

Imbolc '14 with Treibh na Tíntean (tryv na tìn-tawn)

MAKING BUTTER AND POTLUCK DINNER

CLEANSING AT BRIGID'S WELL

MEDITATION [Scott]

The MUDPEOPLE [Denise reads and Dave A. and Roz will perform.]

CASTING – [Hopefully, we can ask someone like Karen to cast, maybe with Brigid's cross?] [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.

DIRECTIONS – [Alyssa lights the candles.]

EAST: [Richard] Illuminate our way, Daughter of sunrise who paints the morning sky with her brilliant light. Descend into the temple to witness the rebirth of the spirit. By the air that is Her breath, I invoke the spirits of the east. Hail and welcome!

SOUTH: [Denise] The bright fires of the spirit burn as we celebrate the return of the light. Fires of the forge that transforms the soul, strengthen us as we seek to know your mystery. By the flames that illuminate the cauldron, I invoke the spirits of the south. Hail and welcome!

WEST: [Scott] Deep waters of the sacred well, we call upon you to cleanse and restore us. Healers of all wounds, come to us now and lend us your aid. By the water that is Her blood, I invoke the west. Hail and welcome!

NORTH: [Sandy] Dark earth, keeper of all life's secrets, most powerful ancient mother of creation, come into this temple to witness our sacred rite. It is you whom we seek to honor, to tread gently upon, and to greet in wholeness at the end of our span. By the earth that is Her body, I invoke the north. Hail and welcome!

SPIRIT: [Dave Z] Maiden, Mother, Crone, gather around us and aid us in opening our eyes, warming our souls, healing our pains and guiding our paths. Embrace this circle as one. I invoke the spirit. Hail and welcome!

COVENANT – [All] As we gather here, in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit.

INVOKATION—

BRIGID: [All] Great Lady, Exalted One, King-Maker, Bright Arrow, we call upon You: Brigid of the eternal flame, Brigid of the sacred springs, mistress of poets, healers and smiths—we invite You to our circle; enter and give us Your blessings.

WAYLAND: *[All]* Lord of Smithcraft, Mighty Arm, Sword-maker, Tool-forged, we call upon You: Wayland of the spectral smithy, Wayland of the forest forge, master of craftsmen, artisans and smiths—we invite You to our circle; enter and give us Your blessings.

THE THREE FACES OF BRIGID:

SCOTT: 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. *(Mike blows out candle.)*

RICHARD: Soon it was relit *(Mike lights it).*

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

RICHARD: In 1996 the flame was lit again in Kildare, *(Mike lights candle).* However, the darkness of ignorance and fear may well put it out again one day *(Mike blows it out).*

SCOTT: But the true flame was not in Ireland; the true flame is the Goddess, and her fire is never lost. *(Mike lights it again!) [There was much rejoicing!]*

MELISSA: 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, light and new life of spring; but they come, they come. The Goddess reminds us that winter is not forever; Brigit reminds us. *[While she is speaking, Sandy, Jenna and Denise move to their positions—candles in baskets and lighters at the ready.]*

SANDY: Brigit is Queen of the Slim Fairy Folk, Elder Goddess of the Fomorians and Mother of the Tuatha de Danaan, She is the Exalted Lady. Before the beginning of days, she was. She is also Song-sweet Brigit of the Tribe of the Green Mantles, and she sent songs and music on the wind before ever the bells of the chapels were rung in the West or heard in the East. She is the heart of poetry, and she has been a breath in your mind since before your first birth. *[Sandy sits in her chair with the basket of candles.]*

JENNA: Brigantia is the Eternal Flame, Mistress of the Secrets of the Forge; she shapes the world with iron and fire. She is 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 her 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! *[Jenna sits in her chair with the basket of candles.]*

DENISE: Bride of the Isles is the Lady of the Sea, Conception of the Waves, the Healing Power of Pure Love. She is the sacred chalice that contains the mystery of life, she is the crystal water of the holy wells, and she is the white foam on the breast of the rushing rivers in springtime. In the Land of Eternal Youth, her name is Mountain-traveler; and in the Country of Ancient Years it is Seek-Beyond. Her womb brings you forth. Her waters refresh you, Her touch makes you whole. *[Denise sits in her chair with the basket of candles.]*

DAVE: Next to each Brigit is a candle whose wick was kindled from a candle lit by the flame of Kildare. Each Brigit has a basket of candles. We invite you to visit an aspect of Brigit and receive a candle. Light it from the flame of Kildare. You only need one—when you take this candle with you, you can continue to light other candles from it; that way, you will always have the flame of Kildare. You can visit one Brigit's flame, or more! *[Minor mayhem occurs as all participants light candles!]*

COMMUNION

CANDLE BLESSING— *[All—extend a hand in blessing]* We bless thee creatures of wax and light / and cast out negativity. / Serve your purpose, / flaming bright, / infused with magic, you shall be. / Instruments of light & strength, / wick & wax though you may be, / I give you life of needed length / to aid in creativity!

THANKING—

BRIGID: *[All]* Brigid of the eternal flame, Brigid of the sacred springs, mistress of poets, healers and smiths—we thank You for being in our circle; thank You for Your blessings. Hail and farewell!

WAYLAND: *[All]* Wayland of the spectral smithy, Wayland of the forest forge, master of craftsmen, artisans and smiths—we thank You for being in our circle; thank You for Your blessings. Hail and farewell!

SPIRIT: *[Dave Z]* Spirit of Brigid's flame, thank you for your blessings as we go forth in life. Go in peace and take our blessings with you on your journey. Hail and farewell!

NORTH: *[Sandy]* Dark Earth, thank you for your blessings of strength in our bodies. Go in peace and take our blessings on your journey. Hail and farewell!

WEST: *[Scott]* Deep Water, thank you for your blessings of guidance as we walk our paths. Go in peace and take our blessings on your journey. Hail and farewell!

SOUTH: *[Denise]* Bright Fire, thank you for your blessings of warmth in our souls. Go in peace and take our blessings on your journey. Hail and farewell!

EAST: *[Richard]* Daughter of Sunrise, thank you for your blessings of light in our eyes. Go in peace and take our blessings on your journey. Hail and farewell!

[All]: May Brigit's waters heal you. May Brigit's winds inspire you. May Brigit's fire warm you. 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—Depending on the weather, we will be gathering in the woods to burn our Yule greens!