**IMBOLC CEREMONY**

**Adapted from the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids**

[**www.druidry.org**](http://www.druidry.com)

Parts: DRUID 1: Gale Druid 2: Melinda Druid 3: Megan Druid 4: Ann

 Druid 5: Sigrid The Lady and companions: Deb and Lexi, Corwin?

Need: Pretty glass (?) bowl, smallish, full of water for the Goddess to carry

 Lantern or candle for the Goddess.

 Flowers for the children to carry and for the altar.

 Altar decorations-- lots of candles, including floating candles in a pretty bowl.

**DRUID 1:** By the power of star and stone

 By the power of the land within and without,

 By all that is fair and free,

 Welcome to this rite of Imbolc.

*(All join hands.)*

**DRUID 2**: Let us take three breaths…

 Together with the Earth beneath us…

 Together with the Sky above us…

 Together with the Sea around us…

 With the blessing of Earth, Sea and Sky, let our ceremony begin.

*(Release hands.)*

**DRUID 1**: Invocation

**DRUID 2**: *(Standing in the West)* Let us begin by giving peace to the directions, for without peace can no work be. (Peace be to the **North.** Peace be peace to the **South.** Peace be to the **West.** Peace be to the **East.**

**ALL PARTS**: Peace be to the whole world.

**DRUID 1**: Let us join in the Druid peace prayer………

Deep within the still Center of my being, may I find peace.

Silently within the quiet of the Grove, may I share peace.

Gently within the greater circle of humankind, may I radiate peace.

**ALL:** *Chant three awens*.

**DRUID 1**: Let all disturbing thoughts be laid aside. (*Casts circle sunwise while Druid 2 speaks.)*

**DRUID 2**: This is the circle of our horizon, of our lives and lands, of time and of the year, of seasons and of goodness, of birth and of growing, of dying and of rebirth. As this circle is cast, the enchantment of the apparent world subsides. The earth is below us, the heavens above us and the trees around us. This is sacred time. This is sacred space.

**DRUID 1**: Let us now consecrate this circle with water and with fire.

(Druid 2 *moves sunwise with a cup or bowl of water, sprinkling water and speaking*) May or circle be purified and blessed with the element of water.

(Druid 3 *moves sunwise with candle)* May our circle be purified and blessed with the element of fire.

**DRUID 1**: We gather as equals, in our physical form here upon the earth. Each presence is a blessing, and with every breath we take, we breathe light and life into this circle.

**DRUID 2:** Let the four directions be honored and the gateways opened, that power and radiance might enter our circle for the good of all beings.

**DRUID 3**: (moving to the appropriate direction)With the blessing of the hawk of the dawn soaring in the clear pure air, we call upon the powers of the **East.**

With the blessing of the great stag in the heat of the chase and the inner fire of the sun, we call upon the powers of the **South**.

With the blessing of the salmon of wisdom who dwells within the sacred waters of the pool, we call upon the powers of the **West.**

With the blessing of the great bear of the starry heavens and the deep and fruitful earth, we call upon the powers of the **North.**

**ALL:** May the harmony of our circle be compete.

**THE RITE**

**DRUID 1**: I proclaim the festival of Imbolc, the time of the first stirrings of spring. It is the time of the goddess Brighid, and her symbols--the first flowers of spring--will soon bloom bright in the cold and snow.

**DRUID 2**: The snowdrops are pushing their way through the cold earth and we dream of the presence of the young goddess. Come back to us, Lady, and bring the spring!

**DRUID 3**: The birds are ready to return from their winter homes, and the trees are waiting to bring forth new leaves. Come back to us Lady, and bring the spring!

**DRUID 4**: The days grow longer, and the plants whose life returned to the earth in fall are close to renewal. Come back to us Lady, and bring the spring!

**DRUID 5**: At this time we remember the crone goddess, the Cailleach whose time is passing. We now await the return of the Maiden. Come back to us, Lady, and bring the spring!

**DRUID 1**: Hearken! The Lady is close!

**DRUID 4:** Welcome, Brighid, gentle maiden bathed in the white milk of nuturing. Renew us and let us arise to speak your praise in beautiful words and actions. Bless us with your inspiration.

**DRUID 5**: Welcome, Brighid, Queen of fire, who melds the sun’s fire into objects of blessing. Let your warmth be felt in our hearts. Bless us with the creative fire of your spirit.

**DRUID 1:** Welcome, Brighid, Queen of water, spirit of love and compassion! Bless us now with your healing presence!

***Lady enters****, carrying water and candle, spirals with companions following, into the center of the circle. Companions can carry or scatter flowers*.

**THE LADY BRIGHID**: *sets down her candle on the altar and holds up the bowl of water, saying:*

**I bring this water of love and healing, that all who would walk in my footsteps may bring joy to these lands!** *Starting with Druid 1, she travels the circle, holding up the bowl of water like an offering, then returns to center and raises the candle, saying***: Behold the light I have nurtured throughout the cold and dark of winter! With it, I bring to you renewal!**

*In the same way, she passes around the circle with the raised light. Goes to stand in the Northeast, the place of Imbolc.*

**DRUID 1:** Brighid is the goddess of the well and flame, of fire and water, and of healing, but she is also the goddess of poetry. At this time, let us make an offer of beautiful words in her honor, and in the honor of all representations of the sacred feminine ……..

**(Poetry readings)**

**DRUID 1**: We give thanks to the goddess for all her blessings!

**CLOSING**:

**DRUID 2**: It is the hour of recall. As the fire/light dies down, let it be relit in our hearts. May memory hold what eye and ear have gained.

(*All hold hands*.)

**ALL**: We swear by peace and love to stand

 Heart to heart and hand in hand

 Mark, O Spirit, and heed us now

 Confirming this, our sacred vow.

**ALL**: Chant cascading awens.

**DRUID 1**: Let us thank the spirits of the four directions for their blessings.

**DRUID 3:** (*Going Counterclockwise*) In the name of the great bear of the starry heavens and the element of earth, we thank the powers of the **North.**

In the name of the salmon of wisdom and the element of water, we thank the powers of the **West.**

In the name of the great stag and of the element of fire, we thank the powers of the **South.**

In the name of the hawk of the dawn and the element of air, we thank the powers of the **East.**

**ALL:** May the harmony of the land be complete.

**DRUID 1:** (*uncasts the circle counter-clockwise and speaks*:) May the blessings of the Great Spirit, Father and Mother, be with you always. I declare this ceremony of Imbolc is closed in the apparent world. May its inspiration continue within our beings.