

AN AMERICAN RITE FOR PANTHEACON

By Rev. Kirk Thomas
As performed in February 2007

Offerings:

Purification - Censing and Asperging - Scented Water

Outdwellers - a bottle of beer or whiskey

Earth Mother - oats and corn meal

Bardic Ancestor, Emily Dickenson - hazelnut oil

Well - silver

Fire - hazelnut oil

Tree - scented water

Gatekeeper Liberty - whiskey

Ancestors - water

Land Spirits - grain

Prayer of Sacrifice - whiskey and bread

Piacular Sacrifice - whiskey

Waters of Life - water in a large cup; a sprig for asperging

Magic Working - small stones

Liberty (Gatekeeper) - whiskey

PRE-RITUAL BRIEFING - (___ Kirk ___) - *Once the folk have gathered, a short overview of our cosmology and intentions of ritual is given.*

The folk wait outside of the ritual space as the following takes place:

OUTDWELLERS

Presiding Druid (___ Isaac ___) **says:**

Let us now make offering to those Spirits outside our Ken, that they trouble us not. Please look away, so that we do not form a relationship with the Outdwellers.

Outdwellers Offering - (___ Jack ___) *holds beer with left hand, and looks away. When the charm is done, the bottle of beer is left behind to be poured out later.*

O, You of malice or indifference,
This place is sacred to our Gods,
Defended by Their love and might -
But your hard lessons make us strong,
And teach us wisdom true.

We have a beer to give you now -
Please take it graciously.

(sets beer on the ground)

And in return we ask of you
To give us peace this special day (pause)

To stay beyond our sounding drums (pause)

And trouble not our Rite.
So be it!

All: So be it!

*** MUSICAL SIGNAL *** (___Isaac___)

(The Presiding Druid rings a bell three times three, then says:)

Kindreds! We will meet You in the Sacred Center when we open the Gates
to the Other Worlds.

So be it!

All: So be it!

EARTH MOTHER (___Linda___)

(Oats and Corn are given to the offering bowl after the invocation is spoken.)

Earth Mother, we show you honor!

(Everyone kneels and kisses the floor)

Offerings we make to You, O Mother of us all!
We offer oats, the grain of ancient Europe.
We also offer corn to you, the fruit of this new land.

Earth Mother Columbia, accept our sacrifice!

All: Earth Mother Columbia, accept our sacrifice!

INSPIRATION (___Meredith___) as Bard

Presiding Druid says:

Let us now call our Ancestor, the great poet, Emily Dickenson, to grace us
with her presence and to grant us inspiration for our rite.

Bard:

"You cannot put a fire out;
A thing that can ignite
Can go, itself, without a fan
Upon the slowest night."
(By Emily Dickenson)

Bard says:

Emily!
Poetess!
Ancestor!
Prolific Lady of visions clear!

Grant us your favor,
Join our celebration,
Bless us with the fire of your boundless inspiration!

Lady Emily, accept our sacrifice! (*gives hazelnut oil to the 'fire'*)

All: Lady Emily, accept our sacrifice!

PURPOSE AND PRECEDENT

Presiding Druid says:

Children of the Earth, we are here to do as our Ancestors did, to make our sacrifices to the Kindreds and to receive Their blessings in return.

On this weekend of celebration for our American Presidents, we wish to honor and worship our Founding Fathers and those of our land who have shaped us to be a great nation on this Earth.

And so we call upon this Power of the Thirteen colonies which joined together as one folk to form this land of freedom and liberty. May it always be so.

Now let us also join together to make our sacrifices in joy and reverence.
So be it!

All: So be it!

RE-CREATING THE COSMOS

The Three Worlds

Presiding Druid says:

Children of the Earth, we awaken ourselves to the Heavens, Midworld and Underworld when we attune to their powers and magnify them within us.

The Two Powers meditation is performed by (Meredith).,

CONSECRATING THE HALLOWS

Presiding Druid says:

Now let us consecrate the Well, Fire and Tree – those things that connect the Worlds.

WELL (John)

Waters of Chaos,
Powers of Earth,
Ancestors' Gateway,
Halls of Rebirth,

Carry our words to the Isles of the Blest,
Make your great power in us manifest.

O Sacred Well, flow now within us! *(This line is ADF traditional)*

(Silver is offered to the Well)

All: O Sacred Well, flow now within us!

FIRE (Bryan)

Fire of Heaven,
Hearth fires' blessing,
Gate of the Gods,
Order possessing,

Carry our words to the Great Shining Sky,
Let your great power in us purify.

O Sacred Fire, burn now within us! *(This line is ADF traditional)*

(Oil is offered to the bowl by the Fire)

All: O Sacred Fire, burn now within us!

TREE (John)

Maker of ways,

Breaker of boundaries,
Joiner of Worlds,
Bringer of mysteries,

Pierce all the Worlds, up above and below,
And offerings to all our Kindreds shall go!

O Sacred Tree, grow now within us! *(This line is ADF traditional)*

(Bile is censed and asperged by Jessie)

All: O Sacred Tree, grow now within us!

CALLING THE GATEKEEPER

PD says:

Liberty! Gatekeeper Goddess of this Land! We call upon You now!

Gatekeeper Invocation (Nora)

(Nora) **says:**

Goddess Liberty,
For years you have guarded our Land,
Watching the Gate, the door,
Show us the way, Lady, and join your magic with ours.
Liberty, we do implore, lift Your lamp beside the door!

Celebrants say:

Liberty, we do implore, lift Your lamp beside the door!

(Nora) **says:**

Goddess Liberty! Accept our sacrifice!

(Whiskey is poured into the offering bowl.)

All: Goddess Liberty! Accept our sacrifice!

OPENING THE GATES

Meredith, Linda and Nora lead the People in chanting:

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

(Kirk) **opens the Gates:** *(Traditional ADF wording for charm)*
(He spins anti-clockwise with his staff)

Let the Well open as a Gate!

Let the Fire open as a Gate!

Let the Tree Connect the Worlds!

Let the Gates be open!

All: Let the Gates be open!

(__Kirk__) **says:**

Children of the Earth, we are now woven into the fabric of the Cosmos. Here the Kindreds can hear our thoughts and know our hearts, so let there be only truth here.

So be it.

KINDRED OFFERINGS

PD says:

Children of the Earth! Let us make sacrifice to the Kindreds – our Ancestors, the Spirits of This Land, and our Gods and Goddesses!

Who offers to our Ancestors?

ANCESTORS

(__Dennis__) **says:**

I do.

Founder Washington!
Emancipator Lincoln!
Demonstrator Rosa Parks!
All You Ancestors of this our land!
We call to you now.

Ancestors, see us!
We are the nation that grew from your deeds.

Once again, Old Ones, your wisdom is needed –
Protecting our rights, you showed us the way.
Join us, be with us, and aid us, we pray.

Unconquered Ancestors, we give to you!

(Whiskey is given to the offering bowl)

Accept our sacrifice! Join us here now!

All: Accept our sacrifice! Join us here now!

PD says:

Children of the Earth, close your eyes for a moment, and see, feel and hear George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, and all of our Ancestors come and join us in our Nemeton.

(There is a short pause here)

Ancestors, we welcome you.

All: Ancestors, we welcome you.

PD says: Who offers to the Spirits of this Land?

NATURE SPIRITS

(Anne) **says:**

I do.

O Spirits of this awesome Land,
You Redwoods, rivers, seas of grass,
And beaches of the finest sand,
We call upon you now!

Although we give here farmers' grain,
It's not enough.
Let's not fool ourselves.
We promise that we'll change our selfish ways,
And guard the land to ease your pain.

So let this be our vow.

Land spirits, accept our sacrifice!

(grain is given to the offering bowl)

All: Land Spirits, accept our sacrifice!

PD says:

Children of the Earth, once again close your eyes, and see, feel and hear the Spirits of this Land come and join us in our Nemeton.

(There is a short pause here)

Land Spirits, we welcome you.

All: Land Spirits, we welcome you.

PD says: Who offers to the Gods and Goddesses of our people?

DIETIES

(Ogham) **says:**

I do.

Justice!

Freedom!

Commerce!

Liberty!

Shining Ones, hear us!

Justice! Straightforward, clear and unyielding.

Freedom! Responsible, open and fun.

Commerce! When balanced, you lift up the people,

Liberty! Goddess, You light up the world!

Gods and Goddesses, we give to You!

(whiskey is given to the offering bowl)

Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

All: Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

PD says:

Children of the Earth, once again close your eyes, and see, feel and hear the Shining Ones as they join us in our Nemeton.

(There is a short pause here)

Shining Ones, we welcome you.

All: Shining Ones, we welcome you.

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

PD says:

Gods and Goddesses of this great Land; Mighty Ancestors, noble and true;
You Nature Spirits who live all around us -

We now gather together all that we have done, all energies that we have
raised, and join them together in one great sacrifice to You all!

(Presiding Druid raises whiskey and bread)

Mighty Kindreds!

May our piety increase Your magic,
May our courage increase Your power,
And may our fertile spirits show the world Your abundance!

Mighty Kindreds all, accept our sacrifices!

All: Mighty Kindreds all, accept our sacrifices!

(Presiding Druid gives the whiskey and bread to the offering bowl)

* Ian Corrigan

PIACULAR SACRIFICE (____Kirk____)

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 as recompense,
And know that our intents, and hearts, are pure.

So be it.

(Kirk offers whiskey to the bowl by the Fire)

THE OMEN (____Meredith____)

PD says:

Seer, what wisdom and blessings do the Kindreds offer us in return for our
sacrifices?

*(Seer leads the Folk in an intoning or sings a charm. When this is done, the
Seer pulls and pronounces the Omen)*

THE RETURN FLOW

PD says these or other words:

Children of the Earth, all that we have done before has led up to this moment.

The Calling

(Presiding Druid holds the cup in front of him)

Mighty Kindreds! O Ancient, Noble and Shining Ones! We have made our sacrifices to You, and now we ask for Your blessings in return.

The Hallowing

(Presiding Druid raises the Cup high)

Hallow these Waters! Grant that we may be filled with magic, power and abundance as we drink of Your essence.

Ancestors, we ask You,
Give us the Waters!

All: Give us the Waters!

PD says:

Nature Spirits, we ask You,
Give us the Waters!

All: Give us the Waters!

Shining Ones! Once more we ask,
Give us the Waters of Life!

All: Give us the Waters of Life!

(Presiding Druid slowly lowers the Cup, seeing the Power of the Kindreds filling it as he does so)

PD says:

Behold, the Waters of Life!

(The Presiding Druid asperges the People with the Waters, while all sing)

Chant – We Are a Circle Moving (© Marae Price) Led by Nora and Meredith.

We are a circle moving,
One with another, we are
Moving together, we are one!

We are a circle moving,
One with another, we are
Moving together, we are one!

I am Spirit and I flow in You.
You are Spirit and You flow in me.

We are a circle moving,
One with another, we are
Moving together, we are one!

(Repeat as necessary until all have been asperged – PD cues end of chant)

The Affirmation

PD says:

Children of the Earth, do you accept the gifts of the Kindreds? Yes or no?

All: Yes!

PD says:

As do I.

THE WORKING (___Kirk___)
(Chaos Magic Sigil Working)

PD says:

Now let us do our working.

(___Kirk___) **says:**

Children of the Earth, now that we have been filled with the blessings of the Kindreds, we are at our most powerful.

The original Thirteen Colonies, the great Power of Thirteen, when they came together as a nation, decreed that there should be no state religion. Since then, we have erected a wall between church and state, to protect us all.

We, as Pagans, see those forces in our country that would try to weaken these religious freedoms inherent in our Constitution. Let us use our wills to hinder their efforts.

Does this sound like a plan?

(assuming all agree, Kirk continues)

These stones you have received here will be charged during our working. When the rite is done, take it home, and keep it safe, to remind you of what we do here.

So let us make a sigil working now. We shall form a nonsense chant out of our intent and release our power into the cosmos, but when we are done, we all must forget the chant and intent, so that our magic can flow freely through the cosmos, unhindered by our thoughts.

Children of the Earth, is it your will that this be done?

All: It is!

(Kirk) **says:**

Our target shall be the statue of Freedom on the top of the Capitol building in Washington D.C., that we may recharge it as a talisman.

This is our intent: We will that religion remain free.

This is our pathway: We will be honest about who and what we do.

And this is our chant: WEL IN ROF GAM

Now let us begin!

(Kirk goes to the center, chanting and spinning, as those celebrants, the Spinners (Meredith, Linda and Nora), who are able, walk clockwise around him, teaching the chant to the people. When the chant has firmly grabbed hold, the Spinners also start spinning. They carry the power raised by the people and feed it to Kirk. When he reaches gnosis, he will shout and fall to the ground. The Spinners then release their power, shout, and fall to the ground also.)

The shout: Liberty!

THANKING THE BEINGS

(Normally, the person who called on the Spirit shall then thank that Spirit)

PD says:

Children of the Earth, we have done as our Ancestors did – we have made sacrifice and received our Kindreds' blessings. But as we prepare to depart, let us give thanks to Those who have aided us.

(Ogham) **says:**

Justice! Freedom! Commerce! Liberty! Gods and Goddesses of Elder Days, we thank You!

All: We thank You!

(Anne) **says:**

Spirits of this mighty Land, we say, we thank You!

All: We thank You!

(Dennis) **says:**

Washington, Lincoln, Rosa Parks, all our Ancestors, we say, we thank You!

All: We thank You!

(Meredith) **says:**

Emily Dickenson, great American poet! For granting us inspiration for our rite, we say, we thank You!

All: We thank You!

(Nora) **says:**

Liberty, we make another offering to You.

(whiskey is offered to the Offering Bowl)

We thank you for Your help, for joining Your magic with ours, that we might access all the Worlds. And now we ask for Your aid in ending that which we have done.

CLOSING THE GATES (Kirk)

The Celebrants lead the People in chanting:

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

(__Kirk__) **says:** (ADF traditional)
(He spins clockwise with his staff)

Let the Fire be flame!

Let the Well be water!

Let the Tree return to the Midworld!

Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

(__Kirk__) says:

Children of the Earth, once more we are nestled in the Midworld and in the arms of Mother Earth.

So be it.

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER (__Linda__)

Mother Earth, for upholding the World and granting us Your blessings, we say, we thank you!

All: We thank You!

GROUNDING AND CENTERING

PD says:

Seer! Great power has been raised this day. Please ground us all once more.

(The Seer reverses the Two Powers and grounds the People)

ENDING THE RITE

The Musical Signal

(Presiding Druid rings the bell 9 times)

PD says:

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

PD shouts:

*Ghosti!

All: *Ghosti!