brings you forth. My waters refresh you, My touch makes you whole.

Mike: Fire of the heart, Fire of the mind...

Richard: Fire of the hearth, Fire of the wind...

Scott: Fire of the Art, Fire out of time!

All: She shines for all, she burns in all!

(Repeat 3 times.)

(All three Brigits proceed from behind the curtain. They walk in darkness to the thrones at the other end of the room, and are seated.)

(Mike relights the candle on the altar and says:) For more than nine hundred years the flame of Brigit burned in her shrine at Kildare, tended first by the priestesses of the goddess, and then by the Catholic sisters of the saint. In the year 1220, the bishop ordered it extinguished *(blows out candle)*.

Soon it was relit *(lights it)*.

It burned until the Reformation, during the reign of King Henry the Eighth, and was extinguished again, and the abbey was destroyed *(blows out candle)*.

In 1996 the flame was lit again in Kildare, *(lights candle)*.

The darkness of ignorance and fear may well put it out again one day *(blows it out)*.

But the true flame was not in Ireland; the true flame is the Goddess *(all three Brigits light their candles)*, and her fire is never lost.

We invite each of you to take a small candle from this cauldron, and go to one of the three aspects of Brigit. Light your candle from her flame, and ask her blessing.

(When all have visited Brigit, put the candles in the sand cauldron or tray. Now raise a cone of power to further charge the candles for whatever qualities people want—purification, healing, courage, skill, and so on.)

All: We all come from the Goddess, and to her we shall return, like a tongue of flame, reaching to the sky above!

(When the power peaks, release the energy into the candles; then release any excess into the Earth.)

The Vow

All: The Wheel turns again and Spring returns; / Warmer's the rain, Sun brighter burns.

The daring sprout its thrusts does make; / and I, devout, so undertake.

From the belly, from the mind, / Imbolc's spell as a vow shall bind.

What once I sought I now shall bring, / and make, from thought, a certain thing.

Communion

Sweeping the Circle

All: Broom of magic, broom of corn / dance me 'round the Lady's horns. / Cleanse this space of cares and woes, / so negative and darkness goes. / Sweep away the stench, / sweep away the sneers. /

Sweep away the clench / of hunger and of fears. / Dance with me this sacred space, / harmony and peace embrace.

Brigit's prayer

May the holy maiden Bride, radiant flame of gold,
Protect you from all dangers.
No fire, no sun, no moon will burn you,
No lake, no water, no sea shall drown you.
No arrow of fairy nor dart of fey shall wound you.
May Brigit's waters heal you.
May Brigit's winds inspire you.
May Brigit's fire warm you.
Under Her protection, go in peace.

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!