

Liturgical Writing 2

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Question #1: Define "votive offering" and write a prayer (including stage directions if applicable) for a votive offering. (100 words for definition; minimum 75 words for prayer)

A votive offering is one that is made in the consequence of a vow. This is usually expressed in an "if you do this, then I will do that" sort of formula. In this type of offering, a vow is made to the God or Spirit during a rite, where the supplicant asks that God or Spirit for a particular boon in return for a specific offering of some kind. Should that boon be granted, then the supplicant would be required to complete the transaction by making the offering. Often in ancient times, the offerings made to the God in return for a boon would be the building of shrines or temples, the gift of temple furnishings or clothing, etc. (Thomas, Nature of Sacrifice).

The following is an actual votive offering I made to the Morrighan and the Daghdha at Samhain a couple of years ago:

Dread Morrighan! Overflowing Daghdha!
I call to You both to witness my vow,
To ask that You grant my request,
To know what I offer You, Great Ones!

I give you whiskey that You may hear me.
I pour this favorite upon the Fire to quench Your thirsts.
Listen to my vow, grant my request,
Know that I have something to offer in return!

(Whiskey is poured on the Fire)

Morrighan! Daghdha!
I pray that You will aid me in selling our house.
I pray that you will see me safely on my way to a new home.
I pray that by Winter Solstice our house will have sold,
That we may begin the search for our Monastery.

Should this happen, Great Ones, by Winter Solstice,
Should our house sell, freeing us of its great debt,
Then I swear that I shall build you a temple!
Not just a shrine, but a temple with a roof!

I shall build your temple at our new home,
When the new Stone Circle stands tall,
When the money allows,
And as soon as possible!

Grant my wish, Great Ones!

(Whiskey is poured on the Fire)

Question #2: Write three prayers, one each for three of the following occasions (no minimum word count):

1. **A Piacular Offering**

If out of ignorance or faulty memory,
If we for any reason have offended You,
O Kindreds of our People,
Here us now.

Accept this offering as recompense,
And know that our hearts
And our intents
Are pure.

(An offering is made to the Fire)

2. **Lighting a Sacrificial Fire**

O Earth Mother, the wood is piled high upon Your Bosom,
And in this sacred place we stand ready.
By lighting this Fire we will stand at the Center of Worlds
We will affirm our right to be here,
And will claim this place as our own.

(The Fire is lit)

Sacred Fire!
You burn at the Center of the Worlds!
You are the One who serves the Gods,
Burning brightly on the altar and in our hearts.

Take our sacrifices and carry them Beyond,
Carry them to the Heavens,
Carry them to the Gods and Spirits,
And keep some for Yourself.

(To the People)

Now we may pray with a good Fire.

3. **A Meal Blessing**

Behold this food we see before us.
Be it meager or bounteous,
Be it grand or humble,
These are the blessings of the Earth, our Mother.

These creatures have given their lives for us,
Be they plant or animal, bird or fish.
May they be blessed for these gifts
That grant us our lives.

May this food strengthen
Our bodies and minds, our hearts and our faith.
We thank you, Earth Mother. We thank you, bright creatures.
We humbly share in your bounty.
Be it so.

Question #3: Write two prayers, one each for two of the following occasions (no minimum word count):

1. **Before casting a ballot in an election**

Mighty Kindreds! Guide my heart.
Mighty Kindreds! Guide my mind.
Mighty Kindreds! Guide my hand.

Help me to see what is true or is false.
Help me to feel what is right or is wrong.
Help me to know the difference.

Let my choice be wise,
Let my choice be fair,
Let my choice be the best for the most.

2. **To protect a soldier at war**

Morrighan!
Goddess of War, Death and Destruction,
Turn Your face away from this woman!
Bring not death to her, we pray.
Shield her and spare her from damage and pain,
That she may return hale and whole.

Question #4: Write a magical working for a full ADF rite suitable for use in a group setting, including stage directions as appropriate. (no minimum word count)

In Tucson, Arizona, the Summer Solstice occurs just before the traditional beginning of the monsoon season. In such a dry desert as the Sonoran, every drop counts, and a dry monsoon can bring disaster to the wildlife and ecosystem that rely upon it. A wet monsoon also cools the daytime temperatures down into the 90's from the 100's, and that is also a good thing.

This working is aimed at moving the high pressure center out of the Four Corners area (where Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado all touch) so that moisture can come up to Arizona from the Gulf of California. The working also calls upon Taranis, the Gaulish God of Thunder and Storms, to bring a wet monsoon to the area.

To set this up, the invocation to Taranis in the Patron Offerings section of the rite would need to establish why we were calling on the God. This is it below:

Invocation of Taranis

Orator intones:

TARANIS. TARANIS. TARANIS.

Orator then calls on the God:

O God of lightning, Lord of Storms,
We call upon You now,
For rain comes best with thunderstorms
That form upon Your brow.

The days are hot, the skies are clear,
The sun slips to the west;
But let the growing clouds appear -
The mountain tops caressed.

A distant rumble will be heard
Like hoof beats in the night,
The sky grows dark, the air is stirred,
The birds all round take flight.

Please come, Taranis! Join us here.
The Season's Wheel You turn.
We've seen the lightning in your beard
And watched the dark clouds churn!

We bid the Heavens open wide,
To let the rain cascade.
The Earth shall drink that she may be
In green once more arrayed.

Orator offers whiskey to the Fire.

Taranis, Lord! Our need is great!
Please join us here today,
Your blessings we appreciate
On this, Your Holy Day!

Taranis, Lord of Storms, accept our sacrifice!

Orator offers whiskey to the Fire.

The People say:

Taranis, Lord of Storms, accept our sacrifice!

After the Blessing portion of the rite, when everyone has partaken of the Waters of Life and are thus at their strongest, magically, the working begins.

Orator says:

Children of Earth! The land is parched, the air is dry. Let us call for the Monsoon!

Orator faces SE (the direction of the Monsoon storms) and calls on Taranis:

Taranis, Lord! We call on You once again! We call on You to aid us in
Bringing on the Monsoon!
A High Pressure area sits over the Four Corners.
Join Your magic with ours that we may shove it away!

Orator faces the People and says:

Children of Earth, remember your Center.
Remember the Waters of the Earth flowing through you.
Remember the Light of the Heavens flowing through you.
Intone these two powers and send them to me
That I may use them to move the High!

***The Orator leads the People in beginning the intonation, helping it build.
When it is strong, the Orator faces NE (the direction to the Four Corners)
And, while intoning, sees the Power being sent into him by the People.
He pulls on this Power and the Powers of Earth and Sky flowing within himself,
And aims his hands towards the High Pressure Zone.***

***As the Powers increase within him, the Orator sees the Powers leap from his hands
Towards the northeast. He feels the Power shooting through his fingers,
And hears its crackling fury.***

***In his mind's eye, the Orator sees and feels the High Pressure area begin to move.
He leads the intoning higher and higher, until it is at a fever pitch.***

***Then, with one last big shove, he gives a shout and collapses to the ground,
Releasing all the energy filling him.***

The other celebrants ramp down the intoning by the People until all is quiet.

***The Orator takes the decorated wooden wheel off of the Altar
And leads the People in a chant:***

The earth is ours,
Dry winds constrain,
Quench the heat and
Bring the rain!

This chant is made over and over again, building in Power.

***The Orator and one other Celebrant take the Wheel to the Fire,
Placing it over the flames, until it catches fire.***

***They then take the burning wheel to a large vat of water
And hold it over the water, burning, until the chant reaches its peak.***

***The Orator and Celebrant then douse the burning wheel into the water.
The chanting stops.***

Orator says:

Let our Burning Land be quenched in the Waters of the Monsoon!
Ita bueta! Be it so!

***Question #5: Write one complete ritual for an ADF High Day. The ritual must be
substantially original and suitable for use in a group setting. (no minimum word count)***

Alban Eilir (Spring Equinox)

Initiating the Rite

Outdwellers:

Just before the bridge, the Orator offers to the Outdwellers:

Children of Earth, please look away as we offer to those

who are not aligned with our ways.

Ancient Spirits, dark or light
You who care not for our ways
Outdwellers, we know Your might!
Your forbearance we'll repay.

Sacred ground where You can stay
We do now establish here.
We ask You kindly to stay away
And in return, here, have some beer!

(Beer is poured on the ground)

Bydded felly! (BUH-thed VEK-lee) So be it!

Purification

Children of Earth, there are also Outdwellers within ourselves,
Those feelings of negativity that need to be let go.
Come forward and be purified.
You will be asked if you release ill will.
Please respond that you do.

The Orator and one volunteer cense and asperge the company, asking the question about ill will. All proceed to the chairs surrounding the firepit.

The Orator and volunteer circle the Fire, censing and asperging the Fire, the Well, and the ritual area, saying three times:

By the might of the Waters
And the light of the Fire
This Grove is made whole and holy!

Musical Signal

The Orator rings the bell three times, saying:

Ancestors!

The Orator rings the bell three times, saying:

Spirits of the Land!

The Orator rings the bell three times, saying:

Shining Ones!
We will meet You in the Sacred Center
When we open the ways to the Otherworlds.
Bydded felly! (BUH-thed VEK-lee) So be it!

Honoring the Earth Mother

The Orator kneels and places his hands upon the ground, saying:

O Goddess of the warm, moist Earth,

O holy Mother Dôn!
O Mother Earth, unfold Your arms that in Your warm embrace
We'll know Your endless love.
Earth Mother, we show You honor!

All kiss the ground.

Offerings we make to You
O greatest of them all!
We offer oats, the grain of ancient Cymru,
And corn, the fruit of this new land.
Earth Mother Dôn, accept our sacrifice!

Orator offers oats and corn meal to the ground.

Building the Fire:

Orator lights the Fire, saying:

O Earth Mother, the wood is piled high upon Your Bosom,
And in this sacred place we stand ready.
By lighting this Fire we will stand at the Center of Worlds
We will affirm our right to be here,
And will claim this place as our own.

(The Fire is lit)

Sacred Fire!
You burn at the Center of the Worlds!
You are the One who serves the Gods,
Burning brightly on the altar and in our hearts.

Take our sacrifices and carry them Beyond,
Carry them to the Heavens,
Carry them to the Gods and Spirits,
And keep some for Yourself.

(To the People)

Now we may pray with a good Fire.

Statement of Purpose

Orator says:

Children of Earth, we come together here at the Feast of Alban Eilir,
The Spring Equinox, when all the World is in balance.

The days have been dark,
But warmth approaches and light increases.
Let us honor the return to balance.

We shall call upon Rhiannon, the Lady of the Land.
We shall also call upon Her son, Pryderi.
He who was lost and then found.

So let us join together as one Folk
And make our sacrifices in joy and reverence.

Bydded felly! (BUH-thed VEK-lee) So be it!

Re-Creating the Cosmos

The Well:

The Orator goes to the Well and stirs the water with his hand, saying:

Sacred Well!
I connect you to all the Wells of all the World,
That you may connect with the Waters of the Earth,
The Waters of the Underworld,
The Powers of Potential!

Sacred Waters `neath our feet
Unformed Powers of the Deep
Fountain upwards now to fill us!
Sacred Well, flow within us!

The Orator offers silver to the Well.

The Fire:

The Orator offers oil to the Fire, dripping it on the flames in a clockwise motion, saying:

Sacred Fire!
I connect you to the stars in the Heavens,
That you may connect with the Fires of the Skies,
The Shining Home of the Gods,
The Powers of Order!

Sacred Fire, light of Heaven,
Power of our transformation,
Create Order out of Chaos,
Sacred Fire, burn within us!

The Mountain:

The Orator faces the Great Mountain in the North, holding burning sage and a bowl of Holy Water, saying:

Sacred Mountain!
You are the Axis Mundi, the joiner of Worlds,
You dwell in the Midworld but reach high and low!
Let Your roots grow down into the Underworld!
Let Your summit reach high to the Heavens!

Axis Mundi, joining all,
Digging Deep and standing tall,
Carry prayers with success,
Axis Mundi, grow within us!

The Attunement and Two Powers:

The Orator says:

Children of Earth, sit comfortably and close your eyes.
The fire is warm upon our faces and we can feel a slight breeze.
And we can see all the tension that has built up inside us.

And breathe for a moment. In, out, in, out. Breathe. Breathe.

Now feel all the tension in your head just release and drop down
Through your body and down into the Earth.
See it break up into fragments. Hear the muscles as they release.

Feel the tension in your neck and shoulders release and flow down, down, down.
It just slips down into the Earth our Mother. Don't worry, She can take it.

Now feel the tension in your back and chest also release, sliding down into the Earth.

The tension in your lower back and stomach now releases, like light flowing from the sun.
See it flow, feel it drop through you, down, down, down into the Earth.

Now feel the tension in your hips and legs release, flowing down,
Leaving you calm and relaxed.

Children of Earth, send your mind's eye down deep into the Earth,
Past the soil, past the rock, deep, deep, deep,
Until you come upon the Waters of the Earth,
Flowing dark and cold beneath us.

Deep beneath us, see the waters rise up, coming up through the Earth
Like a fountain.

Hear the waters as they approach. Feel their coolness as they reach your feet.

*O Waters of the Earth, deep and dark,
Arise, primeval powers,
Fill us now with all your wondrous possibilities
That through the Earth our Mother
We may ground and join as one.*

See the Waters as they fill your body,
Rising up and filling the Cauldron of your Loins.

The Waters overflow and rise up higher in your body now,
Filling and overflowing the Cauldron of your Heart.

Now see the waters completely fill your body,
Filling and overflowing the Cauldron of your Mind.

Hold your hands out, palms up, Children of Earth.

See the Waters of Potential as they fill you from your feet
And flow out of the palms of your hands, and back into the Earth,
Creating a full circuit.

Now cast your minds eye up into the Heavens!
There you will see a star, a moon, a sun, directly over your head.

And as you breathe, you see a column of light descend
Towards you out of the Heavens,
And it bathes your head in warmth.

*O Fires of the Sky,
O brilliant light!
Descend and crystallize within us now
That spark of Order on which life depends,
That through the Sky, our Father,
We may shine and share as one.*

As you breathe, Children of Earth,
The column of light fills the Cauldron of your Mind,
Warming the Waters within, with a sparkling energy.

Breathe deeper, and the light descends more deeply within you,
Warming the Waters in the Cauldron of your Heart.

Breathe some more, and the light completely fills you,
Warming the Waters in the Cauldron of your Loins
And all the Waters within.

See the light, the Power of the Heavens, as it enters your head
And leaves again through the palms of your hands,
Flowing back up into the Heavens,
Making another full circuit.

*You Powers dark and light,
You liquid Fire,
Conjoin and blend this mixture volatile
That Powers great will blend within ourselves,
Connecting all the Worlds,
So that the Axis is complete.*

(pause)

Children of Earth, when you are ready, open your eyes.

Opening the Gates

The Gatekeeper Invocation:

The Orator takes whiskey to the Fire and says:

Arawn, King of Annwfn!
We call to You, great Lord, we pray that You will join us here!

Lord of the Gates, Lord of Wisdom,
Ride your dappled grey and come to us,
Surrounded by Your hounds of white and red,
And aid us in opening the Gates to the Otherworlds!

Arawn, accept our sacrifice!

Opening the Gates:

The Orator leads the People in chanting:

Open the Gates! Open the Gates! Open the Gates!

...while moving counter-clockwise around the circle, and then spinning in place counterclockwise, ending with:

Let the Well open as a Gate!
Let the Fire open as a Gate!
Let the Mountain connect the Worlds!
Agorer y Pyrth! (uh-GOR-er uh PEERTH)
Let the Gates be open!

The Orator pauses for a moment and then says:

Children of Earth,
We are now woven into the fabric of the Otherworlds.
The Kindreds can hear our thoughts
And know our hearts,
So let there be only truth here.

Inviting the Three Kindreds

The Orator says:

Let us now honor and sacrifice to our Kindreds, the Shining, Noble and Ancient Ones.

The Ancestors:

The Orator takes beer to the Well, saying:

The Children of Earth call out to our human kin who came before.

We call to our Ancestors of blood – without you we would not be here.
You are our parents and grandparents from all generations.

We all to our Ancestors of heart – you whom we have loved and lost,
And whom we hold dear in our lives.

We call to the Ancient Wise – you Mighty Dead of fame and skill
Who smile upon us and aid our ways!

Mighty Ones! Come to us we pray!

Rise through the Waters of the Earth our Mother and join us at the Well.
Bask once again in the heat of our Fire as in elder days.
Join us, and whisper true wisdom in our ears, that we may shape our lives.
Let there be peace between us,
And let all prosper in our warm friendship.

Ancestors, accept our sacrifice!

Beer is offered to the Well.

Orator says:

Close your eyes, Children of Earth.
See our Ancestors, all whom we have called,
As they come to the Well.
Hear their whispers and feel the love that they have for us.

Ancestors, we welcome you!

The Land Spirits:

The Orator says:

Who calls to the Spirits of the Land?

A volunteer invokes the Deities with either their own invocation or they may use the one below. If there are no volunteers, the Orator will do the invocation.

The Children of Earth call out to all those Spirits who share this world with us.

We call to the Spirits of Motion – You who crawl, who run, who swim, who fly.
We call to the Spirits of Place – You Trees, You Rock, You Plants.
We call to the Spirits under the Mound – You cousins of the Gods,
You mightiest spirits of the Midworld.
We call to our Spirit Allies – You who aid us in our work.

Noble Ones! Come to us, we pray!

Let the Waters of the Earth our Mother rise up and guide You with its gurgling voice, and quench
Your thirst.

Let the Light of the Heavens, burning in our Fire, guide You with its glow, and give you warmth.

Join us, and renew the old bargain,
Let there be peace between us,
And let all prosper in our warm friendship.

Land Spirits, accept our sacrifice!

Seeds and grains are offered to the ground.

Orator says:

Close your eyes, Children of Earth.
See the Land Spirits as they approach,
Their strange faces turning our way.
Hear them as they crawl, swim and fly to us here.
Feel the wonder in their hearts.

Land Spirits, we welcome you.

The Shining Ones:

The Orator says:

Who calls to the Gods and Goddesses of Elder Days?

A volunteer invokes the Deities with either their own invocation or they may use the one below. If there are no volunteers, the Orator will do the invocation.

The Children of Earth call out to the Gods and Goddesses of all our Peoples!

We call to you in the Heavens, shining in the skies!
We call to you in the Midworld, striding across the land!
We call to you in the Underworld, guiding and guarding our Dead.

Shining Ones, come to us, we pray!

Let our love bring you to our Fire!
Let our devotion bring you to our Well!
Join us, that we may give to You as You give to all.
Let there be peace between us,
And let all prosper in our warm friendship.

Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

Whiskey is offered to the Fire.

Orator says:

Close your eyes, Children of Earth.
See the Gods and Goddesses, fully 60 feet tall,
As they come and join us here!
Hear their laughter on the wind and feel their heavy footfalls
As they walk upon the ground.

Shining Ones, we welcome you.

Key Offerings

The Lore:

Orator says:

Children of Earth, long ago, when the Gods ruled in Wales,
The Goddess Rhiannon gave birth to a strapping young boy.
And in Her exhaustion She slept with the child,
Watched over by Her ladies-in-waiting.

But when morning came, the child was gone!
Her ladies, fearing for their lives, smeared the face of the Goddess
With the blood of a puppy, and accused Her of eating Her own child!
Rhiannon's husband, Pwyll, had no choice but to punish Her,
And so She was doomed to wait at the gate of the palace
And offer a ride on Her back to any stranger who came.

In another part of Wales, on that fateful night,
Lord Teyrnon stood watch over his new, young colt.
Each year on this night a new colt would disappear, unseen,
And the lord would not let this happen again.

At midnight a huge claw came in by the window.
Teyrnon attacked with his sword!
A scream filled the night but the beast was gone.
In its place, a baby boy, wrapped snugly by the door.

Teyrnon and his wife raised the child who grew so quickly that by four years of age
He was taking the horses to drink!
Teyrnon gave the colt to the boy and the two rarely parted.
But Teyrnon was troubled.

The boy resembled the Lord Pwyll too much, and all knew of Rhiannon's fate.
He took the boy then to his parents, and his mother said,
"What a relief from my anxiety if this were true!"
And so the boy got his name – Pryderi (anxiety)

Thus ends the tale of Pryderi and of how he was lost and found again.

Orator says:

Let us now invite our special guests!

Rhiannon:

Orator says:

Invocation to Rhiannon

Oh, Rhiannon, Rigantona, 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! Whiskey to the Fire.
But most of all, we give our love and our devotion,
The power of ourselves.

Orator gives whiskey to the Fire.

We call to you, Daughter of the Otherworld!
Ride out of Annwfn and join us here, we pray.
Come to us here that we may love and honor You as you deserve.
And when the rite is ended, we'll grieve to see You go.

Rhiannon! Rhiannon! Rhiannon!

Rhiannon, Great Queen, accept our sacrifice!

Orator gives whiskey to the Fire.

The People say:

Rhiannon, Great Queen, accept our sacrifice!

Orator offers whiskey to the Fire and says:

Children of Earth, close you eyes.
See Her as She approaches!
She rides astride a white horse,
Dressed in a golden gown,

A smile upon Her face.

See Her beauty! Hear the tinkling of bells on the horses harness.
Feel the love She has for us all.

(pause)

Rhiannon, we welcome you.

Pryderi:

Orator says:

Invocation to Pryderi

Impetuous Pryderi! Hear our call!

Golden haired, precocious Boy,
Twinned with pony strong,
You once were lost
But then was found,
Two fathers did You have.

Friend of Annwfn,
Keeper of Swine,
Guardian of Your Mother
Holy and Divine,

Turn Your face to see us here,
Great warrior that You are,
And come to us and join us now,
To You great honor goes.

Slake Your thirst with whiskey, Lord
We offer it to You.

Orator offers whiskey to the Fire.

And when the Rite is over, we will grieve to see You go.
Golden-haired Pryderi, accept our sacrifice!

Orator offers whiskey to the Fire.

The People say:

Golden-haired Pryderi, accept our sacrifice!

Orator offers whiskey to the Fire then says:

Children of Earth, close your eyes.
See Him as He approaches!
He's proud and happy, riding His pony-brother.
Hear the creak of His leathers;
Feel His intense gaze!

He's happy and pleased to see us!

Pryderi, we welcome you!

Praise Offerings

The Orator invites the attendees to take the wreath and make any offerings of praise or gifts they wish to make to the Rhiannon, Pryderi, or to any of the Kindreds.

Prayer of Sacrifice

When all have finished their offerings, the Orator takes the wreath to the Fire and says:

Oh Beautiful Rhiannon! O Mighty Pryderi!

We have made our sacrifices to you all!
We have filled this wreath with our love and our praise.

The Orator throws the wreath on the fire, and adds oil to the offering, saying:

Mighty Kindreds!
Rhiannon! Pryderi!

Let our piety increase Your magic!
Let our courage increase Your power!
And let our fertile spirits show the world Your abundance!

Kindreds all, accept all our offerings!

Piacular Sacrifice:

Orator takes oil to the fire and says:

If out of ignorance or faulty memory,
If we for any reason have offended You,
O Kindreds of our People,
Hear us now.

Accept this offering in recompense
And know that our hearts
And our intents are pure.

The Omen

The Orator says:

Now let us see what wisdom and blessings the Kindreds
Offer us in return for our sacrifices.

The Orator takes the omen bag and mixes the wooden disks with his fingers, then pulls three disks and pronounces the Omen.

Calling for the Blessing

Orator takes the Blessing Cup in his hands and says:

Children of Earth, now the flow of sacrifice turns, and it is time for us to receive.

Rhiannon, Great Queen! Golden-haired Pryderi! Mighty Kindreds!
We have made our sacrifices to You, and now we call for Your blessings, in return!
We ask You,
Give us the Waters of Life!

The People say:

Give us the Waters of Life!

Hallowing the Blessing

The Orator circles his hand over the cup, saying:

Kindreds! We call on You to hallow these Waters with the powers of (first omen stick)!
Fill these Waters with the powers of (second omen stick)!
Infuse these Waters with the powers of (third omen stick)!

Orator raised the cup high, saying:

Mighty Kindreds! Hallow these Waters!
Bless our lives with magic, power and abundance
As we drink of your blessings!

Orator slowly lowers the cup, exhaling loudly as he does so, and says:

Wele Ddŵr Bywyd.
Behold, the Waters of Life.

Affirming the Blessings

Orator says:

Children of Earth, this cup contains the blessings of the Kindreds for us to drink.
Is it our wish that this be so?

The People say:

It is!

Orator says:

Then be it so!

The cup is passed to the People.

The Working

*The orator holds a basket containing enough of a particular item for every person attending the rite.
These could be colored eggs (real or man-made), horsehair braids, or some other appropriate item.*

The Orator says:

Let us now bless these tokens of the love of Rhiannon and Pryderi
That we may take home for our home altars.

Close your eyes, Children of Earth.

In your mind's eye, feel the blessings of the Gods as they course
Through you from the drink we just had.
See these blessings like a strong, electrical current flowing throughout your body.
Hear them as they crackle inside you.

Now intone those blessings, sending part of that power into this basket here,
That the Powers of the Kindreds might reside within these tokens.

The Orator leads the People in intoning the Blessings. He dances with the basket, filling it with his own intonations. When the power is at its greatest, he falls to the ground, taking care not to spill the basket.

Orator says:

It is done!

The Orator passes out the tokens to the people.

Thanking the Beings

Orator says:

Children of Earth, as we prepare to depart, let us give thanks to those who have aided us.

Golden-haired Pryderi! You have joined us with Your power of the Twins!
And so we say, *Diolch y Ti!* (DEE-olk uh TEE) We thank you!

Beautiful Rhiannon, You bring life and love to us all!
And so we say, *Diolch y Ti!* (DEE-olk uh TEE) We thank you!

Shining and Chthonic Ones! You brighten our lives with blessings and joy!
And so we say, *Diolch y Chi!* (DEE-olk uh KEE) We thank you!

Spirits of this Land! We hold the old bargain, bringing prosperity to the Land.
And so we say, *Diolch y Chi!* (DEE-olk uh KEE) We thank you!

Mighty Ancestors! We remember You, we long for You, and we welcome You wisdom.
And so we say, *Diolch y Chi!* (DEE-olk uh KEE) We thank you!

Arawn, King of Annwfn! You have joined Your magic with ours to open the Gates to the Otherworlds. We ask You once again to aid us as we close these Gates! And for all Your aid we say,
Diolch y Ti! (DEE-olk uh TEE) We thank you!

Closing the Gates

The Orator leads the People in chanting:

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

...while moving clockwise around the circle, and then spinning in place clockwise, ending with:

Let the Fire be flame!
Let the Well be water!
Let the Mountain return to the Midworld!
Caeed y Pyrth! (KAI-ed uh PEERTH)
Let the Gates be closed!

The People say:

Let the Gates be closed!

The Orator says:

Children of Earth, we are safely back in the Midworld once again.

Thanking the Earth Mother

The Orator kneels and puts his palms upon the ground, saying:

Earth Mother, without you we could not live. Teach us the ways we must live
In order to heal You and keep you safe.
For upholding the World and granting us Your blessings, we say,
Diolch y Ti! (DEE-olk uh TEE) We thank you!

Closing the Rite

The Orator says:

Let us all stand and hold hands in a circle around our Fire.

The Orator rings the bell three times three, and then says:

Bydded bendithion y Duwiau a'r Hynafiaid ac Ysbridion y Natur arnom ni.
May the Blessings of the Gods, our Ancestors, and the Spirits of the Land be upon us all.

Walk with wisdom, Children of Earth, this rite is ended!

Works Cited

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