

The Hearth Keepers Way

An ADF Hearth Keepers Guide



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Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	4
INTRODUCTION	8
WELCOMING THE GODS & SPIRITS TO YOUR HEARTHFIRE	10
Who are the gods & spirits that ADF keeps at the forefront of its practice?	10
The Hearth Deity	10
The Earth Mother	10
The Gatekeeper	10
The Three Kindreds	11
The Allies of our Hearth	12
How do we welcome the gods & spirits and build a relationship with them?	13
The Sacred Center	13
Sacrifice and Ghosti	14
The ADF Hearth Order of Ritual	15
ADF Hearth Order of Ritual for High Days and Lunar Rites	16
AFFILIATING YOUR HEARTH WITH ADF	19
Choosing a Hearth Name	19
The Expected Practices of a Hearth	20
The Hearth Keeper Oath	20
The Technical Details	20
The Hearth Fire	21
Setting up a Hearth Altar	21
Keeping a Hearth Flame	21
The ADF Unity Flame	22
Kindling Your Hearthfire for the First Time	23
Establishing A Hearth of Ár nDraíocht Féin	23
LIVING A PAGAN LIFE	28
Finding Your Center	28
The Two Powers	28
Square Breathing	31
Other Ways to Center Yourself	31
Prayers & Rituals for Everyday Life	33
Simple Ritual for Daily or Weekly Devotions	33

Formal Ritual for Daily or Weekly Devotions	34
Basic Hearth Keeper Daily Prayer	36
Prayer to dispose of an offering	36
A Daily Morning Prayer	36
Prayer Upon Waking	36
Ancestor Morning Prayer	37
Earth Mother & Three Kindreds Mealtime Prayer	37
Simple Mealtime Prayer	37
A Meal Blessing of Thanks	37
A Hearth Deity Meal Blessing	38
A Shared Meal with the Ancestors	38
A Multi-Faith Meal Blessing	38
A Family Table Rite of Blessing	39
A Prayer for Travel	41
A Prayer for Sleep	41
A Children's Bedtime Prayer	41
A Prayer of Expiation	41
Writing Your Own Prayers	42
Writing Prayers for the Spirits	42
Writing Prayers For Petitions	43
Writing Prayers for Specific Scenarios	45
Virtues	46
The First Triad	46
The Second Triad	46
The Third Triad	47
Reflecting on the Virtues	47
KEEPING THE HOLY DAYS OF OUR DRUIDRY	49
Lunar Celebrations	49
Celebrating the New Moon as a Hearth Keeper	50
A Hearth Keepers' New Moon Rite	52
Solar Celebrations	56
The Flames of the Season	56
Autumn Cross-Quarter	57
Winter Solstice	62
Winter Cross-Quarter	67
Spring Equinox	72
Spring Cross-Quarter	77
Summer Solstice	82
Summer Cross-Quarter	87
Autumn Equinox	92
CONNECTING FURTHER WITH ÁR nDRAÍOCHT FÉIN	97
Connecting with the People of Ár nDraíocht Féin	97
The ADF Study Programs	97

Introduction

Welcome, Child of Earth, to *Ár nDraíocht Féin: A Druid Fellowship*. We're so glad to have you with us, beginning the journey of a Hearth Keeper of ADF. This path, this declaration of practice, came out of a need for folks to feel more connected to others practicing Our Own Druidry. This shared practice is meant to be a way for us to nourish our own faith, our own spiritual path, and to join in fellowship with other ADF Druids.

The Hearth Keepers of ADF are those individuals, families, and small groups who have aligned themselves and at least a portion of their practice with ADF. ADF is a diverse group of pagans who have all gathered together in the same grove, the same sacred space, to worship. The Hearth Keepers are a reflection of that diversity. It is at our hearths that we can worship in the way other members of ADF do, and by doing so be connected to the ADF Unity Flame and the larger hearth of *Ár nDraíocht Féin*.

When we worship as Hearth Keepers, not only are we feeding the hearthfire of ADF, but we are also coming together with other Hearths. We know that though other Hearth Keepers are worshipping in different physical locations, they join us in the same practice. Each Hearth Keeper brings their own style to this worship, and by joining one another in shared practice we experience a new sense of belonging and fellowship.

Where our solitary practice may focus on the work that is particular to our interests and needs, and where our Grove work may focus on the needs of the community and providing public rituals, the Hearth Keepers stand between these roles. You do not need to be solitary to be a Hearth Keeper, and you do not need to be part of a Grove to be a Hearth Keeper. To become a Hearth Keeper is to devote yourself to the basic work of druidry - to welcome the gods and spirits to your hearthfire, to keep the holy days simply, and to integrate paganism into your daily life. Being a Hearth Keeper is about keeping the flames of piety active for your Hearth, whether that is just you, your family, or a tight-knit small group.

To that end, within this book we hope to give you the tools you need to connect to *Ár nDraíocht Féin* and walk the path of Our Druidry by celebrating life's cycles with your Hearth. We've provided a selection of prayers to get you started, and you're free to use the ones that resonate with you, and leave or adapt the ones that don't. Similarly there are scripts to get you started with the work of keeping the holy days of Our Druidry. You'll find that the scripts will all look similar. This is intentional.

This book is designed to be accessible for folks who are new to paganism and don't want to flip back and forth between pages to navigate between an outlined framework and a working section of each ritual script. While being accessible to newer folks, the intention is that the ritual scripts are flexible enough to allow those with a well established practice to adapt the provided scripts in order to merge this practice with what they already do. It is not only acceptable to modify the provided scripts to meet the needs of your Hearth; it is encouraged. Feel free to modify, add, or remove pieces for the prayers and rituals included

within. We will note which elements of the scripts are essential and should not be removed, though you are still welcome to adapt those to best fit your needs.

We hope you find this practice meaningful to your Druidry, and look forward to walking this path with you.

Welcome, from our Hearth to yours,

Rev. Jan Avende
Rev. Sara Blackwelder
Rev. Kirk Thomas
Rev. Lisa Wasilkowsky Malik

Welcoming the Gods & Spirits to Your Hearthfire

Our Druidry is all about building relationships. In this section we will discuss the various spirits that we honor, how we might honor them, and why we honor them. Part of being a Hearth Keeper is initiating and nurturing these relationships with the spirits. We do this through prayers, offerings, and a continued practice. As you begin this work you may not feel a connection yet, but remember, all relationships take time to deepen, and despite these relationships being with otherworldly beings, they are no different. It takes time and regular worship to feel that connection.

Who are the gods & spirits that ADF keeps at the forefront of its practice?

There are several spirits that Ár nDraíocht Féin honors in its rites that we encourage our Hearth Keepers to build a relationship with: The Hearth Deity, the Earth Mother, the Gatekeeper, and the Three Kindreds, which consist of the Shining Ones, the Nature Spirits, and the Ancestors.

The Hearth Deity

The Hearth Deity is the being that tends the sacred flames of ritual and piety. They may be different than those other spirits honored in your personal practice, because their primary role is tending the sacred flame or hearth. You may know them by a specific name, but you may also address them simply as “the Hearth Deity” for this work. They provide illumination, protection, and purification in our workings. They are the center of our home, the ones we turn to in our ritual practice, and in this context are the ones who tend not only our flame, but also the ADF Unity Flame (explained in more detail later).

The Earth Mother

One of the primary deities that we honor is the Earth Mother. She provides for us, nurtures us, and gives us a home. While we arguably cannot be surrounded by the other aspects of our religion at all times, the Earth Mother is ever present. She existed before we arrived here, and will exist beyond our parting. In our formal rites we honor her both first and last, and she is given any additional offerings we don't use after the rite.

The Gatekeeper

The Gatekeeper is another spirit that is central to a formal ADF ritual, where they stand at the crossroads and aid us in opening, or holding open, the gates between worlds. They are a liminal spirit, and act as a guide and liaison between the Folk and the Spirits. They often take the role of psychopomp (a guide of souls to the underworld) but any being that can walk between the worlds or exist in all the worlds is able to work with us as a Gatekeeper.

The Three Kindreds

Beyond the Earth Mother and the Gatekeeper, ADF recognizes three broad classes of spirits, though the lines that divide them can be rather fuzzy at times. They are generally broken down into the Shining Ones, the Nature Spirits, and the Ancestors.

The Shining Ones

The Shining Ones refers to the Gods, Goddesses, and other deities. While they may not all “shine,” they do all radiate power. The Shining Ones each have a domain that allows them to connect to each other and/or the mundane world. There are those who work in the Upper Realm, deities of the sky, air, sun, wind, etc. or those who are specifically said to dwell in the Upper Realm. There are those who work in the mid-realm, like deities of the forest, hearth, commerce, war, etc. There are those who work in the Underworld, deities of death, or sometimes wealth.

The Nature Spirits

The Nature Spirits can be divided into two broad categories: those beings of nature that we can see, and those we can't. The first type of Nature Spirit is the more obvious. They are the creatures that inhabit our world: the birds, fish, insects, reptiles and mammals, but they are also the trees, rivers, rocks, plants, dirt, and oceans. They are all part of the ecosystem that makes our world work together and function.

The second type of Nature Spirit, the kind you can't see, are the mythical creatures. This incorporates creatures that live hidden in our world or are described in myths, like nymphs and dryads, fairies, spirits of the local land, and house spirits. They can also be creatures that take on roles beyond that of their mundane counterparts, such as a archetypical plant, stone, or animal.

The Ancestors

There are as many different ways of working with the Ancestors. The following categories are simply one way to organize your practice, though you may find that different delineations work better for you. The three broad categories we discuss here are the Ancient Wise, the Mighty Dead, and the Beloved Dead. The Ancient Wise are those ancestors who had special wisdom or intelligence in their life, and as such they now have knowledge beyond our comprehension that can aid us in our work and on our journey.

The Mighty Dead are the heroes. They are not only those heroes described in myth, but also the people who have helped to shape our world, culture, and society. The heroes of mythology have aided the growth and development of culture through feats of strength and bravery, or by gaining wisdom to share with human kind. The heroes of modernity have aided the growth and development of culture through scientific discoveries, exploration,

and work in the humanities or social justice. The Mighty Dead are those who've experienced the world, strove to make it a better place, and because of that have had their stories told to many.

The Beloved Dead are those who have some direct connection to us. They may be those ancestors that we are related to by blood, such as our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. They may also be close friends who we care for. The Beloved Dead are those who influenced our lives in a positive way.

The Allies of our Hearth

As Hearth Keepers, one of the things we focus on in our rites and devotions is assembling the Allies of our Hearth to honor and work with. While these allies include the Hearth Deity and Earth Mother, they may also include spirits such as Inspiration and other beings from any category of the Kindreds. There are two basic ways to find and build a relationship with these Allies, and either, or a combination of the two, is a good place to start.

You can take the scholarly route, and research deities and other spirits who often align themselves or care about the work of humans. This will often lead you to deities of order or hearth, such as Zeus, Odin, Vesta, Brigid, and many others. It could also lead you to Nature Spirits that have a close connection to you, such as a local river, tree, or stone.

You can also take the route of vision. This involves meditation and/or trance work to identify beings that care about you, your hearth, and the work you seek to do. This can lead you to any number of spirits. You may discover a connection to a specific deity, or to a mythical creature or other nature spirit, or to an ancestor who has a strong connection and reason to look out for you.

Once you have found who these allies are, and they may be one or many, you can call on them to join you in your Hearth Keeper devotions and rites. While for many people these allies are often Patrons, you'll see in the included script that we simply refer to them as the Allies of the Hearth. If you have not found any particular spirits yet, it is perfectly acceptable to call to them in this way. Part of gaining new spiritual relationship is opening yourself up so that they can form. So, by calling to them as simply the Allies of the Hearth, you are opening yourself up to spirits who may be interested in forming a mutually beneficial relationship with your Hearth.

How do we welcome the gods & spirits and build a relationship with them?

The gods and spirits are often called into a ritual space where we have established the Sacred Center and opened the Gates. In simple devotional work though, the spirits may

simply be called from where you are in that moment. We build relationships by calling on the gods and spirits, making offerings, and receiving blessings in return.

The Sacred Center

The Hallows & The Realms

In ADF rites we perform our rituals and worship at the Sacred Center. For us, this means from a place that is centered between the three worlds (the under-, middle-, and upper world) and the three realms (land, sea, and sky). This Center of the World is created in order to bring the focus of the Kindreds to us, and to allow our focus to extend beyond the mundane world. We typically create the Sacred Center of our cosmos by hallowing (to mark as holy) a Fire, Well, and Tree to mark them as our center.

The Fire is often associated with the Shining Ones and the Upperworld. It is a great power that brings light in the darkness and warmth in the cold. Most importantly, the Fire transforms our offerings into smoke that rises to the Heavens, carrying it to the spirits who dwell above. The Fire is also what brings the power of the Deities down to us, to bathe us in their wisdom, light, and warmth.

The Well is often associated with the Ancestors and the Underworld. It contains the sacred waters and connects us to the dark cosmic and chthonic powers below. The Well allows our offerings to sink into the depths, carrying them to the spirits who dwell below. The Well also connects to the underworld and allows the wisdom of our Ancestors to flow up through the blood of the Earth to fill us, sustain us, and nourish us.

The Tree is often associated with the Nature Spirits and the Middleworld. It is the crossroads between the worlds. Its roots stretch deep into the Well and travel out through the world. Its branches reach up into the Heavens, where the primal fire dwells, and cascade around us here in the Mid Realm. The trunk is the center of the universe, connecting the fire and the water. The tree is like a great line of communication that connects us to the Ancestors below, the Nature Spirits here, and the Shining Ones above. It transverses the worlds and connects us to all beings. In ADF we use the tree as a piece of our sacred center because it is what holds the other pieces together.

As we create the Center of the World, marked by the Fire, Well, and Tree, we are aligning the Center of our world to the Center of all worlds. It is this alignment that allows us to Open the Gates and communicate more easily with the spirits in all realms.

The Gates

The Gates in a formal ADF rite are opened after the Sacred Center is established. We work with a Gatekeeper spirit to aid us in the work of navigating the Crossroads, as well as opening and closing the Gates between worlds. You can visualize the opening Gates in many ways: a parting of mist, the opening of a door, a brightening of the ritual space, or

something else that makes sense to you. When the Gates are open it becomes easier to communicate with the Kindreds. However, it is important to note that we have the power to communicate with the Kindreds without the Gates being open, and that many people never open the Gates except during formal rituals.

Sacrifice and Ghosti

Making a Sacrifice

Sacrifice is the act of making an offering to the gods or spirits. You are taking something of your own, making it sacred, and giving it as a gift to them. Many things can be an offering. Flowers, grain, coins, stones, poetry, songs, dance, and acts of service are all common offerings.

A sacrifice is a gift to the gods or spirits of something that is being removed from human usage. So, a sacrifice should be something that has meaning to both the person making the sacrifice, and the being that they are sacrificing to; it should be a gift.

Ghosti

Ghosti is a term that the folk of ADF have adopted to mean the reciprocal relationship that we have with the spirits. While it comes from the Proto-Indo-European reconstructed word **ghostis*, which refers to the reciprocal guest/host relationship, the word “ghosti” has taken on a life of its own within our religion. In our practice, when an offering is given then part of the ghosti (reciprocal) relationship is formed. We, the folk, have given something to the Kindreds, and they will in return give us something back. Some examples of this are the Return Flow (explained later in this section) or the shared meal.

Taking an Omen

In this reciprocal relationship the most common way of determining what specific gifts the Kindreds return to us is through divination, which we often call taking an omen. There are many ways to do this, such as using a symbol set, observing the natural world, or scrying. If you are familiar with one of these methods of divination already we encourage you to continue using what you know.

If you are not already familiar with a method of divination, we’ve included a simple set here for you to use. Simply write each word on a piece of paper or popsicle stick (or something more elaborate if you feel so called), and when the time comes to take an omen, speak a brief prayer and then pull a word at random from the set.

The words are simple, and leave a lot of room for interpretation. This is purposeful. Take some time after pulling a word to reflect on it and its meaning. Think about what it means for you and your life. Think about what it means for your Hearth. Think about what it

means for the larger community. Think about what it means for the world. Part of the Return Flow in our rituals is taking these gifts that the spirits give and then using those gifts to better our lives and the world.

Divination Prayer

“I ask that the spirits be with me now. Guide my hand as I seek for truth and guidance. What wisdom do you give to me now?”

Simple Divination Set

Strength	Challenges	Connection
Courage	Renewal	Exploration
Protection	Creativity	Wildness
New Beginnings	Purification	Intuition

Disposing of your offerings

We say that our offerings are things that have been removed from human usage, but in the case of physical gifts it can often be difficult to determine what to do with them. Typically you can either burn, sink, bury, or scatter your offering. However, there are circumstances where this may not be possible. Perhaps you live in an apartment without easy access to a large fire or green space. In these situations, the best option may be to speak a prayer explicitly releasing the offering before putting it in the trash or down the drain.

Prayer for Disposing of Your Offerings

“Offerings I have made, and offerings you have received. I dispose of these offerings now, knowing that you have taken your fill of them. May they be removed from human use so that they may be fully yours. So be it.”

The ADF Hearth Order of Ritual

For High Days, ADF Groves are required to use a liturgical outline called the “Core Order of Ritual.” Because we focus on *right practice* rather than *right belief*, which you may have seen elsewhere described as *orthopraxy vs orthodoxy*, this ritual outline is the primary way that our ADF Groves connect with each other. It can look daunting at first, but there is actually a lot of freedom and flexibility within the steps of the ritual.

At home, however, we can keep it simpler. It is through this simpler ritual outline that Hearths and Hearth Keepers connect with each other. Our “Hearth Order of Ritual” follows 12 steps from beginning to end, which you can follow for a comprehensive rite in the ADF way. This book contains many sample rites which you can use or adapt to your preferences.

It is not necessary to perform all of your devotions following this structure, though you may choose to do so. We encourage you to use this structure for your High Day celebrations, and for the Hearth Keepers' New Moon Rite, which we will discuss later on. For now, let us look at the parts of the Hearth Order of Ritual.

ADF Hearth Order of Ritual for High Days and Lunar Rites

1. Opening Prayer
2. Initiating the Rite
3. The Hearth and our Allies
4. Purpose and Precedent
5. The Sacred Center
6. Inviting the Three Kindreds
7. Key Offerings
8. Prayer of Sacrifice
9. Omen
10. Return Flow
11. Magical or Seasonal Working
12. Restoration of the Ordinary

Opening Prayer

This first prayer sets the stage for what we are going to do: honor the gods and spirits at our hearthfire. It helps us connect with other people that might be in the ritual with us.

Initiating the Rite

In this step of our outline we focus first on setting aside the things in our mundane life that may distract us from being fully present for our sacred work. Then, we purify ourselves in a way that makes sense to us. Washing of hands and face is common and traditionally purification has been done by water and fire (incense). If you don't have the ability to wash or burn incense before your rite, you may find that a simple statement setting aside your mundane concerns for the time being to work just fine. Finally, we will Find our Center in order to more fully open ourselves to connections with the Spirits.

The Hearth and our Allies

As Hearth Keepers our worship is centered around our hearth and honoring those spirits who protect our home and have a special interest in us. This prayer centers on welcoming those spirits to join us in our worship. This is where we include an acknowledgement of the Earth Mother and an invitation to the Hearth Deity.

Purpose and Precedent

At this point in the ritual we state why we are praying, whether it is a devotional, lunar rite, high day, or something else. We also acknowledge that we draw inspiration for our ritual actions from the past.

The Sacred Center

This part of the ritual involves aligning the realms in order to stand at the Center of the Cosmos and welcoming a spirit that helps to carry our prayers and offerings to the Kindreds.

Inviting the Three Kindreds

After we have established our Sacred Center we welcome the spirits by speaking praise and giving offerings. This may be done individually to each class of spirits, or it may be done as a single piece welcoming them all at once.

Key Offerings

In many rituals we are focusing our worship on one Spirit (or a few) in particular. The Key Offering is where we welcome this Being by speaking praise and giving offerings specifically to them.

Prayer of Sacrifice

The Prayer of Sacrifice is the hinge of the rite. This is where we take all the energy and praise we've gathered up to this point and focus it into one final offering. In this final prayer we focus on sending all the offerings out into the realms so that the spirits who we have honored may fully receive the gifts we've brought. After this point in the rite, the energy begins to flow in the other direction, allowing the gifts of the Kindreds to come to us.

Omen

The Omen is the point of communication between us and the spirits. At this point in the ritual we can learn if the spirits have liked our gifts and we can see what gifts they might offer us in return.

Return Flow

After we have received communication from the spirits, it is time to take the gifts and wisdom they have offered into ourselves. In the same way that we gave offerings to them, this is their way of giving offerings to us. It completes the circle of the ghosti relationship.

Magical or Seasonal Working

Sometimes we have a special reason beyond relationship building to be doing ritual. This could be because we are celebrating a high day, are doing our monthly Hearth Keeper work,

are marking a rite of passage, or have some other special prayers make or magical work to do. This portion of the rite is after the Return Flow because at this point we have received an influx of power and blessings and can use that energy to more easily and successfully do the magical or seasonal work.

Restoration of the Ordinary

After we have called the spirits, made offerings, and received blessings in return we need to exit ritual space and return to the mundane. This final piece of the rite involves thanking the spirits that we have called and allowing the realms to return to their original placement in the cosmos. At the end of the rite we no longer stand at the Sacred Center, but remain filled with the blessings we've received and work we have done.

Affiliating Your Hearth with ADF

After you have decided that you want to commit the time and devotion to being an ADF Hearth Keeper, there are a few things left to do if you decide you want to make your affiliation with ADF official. You'll have the option to choose a name for your Hearth, you'll see the expected practices that a Hearth will engage in, and you'll take the Hearth Keeper oath. After you've done those things, you're welcome to fill out the Hearth Keeper form and receive your official Hearth Keeper certificate, showing that you've officially joined your Hearth to the Hearth of Ár nDraíocht Féin.

Choosing a Hearth Name

All Hearth Keepers are given the option of naming their Hearth. Not all Hearth Keepers will choose to do this, opting instead to simply keep their own name or their family name to define their practice. For those who do choose to name their Hearth, we wanted to provide some suggestions on choosing a name.

The most important thing to consider when naming your Hearth is that it is meaningful to you and any hearthmates you may have. There are a lot of options for possible names, and we've listed these to give you ideas, rather than guidelines.

You may choose a name that reflects the land upon which you live. Perhaps a description of the plant life, water features, or rock formations. You may choose a name that reflects the primary spirits you Hearth honors. Perhaps including name of a deity, or a symbol associated with them. You may choose a name that reflects an animal you feel particularly drawn to.

If you choose to include something that is pretty common in your Hearth name it's often helpful to include an adjective or other identifier to help differentiate your Hearth from others. For example, rather than "Brigit's Hearth" you may have "Brigit's Fire", "Brigit's Well", or "Brigit's Song". Rather than "Aspen Hearth" you may have "Grey Aspen", "Budding Aspen", or "Blooming Aspen".

Some examples of Hearth names are included below, to give you an idea of the possibilities:

- Tredara Hearth
- The Prairie Home
- The Bear's Den
- Foggy Glen Hearth
- Grey Mist Hearth
- Red Pine Roost
- Hawk's Flight Hearth
- Grey Paws and Golden Eyes Pack
- Heron Creek
- Tir naGosh

The Expected Practices of a Hearth

When you're considering whether or not you'd like to undertake the work of a Hearth Keeper of ADF, it's important to consider what exactly that work entails. We've kept it simple: at its core the Hearth is expected to:

- observe the cycles and seasons of the earth in a way that resonates with the members of the Hearth.
- Maintain a consistent practice that fits the needs of your Hearth
- Maintain a connection to the hearthfire of ADF

The Hearth Keeper Oath

The members of every Hearth across *Ár nDraíocht Féin* all take the same basic oath. You take it when you initially join the Hearth Keepers Way, and reaffirm it each new moon when you perform the Hearth Keepers' Lunar Rite. This Oath forms the basis for what we do as Hearth Keepers.

“I, [insert name], am a Hearth Keeper of ADF, [a member of Hearth Name (if applicable)]. For as long as my path aligns with this work, I will welcome the gods and spirits into my home and my heart. I will keep the holy days of Our Druidry. I will live a pagan life.”

If you prefer to say “*Ár nDraíocht Féin*” in place of the “ADF” acronym, please feel free to do so. It is pronounced “ar NREOkht fane,” or [a:r 'ni.əxt fe:n] in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

The Technical Details

Once you have chosen to become a Hearth Keeper of *Ár nDraíocht Féin* simply fill out form at <https://forms.gle/Xdn7NJQKWTNBS7rn9> with the necessary details. Once we've received your information you will be emailed a print quality PDF certificate recognizing that your Hearth has joined with the Hearth of *Ár nDraíocht Féin*.

If you need a paper copy of this form or your certificate, please mail us at:

Ár nDraíocht Féin
1147 Brook Forest Ave #355,
Shorewood, IL 60404
USA

The Hearth Fire

Setting up a Hearth Altar

The Hearth altar is the place where you will be doing most of your worship, and should be in a place where you can easily access it and safely have a fire (or a representation of fire if you're circumstances prevent you from having an actual, burning flame). It should be noted that your Hearth altar may or may not be the same as your personal altar or home shrine. It will depend on the makeup of your Hearth members and your personal preference.

The Hearth altar can take many forms, and can be as simple or complex as you desire. At its core, the Hearth altar must include a fire or representation of fire. This can be a candle, a fire pit or fireplace, a gas or electric stove, or even a drawing or stone that reminds you of fire. Your options are pretty open for how you choose to include fire in your Hearth altar.

Beyond the fire, it is up to you what you want to include. Many people prefer to flesh out their altar with the typical Well and Tree so that they have a representation of all three Hallows common in a formal ADF ritual. You may decide to include a variety of deity images or representations, divination tools, or other tools for your work.

Your Hearth altar can be as simple or as elaborate as you desire. It does not need to be perfect or expensive. The most important thing is that your Hearth altar works well for you and your Hearth mates.

Keeping a Hearth Flame

The hearth flame is the central point in our rituals as ADF Druids. We gather around a fire, mark it as the Center of our sacred space, and rely on it to act as a gate between worlds to carry and transform our offerings and sacrifices to the spirits. Not only does the Fire allow us to bring gifts to the Kindreds as we create and maintain the ghosti relationship, it is also the central point of gathering for a family or group. For us as Hearth Keepers, this central flame becomes all important. When we light our hearthfire, we are not only praying as a Hearth, but we are also feeding the central Hearth of *Ár nDraíocht Féin*.

Kindling Your Hearth Flame

One of the first things you'll want to do as a Hearth is kindle your own hearthfire. You can choose to keep your hearthfire wherever it makes sense for you. Many people keep their hearthfire in a seven-day candle or in other candles of various shapes and sizes. Some people who have easy access to a fireplace or fire pit will keep their hearthflame there. You may also light your hearthfire by any method that works for you. Many people prefer to light their flame with matches rather than a lighter, but that is certainly not required. We refer here to the flame that is "Born in the Waters" because in many Indo-European myths there is a deity of fire who is said to have emerged from the water or to have been hiding in the water.

When lighting your hearthfire, speak the prayer we will use as Hearth Keepers to sanctify the fire and welcome in the Hearth Deity:

Born in the Waters, kindled on the Land,
With a pillar of smoke that supports the Heavens,
This Fire burns at the Center of All
To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Sacred Keepers of the Flame, shine within me here today.
Take these words and deeds above, accept my offerings.
Purify me, lead and guide me, aid me as I pray,
fill my heart with hope and love, illuminate my way.

You will make an offering, commonly of oil or incense, to the Hearth Deity at this point.

Once you have a hearthfire established it is good to light it, using the same prayer as above, every time you do ritual work as a Hearth. When it is time for you to put out your fire, it is recommended that you either let it burn down naturally, or snuff it out. Many people who are flame keepers of various traditions prefer this over putting a fire out with water or blowing it out.

The ADF Unity Flame

The ADF Unity Flame is a fire that is continuously kept burning from Spring Equinox to Spring Equinox by a few members of the clergy. Each Spring it is ritually snuffed and rekindled for the coming year. The decision to keep a continuously burning flame stems from the history of many cultures, from Greek to Roman to Celtic, who all kept a continuously burning flame as part of their traditions. This flame marked the center of a place of worship, and in many cases, the center of the city itself. There was a religious order who kept the continuous flame so that any who chose to light their flame from it could do so. The ADF Unity Flame is meant to be treated in a similar fashion. It marks the center of our religious tradition, and any who wish can light their own flame from it.

The ADF Unity Flame, while kept continuously lit by a few, can be kindled and connected to by anyone. We, as Hearth Keepers, join our hearthfire to the hearthfire of *Ár nDraíocht Féin* in order to both feed the Hearth of ADF and to join together with other Hearths in fellowship. We know that while other Hearths may be worshipping in different physical locations, they join us in this shared practice when we kindle our hearthfires and connect to the hearthfire of *Ár nDraíocht Féin*.

Connecting to the ADF Unity Flame

After you have kindled your hearthfire, the next step is to connect your hearthfire to the hearthfire of *Ár nDraíocht Féin*. This is done by a simple charm, and often accompanied by another offering to the Fire. This is same charm used by the members of the clergy who keep an ever-burning ADF Unity Flame, and by any others who wish to join their ritual fire to the ADF Unity Flame for a time.

Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill,
join with our common Hearth, that these flames be one.

Kindling Your Hearthfire for the First Time

Having discussed the Gods and Spirits that we honor, and the importance of the Sacred Flame in our Hearth Keeper work, we are now ready to actually kindle our Hearthfire for the first time. Hearth Deities are warm and welcoming, and you will be creating a warm and welcoming center for them. The magic of a hearthfire burning in your home is a tangible magic, a point of reconnection after a long day, a bright spark in the morning, and the center of our worship.

Establishing A Hearth of *Ár nDraíocht Féin*

Preparation

For this particular rite, we'd like to encourage you to keep the script mostly as written, since it is specific to this work. Things you will need for this rite:

- Water (for purifying the space)
- Incense (or something to brighten your space, whether figuratively or literally)
- A representation for the Fire, Well, and Tree
- Offerings for:
 - the Earth Mother
 - The Allies of the Hearth
 - the Three Kindreds
 - The Hearth Deity
 - the Prayer of Sacrifice
- A divination set
- Something to drink
- A candle or other representation for the Hearth Flame
- (optional) A candle or other representation for the ADF Unity Flame

Opening Prayer

I (we), [insert Hearth name if applicable], am a tree in the Grove of *Ár nDraíocht Féin*. As my spine straightens, my roots entwine with the trees in the grove and my branches provide shade for the me (the members of our Hearth). The fire within me (each of us) is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit.

Initiating the Rite

Now I set aside those things of the mundane world that would trouble this rite. Let the space around me be purified by fire and water as I prepare for the work ahead.

light incense and/or brighten your space; sprinkle water about your space

The Hearth and our Allies

The Hearth

Light your candle or otherwise kindle your fire.

O fire of potential, burning bright on this shrine,
Join me in worship and connection,
Be the Flame at the center of All,

To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Earth Mother

Earth Mother, I call upon you to uphold and bless this rite.
Each day you sustain us, nurturing our bodies and souls with your bounty.
Each day, I remember what you do for us, and I seek to bless you in return,
With my language, with my actions, with my love.
Accept this offering, Earth Mother, and be welcome at my Hearth.

make offering

Inspiration

Inspiration, ignite the fire in my head and let it pour forth as I offer praise.

Purpose and Precedent

I am here to kindle a bright flame and to establish a Hearth of *Ár nDraíocht Féin*. I call to and welcome my Allies and the Three Kindreds, to join me in friendship and magic. As my Ancestors did before, so I do now, so may my descendants do in the future.

I now find myself at the center of worlds:

Establishing the Sacred Center

ReCreating the Cosmos

Waters of the deep, rise up and fill me with your potential.
Fires of the Sky, shine down and illuminate me with your clarity.
Water and Fire, primal powers, merge within me to make magic.

I come to the center of worlds,
Between the Land and Sky and Sea,
To offer to the powers through the Sacred center.

Fire, burn bright with my offerings.
Well, flow deep with my song.
Tree, reach to the realms with your branches,
Carry my voice along.

Opening the Gates

Gatekeeper, you who stand watchful and ever ready to lend your aid,
I call on you now to be with me as I arrive at the Crossroads.

Flame at the center of all,
be my gate to the lands of the Holy Ones,
opening to their realms.

May my prayers enter you,
and be there transformed:
breath into spirit,
offerings to spirit.
May the gates be open! (Ceisiwr Serith, adapted)

Inviting the Three Kindreds

I welcome the Holy Ones to my home:
Nature Spirits, allies of this abundant Land, my neighbors on the body of the Earth.
Ancestors, blood, kin, and spirit, the roots and branches of my past.
Deities, Shining Ones, wise and mighty in myriad ways.
Blessings and honor to you, Kindreds. Be welcome at my Hearth.

Key Offerings:

I call now to those Allies of my Hearth. [insert names of allies if known]. I call to you now as I will call to you in each rite of our Hearth. You lend your magic to me as we join in a relationship of **ghostis* and hospitality. My Hearth honors you first and foremost at my altar. As I establish a new Hearth, be welcome at my fire and accept my offerings.

make offering

Oh Mighty Kindreds - Deities, Ancestors, Nature Spirits – the Hearth gives you these gifts, so that you know you are welcome here, and I will honor you with love and piety. As I establish a new Hearth, be welcome at my fire and accept my offerings.

make offering

Most honored guest, Deity of the Hearth, I call to you. Reside in this flame, reside in my shrine. I have made a welcome place for you, so come into my home and make it even more welcome, sharing in hospitality with me. My Hearth honors you first and foremost at this altar. As I establish a new Hearth, be welcome at my fire and accept my offerings.

make offering

Pause, briefly, reflecting on the offerings you have made and the relationships that are forming. When you are ready, say:

Prayer of Sacrifice

All I have done here becomes but one offering.
Accept this sacrifice, Holy Ones.
My keeping the Old Ways with words, deeds, and gifts.
Accept this sacrifice, Holy Ones.
May my offerings be received in the realms of the spirits.
Accept this sacrifice, Holy Ones!

make offering

Omen

I ask now for an omen to guide the work of this Hearth as I begin this journey.

take an omen to gain wisdom

Return Flow

Mighty Kindreds, I have heard your voices.
You have spoken to me with blessing.
Pour out the waters with your gifts, I pray.
Kindreds, grant me the waters.

Gifts of the Kindreds, come to me.
Gifts of our Allies, come to me.
Gifts of [the omen], come to me.
Kindreds, hallow these waters.

Power of the spirits, flowing through me
Power of the spirits, shining in me
Power of the spirits, growing with me

Behold the Waters of Life!

Working: Establishing a Hearth of ADF

With wisdom gained, I now ask the Mighty Kindreds, give of your blessings so that I might have them in my life as expand my personal work and establish this Hearth of Ár nDraíocht Féin.

As I share this cup with you [and the members of myHearth], I know it is filled with the blessings of the spirits. As the blessings are received, I welcome this relationship with the Allies of my Hearth.

Drink of the cup

I now ask you, Kindreds, Allies, and the Deity of the Hearth, give of your blessings so that I may expand my personal work and create a Hearth of Ár nDraíocht Féin.

Hold your hands over the Fire and say:

Born in the Waters, kindled on the Land,
With a pillar of smoke that supports the Heavens,
This Fire burns at the Center of All
To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Sacred fire, be welcome!
Ever young, flame born anew upon this altar.

Tended and honored each time this Hearth gathers
With gladness I welcome you into this home.
Making my worship as one with the Hearth Keepers of Ár nDraíocht Féin.

Sacred Keepers of the Flame, shine within me here today.
Take these words and deeds above, accept my offerings.
Purify me, lead and guide me, aid me as I pray,
fill my heart with hope and love, illuminate my way.

Connect your Hearth to the ADF Unity Flame and to the other Hearths of ADF. Envision lights of many hearthfires around the world, and the bright light of the ADF Unity Flame shining in your heart and in the hearts of all of our members. See the light of all those individual Hearths gathering like sparks, to join together and become a single bright flame. When you are ready, say the ADF Unity Flame charm:

Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill,
join with us this common Hearth, that these flames be one.

Reflect upon the work you have just done. Feel the connection of the fires, yours to others to the Unity Flame, all becoming as one

Hearth Flame Blessing

I stand in this sacred space now, knowing that this Hearth has become one of the many flames that feed the Hearth of Ár nDraíocht Féin. My Hearth, [insert Hearth Name if applicable], is a tree in the Grove of Ár nDraíocht Féin. The fire within me is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit, lighting up the night sky. I join with those other Hearths now in speaking the Hearth Keepers' oath:

“I, [insert name], am a Hearth Keeper of ADF, [a member of Hearth Name (if applicable)].
For as long as my path aligns with this work, I will welcome the gods and spirits into my home and my heart. I will keep the holy days of Our Druidry. I will live a pagan life.”

My hearthfire burns brightly here upon my altar. It marks the Center of all the realms. Its flame is reflected in all the flames of Hearth Keepers of ADF. With our fires burning strong together, may we each burn brighter in our practice and our faith.

Restoration of the Ordinary

To the Allies of this Hearth, for joining me here in this rite, I thank you.
To the Three Kindreds, for joining me here in this rite, I thank you.
To the Gatekeeper, for joining me here in this rite, I thank you. As I depart from the Crossroads, let all be as it was before, save for the magic we have done here today.
To Inspiration, for joining me here in this rite, I thank you.
To the Earth Mother, for joining me here in this rite, I thank you.
Having connected [insert Hearth name if applicable] to the Hearth of Ár nDraíocht Féin, and having gained wisdom for this Hearth, this rite is now ended. I go now in peace and fellowship.

Living a Pagan Life

Part of being a Hearth Keeper is striving to live a pagan life. There are many things that go into this, but they should all help to inform the way that you, as an ADF Druid, interact with the world around you. When we think about living a pagan life, we look at how to integrate your practice into your daily life, not just at special occasions.

Living a pagan life doesn't have to look perfect. We all have other obligations, whether its work, kids, a social life, or any number of other things that may take up your time. What's most important is that you *do*. We are an orthopraxic religion, so the core of our religion is the act of worshiping. If that means that you have a drawing of a fire at your work desk to help center you during the day, do that. If that means you hold your baby while performing devotionals, do that. If you are saying your meal prayers while heating up food in the microwave, do that. If all you get is five minutes in the bathroom to do a morning meditation, go for it.

There are many ways to integrate your practice as an ADF Druid into your daily life. In this section we will look at various ways to center yourself, prayers you can use for everyday life, how to include family members in your practice, and how the ADF Virtues may inform your life and how you interact with the world.

Finding Your Center

One of the foundations of our work as Druids is the ability to not only create the Sacred Center during our worship, but to also find that Sacred Center within ourselves. There are many ways to achieve this, but they all lend themselves to the same thing: to be physically and mentally ready to focus on your connection to the gods and spirits. No single method will work for everyone, so it is important for you to experiment with a few in order to find the way that works best for your Hearth.

The Two Powers

The Two Powers Meditation is the most commonly referenced method of finding your center within ADF. It is designed to both help you center yourself, as well as connect to the powers of Earth and Sky. The Two Powers meditation helps you center yourself by becoming aware of where you stand physically in relation to the world around you, as well as where you stand spiritually in relation to the realms around you.

In the most popular style of this meditation you visual the powers of the waters that dwell deep in the earth, and let them fill you. You then visualise the power of the fire that dwells in the heavens above, and let it fill you. You then visualize those powers mixing and mingling together forming a powerful balance. With those powers filling you, you are then connected to the three realms, acting as a conduit between them.

The Hearth Keepers' Two Powers Meditation

“Children of Earth, take a moment to calm your mind and body. Breathe deep and close your eyes. Listen to the sound of your own breathing. Hear your heartbeat thrumming inside you. Pause for a moment and just listen.

See in your mind's eye where you are now ... Now see yourself walking away from that place. You're walking towards a deep and old forest. Feel the cool, damp earth on your feet. As you enter the forest feel a cool breeze brush your cheek. Notice the sounds around you. A gentle rustling of leaves, perhaps from the wind, perhaps made by a squirrel bounding by. Notice the sunlight dappling across your face.

As you are walking deeper and deeper into the forest you come upon a clearing. There is a small fire in the middle of the glade surrounded by trees ringing the fire's light. One of these trees calls to you and you glide over to it. Place your hands on the trunk and feel the rough bark against your palm. Feel the ancient wisdom emanating from it.

Turn and place your back against the tree. Feel yourself sinking into it, becoming part of the tree. Feel your toes mix with the roots twinning down into the earth. Allow your mind to follow those roots and tendrils as they creep ever deeper, until suddenly they plunge into the cool deep waters far below the surface of the earth. Use the knowledge of the tree to pull those waters up through your roots. Feel them approaching you, up and up, until they reach your toes.

Feel the waters pulsing up through your toes and heels, moving up your legs and pooling in your groin. Feel them surging up into your chest and down your arms. Feel your branches swelling and cool waters seeping into your fingers, your leaves. Feel the waters rush up and fountain out the crown of your head, your uppermost branches and leaves, and come cascading back down into the earth to soak back down cooling your roots again. Having taken your fill, feeling replenished, allow those cool, dark waters to bleed back down into the earth.

Again feel the wind brush through your hair, your leaves. Feel as the sunlight shines down on you, brightening and invigorating you. Allow your leaves to take in that bright, golden light. Let it convert to pure energy and infuse your head and chest with light and energy. Let it saturate your branches and flow into your finger leaves. Feel as it washes down through your groin and flows down you legs and energizes you down to your roots. Having absorbed as much light as your body will hold, let the remainder reflect back off you, back into the sky.

Feel how the combination of the cool waters and the bright light mixes within your body. Feel how it mingles and brings a new awareness to your very essence of self. Let your attention drift over yourself from your roots, to your trunk, and on up to your leaves.

Let a breath of wind catch one of your leaves and watch as it drifts downward toward the small fire. As it nears the fire, watch as the heat pushes it upward again. Allow your awareness to follow this heat current up and up, and see as it catches other leaves in its ascension. As you note the path that those leaves took, you see that they also came from trees surrounding the small fire.

Reach out and feel that you are not alone in this glade, but rather you are surrounded by the warmth of your kin. You are all here together. Each Hearth of ADF becoming a tree in this glade, standing together as one sacred grove.

Take a moment and allow this feeling of togetherness and oneness to soak into your mind, your heart, your bones and your soul. Feel the warmth of the other Hearths around you. Your hearts beat as one now.

With this new realization that you are here among the Hearths of ADF, you begin to disconnect yourself from the tree. Wiggle your toes and separate them from the roots. Wiggle your fingers and feel the leaves fall away. Roll your shoulders, allowing you to step out of the tree and once again become your own self.

As you now look around you know that while before you came to this glade alone, you now are leaving among friends. You are leaving centered within yourself and knowing that you are connected to all the other Hearth Keepers.

It is time now to turn away from the glade and walk back out of the forest. Listen, as before to the sounds around you. You can now hear the laughter of friends, and you feel now not just the warmth of the sun, but the warmth of companionship. As you break out of the forest and head back towards your body, keep that feeling that you are now one with the Hearths around you.

Now, step back into your body and take a deep breath to settle yourself back in. Wiggle your fingers and toes. Now begin moving your arms and legs just a little as you feel yourself come back to this place. Here, knowing you are connected, we may begin the work for today.”

Square Breathing

Many people, when they are discussing ways to find your center, will also reference quiet, seated meditation. Most often this means meditating using the square breathing, or similar, technique. Square breathing is a method of taking slow, deep breaths. This method does not work for everyone, and while we encourage to give it a try, we also encourage you to explore other focused breath techniques that may work better for you.

The first thing you will want to do for square breathing is settle yourself in a way that is comfortable for you, whether this is standing, sitting, or even laying down. You want your body to be relaxed. After you are comfortable and relaxed you begin breathing.

The reason this method is called square breathing is because of the way you count your slow, deep breaths. There are four distinct parts to the square breath, each held for a count of four. First, breathe in for a count of four. Then hold your breath for a count of four. Then breathe out for a count of four. Then hold your breath for a count of four. Then repeat from the beginning.

When you are using this method of finding your center, aim to do the seated meditation for 10-15 minutes. You may need to work up to that duration, beginning with just a minute or two to start, and that's okay.

Try saying the following in your head to get yourself started:

Breathe in 1.... 2.... 3.... 4....
Hold 1.... 2.... 3.... 4....
Breathe out 1.... 2.... 3.... 4....
Hold 1.... 2.... 3.... 4....
Breathe in 1.... 2.... 3.... 4....
Hold 1.... 2.... 3.... 4....
Breathe out 1.... 2.... 3.... 4....
Hold 1.... 2.... 3.... 4....”

And so on...

Other Ways to Center Yourself

There are many other ways to find your center that deviate from the two above methods we normally think of when discussing centering and meditating. These work especially well for people who have a hard time sitting still or clearing their mind. Rather than entering a state of light trance or completely quieting the mind, they allow you to become more focused, calm, and present. They tend to work in one of two ways: through active meditation, or through mindfulness meditation.

Active Meditation

This method gives your body something to do that is monotonous or repetitive, which allows your brain to separate out and become more focused, calm, and present. Common activities for active meditation are: exercise such as running, martial arts, or yoga; fiber arts such as knitting or

crocheting; and relaxing crafts such as coloring or doodling. These all occupy the part of the brain that says “move!” and allow the quiet part of your brain to surface.

Once the quiet part of your brain has surfaced, your goal is to simply exist in the present. You may find it useful to engage in one of the other methods of finding your center, particularly the mindfulness meditation, once you have reached this state of “quiet mind.”

Mindfulness Meditation

This method allows your brain to acknowledge everything that it is thinking about in a non-judgmental way, and then let those thoughts pass by to be dealt with later. It is especially useful if you have a hard time quieting your mind. Many people have trouble setting aside their worries about the past and/or future, or have an ever-running task list of things that need to be done. Mindfulness meditation is designed to help find a quiet mind despite those distracting thoughts.

You can begin either by sitting in a relaxed position like you would for the square breathing technique, or you can do something more active, like take a walk in nature. Focus on your breathing first, then move your awareness to what it feels like to be in your body. Your next step is to consciously try to not think about anything in particular. This is, of course, nearly impossible to do, which leads us to the next piece. When you have a thought, whatever it is, acknowledge it and then let it go. Be aware of the thought, but resist the urge to label or judge these thoughts.

There are many ways to visualize this process of acknowledging thoughts and letting them go. You can imagine that you are laying on a hill watching the clouds go by. When you have a thought attach it to a cloud, and then let the wind carry it away. You can imagine you are in a tree on an autumn day. When you have a thought attach it to a leaf, and then let it fall to the river, and float downstream. You can imagine you are in a factory with a conveyor belt. When you have a thought put it in an empty box on the belt, and then let it move on.

As you get better at mindfulness meditation you’ll find that you will have longer moments of quiet mind before your thinking brain interrupts. If you never get to that state of complete quiet mind, that’s okay. Your intent is to be more focused, calm, and present.

Prayers & Rituals for Everyday Life

We've provided here a selection of prayers that are common for everyday scenarios; however, you may find yourself wanting to write new prayers for these situations or for other situations we haven't included. Following these pre-written prayers we've provided a couple of guidelines for writing prayers to petition the spirits for help, as well as for prayer writing around specific tasks. You may use these guidelines and templates if you feel stuck. These are by no means requirements you must follow to write a prayer, but rather one example of a template you may use. You are also welcome to modify or personalize any of the following prayers so that they better fit your style and needs.

Simple Ritual for Daily or Weekly Devotions

light candle

I light this flame and center myself.

take three deep breaths and/or perform brief Two Powers attunement

Standing gently upon the Earth, I thank her for all she provides.

To the Spirits I hold dear, those of my hearth and heart,

If you know them specifically, call each spirit by name

I make offerings to you.

make any offerings you desire

Share with me your wisdom and blessings, that I might take them into my life and my work.

take omen if desired

For being with me today and always, Spirits, I thank you.

Though this flame may go out on my hearth, may it burn ever strong in my heart.

extinguish candle

Formal Ritual for Daily or Weekly Devotions

Opening Prayer

I, [insert Hearth name if applicable], am a tree in the Grove of Ár nDraíocht Féin. As my spine straightens, my roots entwine with the trees in the grove and my branches provide shade for my Hearth. The fire within me is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit.

Initiating the Rite

I now set aside those things of the mundane world that would trouble my rite. Let the space around me be purified by fire and water as I prepare for the work ahead.

Earth Mother

Earth Mother, I speak praises to you and walk gently upon you, that I may honor you in my words and deeds. Bountiful Earth Mother, be welcome here.

Inspiration

Inspiration, ignite the fire in my head and let it pour forth as I speak words of praise here today.

Purpose and Precedent

As I experience my practice and my faith each day, so too does my Hearth, [insert Hearth Name if applicable]. I come again today to honor the allies of my home and hearth, that I may be in harmony with the Grove of ADF and grow in relationship with the spirits [and the other members of my Hearth]. As my Ancestors did before, so I do now, so may my descendants do in the future.

The Sacred Center

Let this simple dish of water become the Well, Let this simple flame become the Fire, Let this simple branch become the Tree. Three Hallows to establish this Sacred Center.

I call out now to the Gatekeeper who walks between the realms to stand at the crossroads and be my guide as I do this work today. Let all the realms meet here at the center and allow my connection to the spirits deepen.

Honoring the Three Kindreds

I call now to my Ancestors, those who support my Hearth. I call now to those Spirits of Nature that dwell around my Hearth. I call now to those Deities who hold a special place upon my Hearth. Kindreds Three, be welcome at this rite and accept my offerings.

make offerings

Key Offerings: The Allies of the Hearth

I call now to those Allies of my Hearth. [insert names of allies if known]. You lend your magic to me as we join in a reciprocal, ghosti relationship. My Hearth honors you first and foremost at this altar. Be welcome at my fire and accept my offerings.

make offerings

Prayer of Sacrifice

So I have given of my love and my wealth to the Spirits, that they may know my intentions. Now let my voice arise on the Fire. Let my voice resound in the Well. Let my words pass the boundary to the Otherworld. Spirits all, accept my sacrifice.

make offerings

Omen

I ask now for an omen to guide the work of my Hearth.

take an omen to gain wisdom

Return Flow

With wisdom gained, I now ask the Mighty Kindreds, give of your blessings so that I might have them in my life for the good of my Hearth & Community.

As I share this cup with you [and the members of my Hearth], I know it is filled with the blessings of the spirits. As the blessings are received, I welcome this relationship with the Allies of my Hearth.

Working (optional)

Now filled with the strength, blessings, and wisdom of the Kindreds, I seek to use this influx of power to [insert any work that needs to be done, such as healing, protection, reflection, etc]

Restoration of the Ordinary

To the Allies of my Hearth, for joining me here in this rite. I thank you.

To the Three Kindreds, for joining me here in this rite. I thank you.

To the Gatekeeper, for joining me here in this rite. I thank you. As I depart from the Crossroads, let all be as it was before, save for the magic I have done here today.

To Inspiration, for joining me here in this rite. I thank you.

To the Earth Mother, for joining me here in this rite. I thank you.

My Hearth, [insert Hearth name if applicable], remains a tree in the Grove of ADF.

Having gained wisdom for my Hearth, this rite is ended. I go now in peace and fellowship.

Basic Hearth Keeper Daily Prayer

Today I kindle the Sacred Fire, as I have before and will again, declaring that my Hearth, [insert Hearth Name if applicable], is a tree in the Grove of Ár nDraíocht Féin. The fire within me is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit. As a Hearth of Ár nDraíocht Féin, I now join the flame of me Hearth to the Flame of Ár nDraíocht Féin and praise the Hearth Deity, that they may bless the work I do.

Prayer to dispose of an offering

It is not always possible to dispose of an offering by burning, sinking, or scattering. In these instances you may wish to speak a prayer before pouring an offering down the drain or putting it in the trash.

Offerings I have made, and offerings you have received. I dispose of these offerings now, knowing that you have taken your fill of them. May they be removed from human use so that they may be fully yours. So be it.

A Daily Morning Prayer

I will kindle the fire this morning
And center myself among the Three Realms:
Upon the firm and bountiful Land,
Beside the wide and mysterious Sea,
Under the bright and shining sky.

I will kindle the fire this morning
In the presence of the Three Kindred:
The Nature Spirits, my neighbors on this land,
The Ancestors, for without them I would not be,
and the Shining Ones, who give order and inspiration in my life.

I will kindle the fire this morning
And carry within my heart the virtues of
Hospitality, that I may be kind and receive kindness,
Wisdom, that I may grow in knowledge and experience,
and Integrity, that my words and actions be true.

With the fire burning bright this morning,
I go out into the world
with the blessings of the holy Kindreds.

Prayer Upon Waking

Each new day I greet the Dawn as she dances across the rim of the world
Rising from darkness and into light.
I remember my connection to the spirits as I start my day in piety.

Ancestor Morning Prayer

Ancestors, this morning I greet you.
Share this cup of coffee [or other beverage] with me
As I prepare for my day.
Let us sit together for a moment in silence
Quietly remembering the companionship we have.
Ancestors, be with me today,
Let your wisdom of the past guide me forward
And your joy for the future inspire my actions.
Ancestors, I love you.

Earth Mother & Three Kindreds Mealtime Prayer

I give thanks to the Earth Mother for her bounty, providing for us not only today, but all days.
I give thanks to the Ancestors who taught us the ways to prepare this food.
I give thanks to the Nature Spirits who gave of themselves so that we may eat.
I give thanks to the Shining Ones who share their blessings with me, that I may share it with others.
For all those spirits who have aided in providing this meal and this fellowship, I thank you.

Simple Mealtime Prayer

We extend our gratitude to the Earth Mother,
And to all the beings, however small or large,
Whose sacrifices and work helped create this meal.
Let it nourish and sustain us:
May the bounty of the Earth bless us now,
And continue to bless us in the coming seasons.

A Meal Blessing of Thanks

We thank the Earth Mother, first and foremost,
for the bounty she has shared.
We also thank:
The Ancestors, for teaching us their ways,
The Nature Spirits, for sharing of themselves,
And The Shining Ones, for walking with us.
To all those spirits we love,
Come, join us at our feast,
and be welcomed by our hospitality.

A Hearth Deity Meal Blessing

[DEITY NAME], God/dess of my hearth and home,
I light this candle here for you as I begin this work,
Always dedicated to you.

[DEITY NAME], be with me as I prepare this meal:
May you bless it with your presence.
[DEITY NAME], be with me as I sit with my family:
May you bless us with your presence.
[DEITY NAME], for all you do, I give you this first offering of food:
May you bless our home with your presence.

A Shared Meal with the Ancestors

Ancestors of my Folk,
Allow me to share this meal with you.
You shared your wisdom
that I may grow true and strong.
I seek now to honor you in my words and deeds.
I seek now to honor you as I walk through this world.
Ancestors, join me in this meal,
And know that as you do so
I prepare to continue your work.

A Multi-Faith Meal Blessing

We are here, gathered as family and friends, to come together,
despite distance and differences, to share a meal.
To share hospitality with one another.
So let us give thanks for the bounty the earth has provided us,
and let us give thanks for the fellowship we have here tonight.

A Family Table Rite of Blessing

Preparation:

In addition to service for the food, arrange the Center of the table, as desired, with four good candles, one shorter than the others, and an attractive bowl of clean water. If desired a decorative Tree symbol completes the array. A piece of silver or quartz crystal might be present to drop into the water, and incense is good, if tolerable, for a meal-table. Also have present a preferred beverage, or two, to receive the Blessing.

*With all prepared, the kin join hands, and breathe together in silence for a moment.
The Head of the Table lights the short candle, drops the silver into the Water, and speaks:*

Let us seek blessing.

All recite

The Fire, the Well, the Sacred Tree
Flow and Flame and Grow in me
By Land, Sea and Sky
Below and On High
Let the Water be blessed and the Fire be hallowed.

It is good to formally cleanse all if the company wills it – pass the water, or sprinkle all – pass incense if do-able; this may be light-hearted. One simple charm (spoken three times) is:

By the Might of the Waters and the Light of the Fire
Let this meal/table/gathering be blessed!

The Head, or another, lights the three tall candles in turn as all recite:

Oh all you Holy Beings of the Worlds
In all your might
We call you, whether unnamed or by name
By these three lights

light one tall candle

Beloved Dead, you travelers, gone before
To you in love

light one tall candle
Oh wond'rous spirits of this land we call
To you in awe

light one tall candle

And every shining god, in every heart

To you in honor true
Love, awe and honor, these we light
With these three flames here, burning bright
And bid the spirits bide with us in peace.

At this point any readings or songs the family enjoys might be done. A daring and confident host might choose to draw an omen at this time. Many will be happy simply to proceed to the Blessing

The Head of the Table, or another recites:

The lights are lit, and the feast is spread. Let the blessing be poured for us all.

The prepared drinks are poured, and a single passing-cup is raised, or everyone raises their cup, and recites:

Let this be blessing, poured for us
From Holy Powers true
Let it be wisdom, Let it be strength
Let it be love, between us, true.
Let this meal be blessed!

The Head concludes, saying:

Let us keep gratitude in our hearts for this blessing, for this labor, for this good food we are about to eat, in the light of the Holy Ones.
Holy Ones, we thank you (*all repeat*)

Let's Eat!

A Prayer for Travel

I call out today to the Gods of travel:
You who keep the roads and weather clear,
You who keep the GPS connected and up to date,
You who keep me safe from harm.
Be with me today as I journey along highways, surface streets, and side roads.
Guide me safely to my destination.
Gods of travel, be with me!

A Prayer for Sleep

Darkness is spread like a blanket across the sky
as I call out to the God/dess of Sleep to let me sip from his horn.
Come to me, Mist Cloaked one,
and work your magic on me.
Bring your siblings and your children,
Those of Restful Sleep and Peaceful Dreams,
to share their magic with me.
A deep and peaceful sleep I desire:
Come to me, God/dess of Sleep, Come!

A Children's Bedtime Prayer

Now that day is done
And down has gone the sun,
It is time for you to sleep,
So lay down without a peep.
The Kindreds watch over you,
You're safe with love so true.
So sleep now my little one,
Because night has just begun.

A Prayer of Expiation

Mighty and Blessed Kindreds,
I had promised to maintain my devotions,
And to bring you offerings in return for your gifts and blessings.
But life got in the way for a little bit.
Know that I still hold you in my heart
And still honor and worship you.
I brought this gift, as I strike up our relationship again.
Accept this offering and be welcome once more at my altar and in my home.

Writing Your Own Prayers

While the prayers above will help you get started immediately, you may find yourself wanting to write new prayers for these situations or for other situations we haven't included. To that end we've provided a couple of guidelines for writing prayers to invite the spirits to join you, to petition the spirits for help, and for prayer writing around specific tasks. You may use these guideline and templates if you feel stuck. These are by no means requirements you must follow to write a prayer, but rather one example of a template you may use.

Writing Prayers for the Spirits

One of the things that is a staple of ADF liturgy is the use of prayers or evocations to invite the spirits during ritual. In doing this Hearth Keeper work, you may find it especially beneficial to write prayers to the Allies of Your Hearth. Prayers don't need to be long, and don't need to be complicated. It is perfectly okay for them to start simple, and then if you want to later, you can expand on them to add imagery and flowery complexity. When you first start writing prayers, it can seem daunting. To that end we've provided some information that may help you get started writing your prayers. These are by no means requirements you must follow to write a prayer, but rather one way you could structure them, and one example of a template you may use.

First: Who are you inviting, or calling to? Once you determine this, go ahead and directly say that. One deity we call nearly every ritual is the Earth Mother, so I could say:

"I call out to the Earth Mother"

Next, if you want to flesh that out a little bit, you can see if the spirit you're calling has any other names or titles that they go by. So, in this case I could say next:

"All-Mother, Mother of All"

Now, since you want them to come to you and be a part of your ritual work, why are they awesome? Or why are you calling specifically to them instead of some other spirit? The Earth Mother is important to us in ADF because while other spirits may come and go, the Earth is always present and always there supporting us (literally) and sustaining life. So, how do I translate this into why she's awesome and why I'm calling her? I could say something like:

"You who support and sustain us" or "You are ever-present in our lives" or "You who give life to all"

Next, I want to address why I'm calling them during this rite specifically. If I were calling a Being of the Occasion, then I might want to specify why I chose to call them during a particular High Day, or how they may specifically be associated with it. In the case of the Earth Mother, we call her in every ADF rite, and so that is specific language I can use. She is called first and last in ritual, and is given any unused offerings as well. So, I could say something like:

"It is right and proper that we call to you first, as you brought forth the first life."

So, now I've identified who I'm calling, why they are awesome and worthy of being called, and why I'm calling them now. Next I want to tell them what I'm giving them for showing up, and why. The Earth Mother is often given grain or flowers. This is because we give her things that she creates and we tend, giving them our own energy as well: cultivated nature. I also want to think about how I'm giving the offering. Do I pour it on the ground, or on the Fire, or sink it in the Well? How do they take up that offering? Are the offerings going on the land to nourish them here, is it rising on smoke to the heavens, is it washed over by the waters. Whatever way you give it, remember that it should be removed from human use. So I could say:

“I bring you these flowers, a gift from you that I have tended and cared for, and now bring back to you.” or “I pour out this grain, sustenance that you provided to me, and so I now give back in part to you.”

And finally, for the last bit, just tie it all up with who you called, and ask them to take their offering, saying something like:

“Earth Mother, accept my offering!”

So we end up with this as our invocation to the Earth Mother:

I call out to the Earth Mother,
All-Mother, Mother of All.
You who support and sustain us,
Ever present in our lives and giving life to all.
It is right and proper that we call to you first,
as you brought forth the first life.
I bring you these flowers,
a gift from you that I have tended and cared for,
and now bring back to you.
Earth Mother, accept my offering!

Here's the simple formula you can use:

Hey, you're a Spirit!
Here's why you're awesome!
We're honoring you on this day.
Here's your offering.
It's appropriate to give to you at this time because Reasons.
Here's how it is given to you and how you receive it.
Yay, Spirit! Take your gift!

Writing Prayers For Petitions

Like writing prayers or evocations for various spirits in a ritual context, you may find that you need to petition a spirit for help with a specific thing.

When writing a prayer to petition for help, the first thing you might want to do is call out to spirit if you are asking a specific one for help. Next, if you want to flesh that out a little bit, you can see if

the spirit you're calling has any other names or titles that they go by. So, let's say I want to call on a deity of healing when I am struggling with depression. I might start that prayer like this:

"Brigid, Bright Lady"

Next let the spirit know why you are calling to them specifically. So I may say:

"Goddess of Healing" or "You who cradle the hurt in your arms" or "Your healing fire warms the spirit of those in pain"

The next part for this type of prayer is to let them know what you need help with:

"I am struggling with depression and need help."

Next, you may want to flesh the prayer out with exactly what kind of help you're looking for. Some things you could add to this type of prayer are:

"I need to find my center" or "I need to get through my day" or "I need to get out of the house be able to interact with people."

You may wish to offer a spirit you've called an offering, and to tell them why you brought that specific gift for them. If so, the next part of your prayer could be:

"I bring oil for your fire, that it may burn bright for the help I'm requesting."

Finally, you can finish the prayer up by reiterating who you've called for help, and why you need it:

"Bright Brigid, I need your help to fight this depression, be with me now."

So, we end up with a prayer something like this for when we're struggling with depression:

Brigid, Bright Lady, Goddess of Healing.
You who cradle the hurt in your arms.
You whose healing fire warms the spirit of those in pain.
I am struggling with depression and need help.
I need to find my center and make it through my day.
I need to get out of the house be able to interact with people.
I bring oil for your fire, that it may burn bright for the help I'm requesting.
Bright Brigid, I need your help to fight this depression, be with me now.

Here's the simple formula you can use:

Hey, you're a Spirit!
Here's why I called you!
I need help with this Thing.
Here's your offering and why.
Hey, Spirit! I need this help and I need you!

Writing Prayers for Specific Scenarios

Sometimes you may feel the need to write a prayer to mark an action you are doing as sacred. Remember, these are by no means requirements you must follow to write a prayer, but rather one example of guidelines and a template you may use.

So, let's say I like to meditate everyday, but want to find a way to make that practice feel more spiritual. I may start that prayer by simply stating what it is that I am preparing to do. In this case, I may begin by saying:

“I sit down today to meditate”

Next, you could say why you are doing the thing.

“In order to find my Center and deepen my connections to the Spirits.”

I like to visualize what I am doing next. In many cases the reason we feel drawn to write these prayers is to move our action from the mundane to the sacred. I find that visualizing what we want to happen on a more spiritual level helps me to make that shift in space. So, in this prayer I may see in my mind's eye a sacred flame burning within my heart:

“The fire in my heart flickers and flames. Its glow warms my heart and my soul.”

Next, I want to visualize the change that I want to happen during this task that I undertake. In the case of my prayer before meditation I want to see that flame I visualized grow and fill me with its brightness and warmth as I breathe:

“May the light and warmth spread throughout me, as I breathe its embers to life.”

So, I end up with a prayer to say before meditation that looks something like this:

I sit down today to meditate in order to find my Center
And deepen my connections to the Spirits.
The fire in my heart flickers and flames.
Its glow warms my heart and my soul.
May the light and warmth spread throughout me,
as I breathe its embers to life.

Here's the simple formula you can use:

Here's what I'm getting ready to do.
Here's why I'm doing it.
Here's how I visualize beginning the task.
Here's is the change that will happen as I complete it.

Virtues

The Nine ADF Virtues are wisdom, piety, vision, courage, integrity, perseverance, hospitality, moderation, and fertility. These qualities are something that ADF asks its Dedicants to reflect on. As Hearth Keepers, one of the things we can look at is what these virtues mean to us and how they can influence the ways in which we live our lives. There are reflection questions included below for you to consider. In doing we hope you may find ways for your Hearth to live and embody these virtues, and what that might look like in your daily life. In reflecting you may also find that certain virtues do not fit well for your Hearth and need to be either removed or renamed, or that additional ones need to be added to your Hearth's list of virtues. The most important thing for Hearth Keepers regarding the virtues is to reflect on them and decide how they can influence your life, or not, as the case may be.

The virtues are loosely divided up into groups of three. The first triad relates to qualities of a spiritual nature. They encourage personal reflection on how we live our lives. The second triad relates to qualities that help you through difficult times, whether they are physical or mental challenges. The third triad relates to qualities that describe ways we interact with the world around us.

The definitions in this section refer to *Our Own Druidry*, which is the ADF Dedicant Path manual. You can find it for free as a .pdf file in the Dedicant section of the ADF website.

The First Triad

Wisdom

Our Own Druidry defines wisdom as: good judgment, the ability to perceive people and situations correctly, deliberate about and decide on the correct response.

Piety

Our Own Druidry defines piety as: correct observance of ritual and social traditions; the maintenance of the agreements, both personal and societal, that we humans have with the Gods and Spirits. Keeping the Old Ways, through ceremony and duty.

Vision

Our Own Druidry defines vision as: The ability to broaden one's perspective to have a greater understanding of our place/role in the cosmos, relating to the past, present, and future.

The Second Triad

Courage

Our Own Druidry defines courage as: the ability to act appropriately in the face of adversity.

Integrity

Our Own Druidry defines integrity as: Honor; being true to one's self and to others, involving oath-keeping, honesty, fairness, respect, and self-confidence.

Perseverance

Our Own Druidry defines perseverance as: Drive; the motivation to pursue goals even when that pursuit becomes difficult.

The Third Triad

Hospitality

Our Own Druidry defines hospitality as: Acting as both gracious host and appreciative guest, involving benevolence, friendliness, humor, and the honoring of a gift for a gift.

Moderation

Our Own Druidry defines moderation as: Cultivating one's appetites so that one is neither a slave to them nor driven to ill health (mental or physical) through excess or deficiency

Fertility

Our Own Druidry defines fertility as: bounty of mind, body, and spirit involving creativity and industry, and appreciation of the physical and sensual, nurturing these qualities in others.

Reflecting on the Virtues

There are some basic questions you can ask yourself when thinking about the Virtues. The questions below can be thought about for each of the virtues. Feel free to write your reflections down if you wish, or discuss them with other members of your Hearth, or even with other Hearth Keepers across ADF.

1. Do you have a quote from a favorite book or movie that seems to exemplify this virtue? Why does it reflect this virtue?
2. Are there any people, whether they are fictional, famous, or someone you know in real life, who exemplify this virtue? How do they exemplify it? What do they think or do?
3. Are there any deities or other spirits that exemplify this virtue? How do they exemplify it? What do they think or do?
4. Do you think people or spirits must show this virtue all the time to be considered acting in accordance with it? If not, how often must someone show this virtue in order to be this virtue? (ex: How often must someone show Wisdom in order to be considered Wise?)
5. Are there specific knowledge or actions that show this virtue demonstrated?
6. Are there myths (historical or modern) in various cultures that demonstrate this virtue?
7. How is this virtue acquired? Is it something you need to learn, or is it something you just are?

8. How do you exhibit this virtue in your life? If there are times you didn't, how did that make you feel?
9. Do you think this a worthwhile quality or virtue to focus on? Why or why not? Could it be better named or defined to make more relateable or worthwhile?

And finally, are there any other qualities you value in your life that you feel the need to include in a personal set of virtues? Do you need to add any to this list of nine? What qualities would you like to include in your personal or Hearth list of virtues?

Keeping the Holy Days of Our Druidry

Once you have established your Hearth, and lit your hearthfire, it is time to settle down to the work of practicing our religion. You may include other family members and children who are being raised in this path. As Druids we acknowledge and honor the cycle of the seasons. This includes rites that correspond to both the lunar and solar cycles.

The work of the ADF Hearth Keepers focuses first and foremost on the lunar cycles. This means aligning our worship to the phases of the moon, and doing specific work at specific times. The lunar cycles are those we can most easily see and track without the use of a calendar. During the lunar celebrations the focus of our work will be to reconnect our own hearth flame to the ADF Unity Flame.

Those who practice ADF Druidry are also expected to keep the solar celebrations, either as a Hearth Keeper or with a grove. This includes the solstices, equinoxes, and the cross-quarters between them. These cycles are more difficult to track without a calendar, but we can note their changes by observing the world around us. During the solar celebrations the focus of our work will be to examine and celebrate the different forms our hearth flame can take.

The scripts throughout this section will all look similar; this is intentional. This book is designed to be accessible to those new to paganism while still being meaningful to those we have an established practice. Feel free to modify, add, or remove pieces for the prayers and rituals included within. We will note which elements of the scripts are essential and should not be removed, though you are still welcome to adapt those to best fit your needs. Often, the parts listed as [Hearth Keeper Essential] are important because they directly relate to the purpose of the rite, but also because they are cornerstones of the shared practice that the Hearth Keepers Way has. As our Hearths across the globe maintain the same practice, we are joined across time and space by the fellowship of this shared ritual work.

Lunar Celebrations

As Hearth Keepers, we focus on the lunar cycles, as they allow for frequent and consistent worship at our Hearths. The basic structure of a Hearth Keeper lunar rite is the same for each one, though the details and workings may change with each rite, if the needs of the Hearth require it.

The moon phase that we specifically work with as Hearth Keepers is the New Moon. The New Moon, however, is not as marked on a lunar calendar, but rather, is when the first sliver of the Moon is seen in the sky. This will fall approximately two nights after the New Moon as marked on a calendar.

We encourage you to watch for this event yourselves, rather than relying on a calendar. Look for the moon in the sky, behold it with your own eyes. If you have children, encourage them to look for it also. This grounds our Druidry in the physical cycles of the Moon; it becomes tangible.

One of the beautiful things about becoming a Hearth of ADF is knowing that there are others worshipping with you, all around the world. When we sit down at our tables for our shared meal

with the Allies of our Hearths, there are others doing the same thing as you. We are joining together, across distances small and large, in the worship of the Kindreds, around one glowing Fire.

Celebrating the New Moon as a Hearth Keeper

Meal Rites

This rite is formatted as a Meal Rite. Meal rites are set up so that they can occur any time your Hearth is eating food together. This may mean that you are a solitary sitting down for snack, and you have chosen that time to invite the Kindreds to join you and intentionally share that food with them. This may mean that you are worshipping with your family and preparing an additional plate of food with dinner so that you may invite the Kindreds to join you for the meal. Meal rites take the idea of sitting down to a family dinner one step further by including the Kindreds as members of the family for that time.

Most often meal rites take place around the dining room or kitchen table, but they can occur wherever is most convenient for your Hearth. If a full meal ritual is not desired or appropriate, the shared food offering can be given at a later time that day when it makes sense for you and your situation. Sometimes we are the only member of our family who is engaging in this worship. Sometimes we have kids that may not be able to sit through a whole meal, much less a meal plus a ritual. In situations such as these, feel free to adapt the structure of this rite to better fit your circumstances. It may mean adjusting the timing of your rite so that all members of your Hearth can be present. It may mean saving a portion of the food from the meal, and performing the rite at a later time when the offerings can be made. If performing this rite as a Meal Rite isn't feasible for your Hearth, choosing to do this rite in a more traditional ritual format is okay. Adapting the rite to fit the needs of your Hearth is not only acceptable, but encouraged.

Preparation Prior to the Rite

If you are performing this rite as written, without other adaptations, there are three basic ways to organize the rite: the gathered Hearth may eat its meal in the middle of the rite, they may eat after the first offering is given, or, they may give that first offering and then complete the rite, eating together when the rite has come to a close.

Prior to the rite beginning, all who are participating in the rite should wash their hands and face before coming to the table.

If doing this rite as written you will need:

- A meal
- Offerings for:
 - the Hearth Deities
 - the Earth Mother
 - the Three Kindreds
 - the Prayer of Sacrifice
- A celan plate and food offering for the Allies of the Hearth
- A representation for the Fire, Well, and Tree
- A divination set
- Something to drink

A Hearth Keepers' New Moon Rite

Establishing the Group Mind [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I (we), [insert Hearth name if applicable], am a tree in the Grove of Ár nDraíocht Féin. As my spine straightens, my roots entwine with the trees in the grove and my branches provide shade for the me (the members of our Hearth). The fire within me (each of us) is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit.

Initiating the Rite

I come to this space with cleansed body and hands and open mind, ready to honor the spirits. I now set aside those things of the mundane world that would trouble this rite.

The Hearth and our Allies [Hearth Keeper Essential]

The Hearth

Born in the Waters, kindled on the Land,
With a pillar of smoke that supports the Heavens,
This Fire burns at the Center of All
To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill
Join with our common hearth, that these flames be one

Sacred Keepers of the Flame, shine within me here today.
Take these words and deeds above, accept my offerings.
Purify me, lead and guide me, aid me as I pray,
fill my heart with hope and love, illuminate my way.

make offering

Earth Mother

Earth Mother, I call upon you to uphold and bless this rite.
Each day you sustain us, nurturing our bodies and souls with your bounty.
Each day, I remember what you do for us, and I seek to bless you in return,
With my language, with my actions, with my love.
Accept this offering, Earth Mother, and be welcome at this Hearth.

make offering

Inspiration

Inspiration, ignite the fire in my head and let it pour forth as I offer praise.

Purpose and Precedent [Hearth Keeper Essential]

As the moon in its cycle is timeless, so do I, [insert Hearth Name if applicable], gather again to honor the allies of my home and hearth, that I may be in harmony with the Grove of ADF and

deepen my relationship with the spirits. We come now under the light of the New Moon, beginning a new month of connection and fellowship with the spirits, other Hearths, and the Grove of ADF. As my Ancestors did before, so I do now, so may my descendants do in the future.

I come now to the center of worlds:

The Sacred Center

Recreating the Cosmos

Waters of the deep, rise up and fill me with your potential.
Fires of the Sky, shine down and illuminate me with your clarity.
Water and Fire, primal powers, merge within me to make magic.

I come to the center of worlds,
Between the Land and Sky and Sea,
To offer to the powers through the Sacred center.

Fire, burn bright with my offerings.
Well, flow deep with my song.
Tree, reach to the realms with your branches,
Carry my voice along.

Opening the Gates

Gatekeeper, you who stand watchful and ever ready to lend your aid,
I call on you now to be with me as I open the Gates between Worlds.

Flame at the center of all,
be my gate to the lands of the Holy Ones,
opening to their realms.
May my prayers enter you,
and be there transformed:
breath into spirit,
offerings to spirit.
May the gates be open! (Ceisiwr Serith, adapted)

Inviting the Three Kindreds

I welcome the Holy Ones to my home:
Nature Spirits, allies of this abundant Land, my neighbors on the body of the Earth.
Ancestors, blood, kin, and spirit, the roots and branches of my past.
Deities, Shining Ones, wise and mighty in myriad ways.
Blessings and honor to you, Kindred. Accept these offerings, and be welcome at this Hearth.

make offering

Key Offerings [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I call now to those Allies of my Hearth. [insert names of allies if known]. I call to you tonight as I call to you in each rite of this Hearth. You lend your magic to me as we join in a relationship of **ghostis* and hospitality. My Hearth honors you first and foremost at this altar.

Around this table, gathered for this meal, the first portion is set aside for You, Allies of the Hearth. Join with me in love and in magic, join with me under the light of the New Moon. Be welcome at my fire and accept my offerings.

make offering

Prayer Spoken Over the Meal

From the bounty of the Earth I have received this food.
From the work of my hands I have earned this food.
From the gratitude of my heart I have blessed this food.

The food is consumed, or set aside for after the rite

Prayer of Sacrifice

All I have done here becomes but one offering.
Accept this sacrifice, Holy Ones.
My keeping of the Old Ways with words, deeds, and gifts.
Accept this sacrifice, Holy Ones.
May my offerings be received in the realms of the spirits.
Accept this sacrifice, Holy Ones!

make offering

Omen

We ask now for an omen to guide the work of our Hearth for the coming month.

take an omen to gain wisdom

Return Flow

Mighty Kindreds, I have heard your voices.
You have spoken to me with blessing.
Pour out the waters with your gifts, I pray.
Kindreds, grant me the waters.

Gifts of the Kindreds, come to me.
Gifts of our Allies, come to me.
Gifts of [the omen], come to me.
Kindreds, hallow these waters.

Power of the spirits, flowing through me
Power of the spirits, shining in me
Power of the spirits, growing with me

Behold the Waters of Life!

Lunar Working: Blessing the Hearth and Hearth Keepers [Hearth Keeper Essential]

With wisdom gained, I now ask the Mighty Kindreds, give of your blessings so that I might have them in my life as I establish this Hearth.

As I share this cup with you [and the members of myHearth], I know it is filled with the blessings of the spirits. As I drink these blessings, I welcome this relationship with the Allies of my Hearth.

drink of the cup

I stand in this sacred space now, knowing that so too do all the other Hearth Keepers across ADF. The sparks of our hearthfires light up the night sky. I join with them now in reaffirming my oath:

“I, [insert name], am a Hearth Keeper of ADF, [a member of Hearth Name (if applicable)]. For as long as my path aligns with this work, I will welcome the gods and spirits into my home and my heart. I will keep the holy days of OurDruidry. I will live a pagan life.”

My hearthfire burns brightly here upon my altar. It marks the Center of all the realms. Its flame is reflected in all the flames of Hearth Keepers of ADF. With our fires burning strong together, may we each burn brighter in our practice and our faith.

Restoration of the Ordinary

To the Allies of our Hearth, for joining me here in this rite, I thank you.

To the Three Kindreds, for joining me here in this rite, I thank you.

To the Gatekeeper, for joining me here in this rite, I thank you. As I depart from the Crossroads, let all be as it was before, save for the magic we have done here today.

To Inspiration, for joining me here in this rite, I thank you.

To the Earth Mother, for joining me here in this rite, I thank you.

Having reconnected [insert Hearth name if applicable] to the Grove of ADF, and having gained wisdom for this Hearth, this rite is now ended. I go now in peace and fellowship.

Solar Celebrations

As ADF Druids we also keep the solar celebrations: the solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarters between them. The approximate dates for each are set forth below, but your Hearth is free to observe them on the astronomical date or the day when a change is observed in the natural world.

Those who practice ADF Druidry are expected to keep the solar celebrations as well. This includes the solstices, equinoxes, and the cross-quarters between them. These cycles are more difficult to track without a calendar, but we can note their changes by observing the world around us. The holy days listed below are formatted as Northern Hemisphere/Southern Hemisphere.

Autumn Cross-Quarter (November/May 1st)
Winter Solstice (December/June 21st)
Winter Cross-Quarter (February/August 1st)
Spring Equinox (March/September 21st)
Spring Cross-Quarter (May/November 1st)
Summer Solstice (June/December 21st)
Summer Cross-Quarter (August/February 1st)
Autumn Equinox (September/March 21st)

We have included below a basic script for each High Day. You may use it as written or modify it to better fit your circumstances or your Hearth practices. We've also included a virtue to reflect on for each High Day. You will notice that Piety is not included in the virtues listed. This is because by maintaining the practice of keeping the holy days you are already embodying and reflecting on Piety.

The Flames of the Season

One of the unifying practices for Hearth Keepers is a focus during the Solar Celebrations on a "Flame of the Season," which are the seasonal workings included in each of the ritual scripts below. Within these workings you are encouraged to light an additional candle (or representation of fire) and use it as a focus to think on the themes commonly associated with the High Day. You're also encouraged to kindle that Flame in your heart, reflect on its meaning, and allow yourself to be imbued with the power of that Flame.

Autumn Cross-Quarter

The autumn cross quarter, often called Samhain, is a time of remembrance for the dead. It is referred to as the time when the veil between the worlds is thinnest, and thus it is a liminal time when we can more easily communicate with the Mighty Dead, Ancient Wise, and the Beloved Dead. It is also the final of the three harvest festivals when the animals that won't make it through the winter are culled from the herd. With that final bounty of food, it is often a time for a great feast honoring those who have passed.

As Hearth Keepers, during this High Day we honor the Flame of Remembrance - During this time of the Autumn Cross-Quarter we stop to take a moment to remember those we love and honor of our hearth and heart. Focus on the flame and remember those Ancestors who have impacted your life.

As we prepare to celebrate the season, we've included in the ritual script a few Pan-Indo-European beings that are commonly associated with the High Day: the Ancestors and the Fates. We have also noted the Virtue that is the focus for this High Day (Wisdom). As with the other Hearth Keeper ritual scripts, feel free to modify, add, or remove pieces for the prayers and rituals included within to best meet the needs and cultural focus of your Hearth. We will note which elements of the scripts are essential and should not be removed, though you are still welcome to adapt those to best fit your needs.

If doing this rite as written you will need:

- Offerings for:
 - The Hearth Deities
 - the Earth Mother
 - the Ancestors
 - the Nature Spirits
 - the Shining Ones
 - the Being of the Occasion
 - the Prayer of Sacrifice
- A representation for the Fire, Well, and Tree
- A divination set
- Something to drink
- A candle or other representation for the Flame of the Season

Opening Prayer [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I (we), [insert Hearth name if applicable], am a tree in the Grove of Ár nDraíocht Féin. As my spine straightens, my roots entwine with the trees in the grove and my branches provide shade for the me (the members of our Hearth). The fire within me (each of us) is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit.

Initiating the Rite

Breathing In I take a moment to give thanks for life.

Breathing Out I let my frustrations go.

Breathing In I feel the air energize my body.

Breathing Out I feel my body relax.

Pause for a moment to center

I come to this space with my mind free of worries.

I come to this space with my heart free of cares.

I come to this space to worship the Kindreds and build on the work I have done here before.

The Hearth and our Allies

The Hearth

Born in the Waters, kindled on the Land,
With a pillar of smoke that supports the Heavens,
This Fire burns at the Center of All
To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill
Join with our common hearth, that these flames be one

Sacred Keepers of the Flame, shine within me here today.
Take these words and deeds above, accept my offerings.
Purify me, lead and guide me, aid me as I pray,
Fill my heart with hope and love, illuminate my way.

make offering

Earth Mother

A Child of the Earth calls out to the Mother.
Earth Mother, you are my foundation, my place of safety, and the source of my strength.
From you came all life and to you all life will return.
I give you this offering in gratitude and love.
Earth Mother, accept my offering.

make offering

Inspiration

May the powers of inspiration flow through me to give me ease of speech and lightness of heart.

Purpose and Precedent [Hearth Keeper Essential]

As the sun moves in its timeless cycle, so do I, [insert Hearth Name if applicable], gather again to honor the allies of my home and hearth, that I may be in harmony with the Grove of ADF and deepen my relationship with the spirits. I come now under the light of the sun, beginning a new season of connection and fellowship with the spirits, other Hearths, and the Grove of ADF. As my Ancestors did before, so I do now, so may my descendants do in the future.

As the darkness falls in the twilight of this year, I Kindle the Hearthfire and call out to the ancestors. Beloved dead of heart, mind, and blood, help me through these long nights. Fill my heart with love and memories of you as I create new memories and bonds with those I love.

The Sacred Center

Sacred Well, waters so deep.
Reaching to the realms beneath.
Bring to my life the powers you grant.
Creation, Wisdom, Destiny.
Through the powers of chaos, connect me to the Ancestor's realm.

Sacred Fire, Flames so bright.
Reaching to the realms on high.
Bring to my Gods the words I pray.
Honor, Ghosts, Piety.
Through the powers of order, connect me to the Shining Ones realm.

Sacred Tree, pillar so great.
Spanning worlds, connecting the gates.
Bring to the worlds my actions this day.
Trueness, fairness, honesty.
Connecting the powers above and below, we are shown the realm of the Nature Kin.

Sacred Center of the Worlds, Fire, Well, and Tree.
Connect me to the realms about.
With sky above, and land around, and in the waters deep.
In this place I meet the Kindreds.

Opening the Gates

Sacred Keeper of the ways between the worlds.
Join your magic with mine as I open the gates between the worlds.
Gatekeeper, let the gates be open!

Inviting the Three Kindreds

Spirits of Nature, may I learn to walk gently through this world. May I endeavour to protect you and our mother. May I remember that even the smallest things help to renew and restore our world.
Spirits of Nature, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Ancestors of blood, I thank you for the choices you made to bring me into existence.
Ancestors of heart, I thank you for the gifts and love you have brought to my life.
Ancestors of mind, I thank you for the challenge to grow in my journey.

Ancestors, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Shining Ones, may I learn to walk with courage in this world. May I endeavour to do the work you set in front of me. May I remember the lessons you have taught through the ages. Shining Ones, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Key Offerings [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I call now to the Ancestors of my Hearth. [insert names of ancestors if known]. I call you to be my guests of honor. May you feel welcome at my fire and join with me today in this rite of honor to you. Ancestors, I give you praise and invite you to my fire!

make offering

Prayer of Sacrifice

Kindreds I have made offerings to you of gifts and praise. Accept this my final sacrifice!

make offering

Omen

May wisdom flow through the omens to bring to me a message and gift for the coming season.

Take omen

Return Flow

I have offered to you and you have blessed me with your wisdom.
I ask now that you pour out the waters and infuse them with your gifts.
By the powers of the Nature Spirits,
by the powers of the Ancestors,
by the powers of the Shining Ones,
fill these waters with wisdom and (omen).
Behold the waters of life!

drink of the cup

Seasonal Working [Hearth Keeper Essential]

Kindle the Flame of Remembrance in your heart. Stop to remember those you love and honor of hearth and heart. Focus on the flame in your heart and remember those Ancestors who have impacted your life. (You can recite their names, look at pictures of them, enjoy telling or writing down your favorite stories of your ancestors).

Restoration of the Ordinary

To the beloved Ancestors of my Hearth, I thank you.

To the mighty Kindreds, I thank you.

To the Gatekeeper, for watching and warding the ways I thank you. As I depart from the Crossroads, let all be as it was before, save for the magic I have done here today.

Let the Gates be Closed!

Inspiration, I thank you for letting my voice flow clearly.

Earth Mother, for always sustaining me in my life and work, I thank you.

To the Hearth Deity, I thank you for your presence and protection in my life.

Kindreds all I thank you!

As I have given honor today, so will I do again. Help me to hold the virtues in my heart: to walk with wisdom, have a pious heart, see clearly with vision, go forth with courage, act always with integrity, persevere, live with hospitality, be moderate in my actions, live a life of fertile creativity, and to have compassion in my heart.

This rite is now ended. May all depart in peace and fellowship.

Winter Solstice

Winter Solstice, often called Yule, is the longest night of the year. It is seen as a time of death and rebirth. It is the darkest night, but from that point on the days will get longer each day, and so hope is renewed. At this point we know that the winter will not keep getting darker and that it will end.

As Hearth Keepers, during this High Day we honor the Flame of Hospitality - During this time of the Winter Solstice we celebrate the coming together of those we love and honor at our Hearth. Focus on the flame and envision how you want to host others in hospitality this coming year. How do you see your home and Hearth welcoming others?

As we prepare to celebrate the season, we've included in the ritual script a few Pan-Indo-European beings that are commonly associated with the High Day: the Returning Sun, the Winter Hag. We have also noted the Virtue that is the focus for this High Day (Hospitality). As with the other Hearth Keeper ritual scripts, feel free to modify, add, or remove pieces for the prayers and rituals included within to best meet the needs and cultural focus of your Hearth. We will note which elements of the scripts are essential and should not be removed, though you are still welcome to adapt those to best fit your needs.

If doing this rite as written you will need:

- Offerings for:
 - The Hearth Deities
 - the Earth Mother
 - the Ancestors
 - the Nature Spirits
 - the Shining Ones
 - the Being of the Occasion
 - the Prayer of Sacrifice
- A representation for the Fire, Well, and Tree
- A divination set
- Something to drink
- A candle or other representation for the Flame of the Season

Opening Prayer [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I (we), [insert Hearth name if applicable], am a tree in the Grove of *Ár nDraíocht Féin*. As my spine straightens, my roots entwine with the trees in the grove and my branches provide shade for the me (the members of our Hearth). The fire within me (each of us) is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit.

Initiating the Rite

Breathing In I take a moment to give thanks for life.

Breathing Out I let my frustrations go.

Breathing In I feel the air energize my body.

Breathing Out I feel my body relax.

Pause for a moment to center

I come to this space with my mind free of worries.
I come to this space with my heart free of cares.
I come to this space to worship the Kindreds and build on the work I have done here before.

The Hearth and our Allies

The Hearth

Born in the Waters, kindled on the Land,
With a pillar of smoke that supports the Heavens,
This Fire burns at the Center of All
To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill
Join with our common hearth, that these flames be one

Sacred Keepers of the Flame, shine within me here today.
Take these words and deeds above, accept my offerings.
Purify me, lead and guide me, aid me as I pray,
Fill my heart with hope and love, illuminate my way.

make offering

Earth Mother

A Child of the Earth calls out to the Mother.
Earth Mother, you are my foundation, my place of safety, and the source of my strength.
From you came all life and to you all life will return.
I give you this offering in gratitude and love.
Earth Mother, accept my offering.

make offering

Inspiration

May the powers of inspiration flow through me to give me ease of speech and lightness of heart.

Purpose and Precedent [Hearth Keeper Essential]

As the sun moves in its timeless cycle, so do I, [insert Hearth Name if applicable], gather again to honor the allies of my home and hearth, that I may be in harmony with the Grove of ADF and deepen my relationship with the spirits. I come now under the light of the sun, beginning a new season of connection and fellowship with the spirits, other Hearths, and the Grove of ADF. As my Ancestors did before, so I do now, so may my descendants do in the future.

As the darkest night comes, I kindle the Hearthfire and call out to the Returning Sun. Light of the season, bring me joy and hope for the return of your rays! May I be hospitable with those I meet and share my joy with others.

The Sacred Center

Sacred Well, waters so deep.
Reaching to the realms beneath.
Bring to my life the powers you grant.
Creation, Wisdom, Destiny.
Through the powers of chaos, connect me to the Ancestor's realm.

Sacred Fire, Flames so bright.
Reaching to the realms on high.
Bring to my Gods the words I pray.
Honor, Ghosti, Piety.
Through the powers of order, connect me to the Shining Ones realm.

Sacred Tree, pillar so great.
Spanning worlds, connecting the gates.
Bring to the worlds my actions this day.
Trueness, fairness, honesty.
Connecting the powers above and below, we are shown the realm of the Nature Kin.

Sacred Center of the Worlds, Fire, Well, and Tree.
Connect me to the realms about.
With sky above, and land around, and in the waters deep.
In this place I meet the Kindreds.

Opening the Gates

Sacred Keeper of the ways between the worlds.
Join your magic with mine as I open the gates between the worlds.
Gatekeeper, let the gates be open!

Inviting the Three Kindreds

Spirits of Nature, may I learn to walk gently through this world. May I endeavour to protect you and our mother. May I remember that even the smallest things help to renew and restore our world.
Spirits of Nature, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Ancestors of blood, I thank you for the choices you made to bring me into existence.
Ancestors of heart, I thank you for the gifts and love you have brought to my life.
Ancestors of mind, I thank you for the challenge to grow in my journey.
Ancestors, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Shining Ones, may I learn to walk with courage in this world. May I endeavour to do the work you set in front of me. May I remember the lessons you have taught through the ages. Shining Ones, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Key Offerings [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I call now to the Returning Sun of my Hearth. I call you to be my guest of honor. May you feel welcome at my fire and join with me today in this rite of honor to you. The Bright Returning Sun, I give you praise and invite you to my fire!

make offering

Prayer of Sacrifice

Kindreds I have made offerings to you of gifts and praise. Accept this my final sacrifice!

make offering

Omen

May wisdom flow through the omens to bring to me a message and gift for the coming season.

Take omen

Return Flow

I have offered to you and you have blessed me with your wisdom.
I ask now that you pour out the waters and infuse them with your gifts.
By the powers of the Nature Spirits,
by the powers of the Ancestors,
by the powers of the Shining Ones,
fill these waters with hospitality and (omen).
Behold the waters of life!

drink of the cup

Seasonal Working [Hearth Keeper Essential]

Kindle the Flame of Hospitality in your heart. During this time of the Winter Solstice we celebrate the coming together of those we love and honor at our Hearth. Focus on the flame and envision how you want to host others in hospitality this coming year. How do you see your home and Hearth welcoming others?

Restoration of the Ordinary

To the the Returning Sun, I thank you.
To the mighty Kindreds, I thank you.
To the Gatekeeper, for watching and warding the ways I thank you. As I depart from the Crossroads, let all be as it was before, save for the magic I have done here today.
Let the Gates be Closed!
Inspiration, I thank you for letting my voice flow clearly.

Earth Mother, for always sustaining me in my life and work, I thank you.
To the Hearth Deity, I thank you for your presence and protection in my life.
Kindreds all I thank you!

As I have given honor today, so will I do again. Help me to hold the virtues in my heart: to walk with wisdom, have a pious heart, see clearly with vision, go forth with courage, act always with integrity, persevere, live with hospitality, be moderate in my actions, live a life of fertile creativity, and to have compassion in my heart.

This rite is now ended. May all depart in peace and fellowship.

Winter Cross-Quarter

The winter cross quarter, often called Imbolc, is the time of year when the first signs of life are seen again, signaling that the winter is coming to a close and spring is just around the corner. Imbolc celebrates the fire that burns within, and the hearth. This is likely because the family stays together and remains around the hearth more in the deepest cold of wintertime.

As Hearth Keepers, during this High Day we honor the Flame of Purification - During this time of the Winter Cross-Quarter we take the time to let go of the things that no longer serve our lives. Focus on the flame and release the pain of what you have done wrong. Seek to make right what you can, but also use this time to seek to identify and put into action how you can become the best version of yourself.

As we prepare to celebrate the season, we've included in the ritual script a few Pan-Indo-European beings that are commonly associated with the High Day: the Hearth Deities. We have also noted the Virtue that is the focus for this High Day (Vision). As with the other Hearth Keeper ritual scripts, feel free to modify, add, or remove pieces for the prayers and rituals included within to best meet the needs and cultural focus of your Hearth. We will note which elements of the scripts are essential and should not be removed, though you are still welcome to adapt those to best fit your needs.

If doing this rite as written you will need:

- Offerings for:
 - The Hearth Deities
 - the Earth Mother
 - the Ancestors
 - the Nature Spirits
 - the Shining Ones
 - the Being of the Occasion
 - the Prayer of Sacrifice
- A representation for the Fire, Well, and Tree
- A divination set
- Something to drink
- A candle or other representation for the Flame of the Season
-

Opening Prayer [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I (we), [insert Hearth name if applicable], am a tree in the Grove of Ár nDraíocht Féin. As my spine straightens, my roots entwine with the trees in the grove and my branches provide shade for the me (the members of our Hearth). The fire within me (each of us) is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit.

Initiating the Rite

Breathing In I take a moment to give thanks for life.

Breathing Out I let my frustrations go.

Breathing In I feel the air energize my body.

Breathing Out I feel my body relax.

Pause for a moment to center

I come to this space with my mind free of worries.
I come to this space with my heart free of cares.
I come to this space to worship the Kindreds and build on the work I have done here before.

The Hearth and our Allies

The Hearth

Born in the Waters, kindled on the Land,
With a pillar of smoke that supports the Heavens,
This Fire burns at the Center of All
To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill
Join with our common hearth, that these flames be one

Sacred Keepers of the Flame, shine within me here today.
Take these words and deeds above, accept my offerings.
Purify me, lead and guide me, aid me as I pray,
Fill my heart with hope and love, illuminate my way.

make offering

Earth Mother

A Child of the Earth calls out to the Mother.
Earth Mother, you are my foundation, my place of safety, and the source of my strength.
From you came all life and to you all life will return.
I give you this offering in gratitude and love.
Earth Mother, accept my offering.

make offering

Inspiration

May the powers of inspiration flow through me to give me ease of speech and lightness of heart.

Purpose and Precedent [Hearth Keeper Essential]

As the sun moves in its timeless cycle, so do I, [insert Hearth Name if applicable], gather again to honor the allies of my home and hearth, that I may be in harmony with the Grove of ADF and deepen my relationship with the spirits. I come now under the light of the sun, beginning a new season of connection and fellowship with the spirits, other Hearths, and the Grove of ADF. As my Ancestors did before, so I do now, so may my descendants do in the future.

As we move through the dark time of the year, I kindle the Hearthfire and call out to the Hearth Deities. I call to you this day to purify my heart and mind. Show me how to move forward from my

past and purify my life to begin anew. May I have vision to see how this new me will manifest into the world.

The Sacred Center

Sacred Well, waters so deep.
Reaching to the realms beneath.
Bring to my life the powers you grant.
Creation, Wisdom, Destiny.
Through the powers of chaos, connect me to the Ancestor's realm.

Sacred Fire, Flames so bright.
Reaching to the realms on high.
Bring to my Gods the words I pray.
Honor, Ghosti, Piety.
Through the powers of order, connect me to the Shining Ones realm.

Sacred Tree, pillar so great.
Spanning worlds, connecting the gates.
Bring to the worlds my actions this day.
Trueness, fairness, honesty.
Connecting the powers above and below, we are shown the realm of the Nature Kin.

Sacred Center of the Worlds, Fire, Well, and Tree.
Connect me to the realms about.
With sky above, and land around, and in the waters deep.
In this place I meet the Kindreds.

Opening the Gates

Sacred Keeper of the ways between the worlds.
Join your magic with mine as I open the gates between the worlds.
Gatekeeper, let the gates be open!

Inviting the Three Kindreds

Spirits of Nature, may I learn to walk gently through this world. May I endeavour to protect you and our mother. May I remember that even the smallest things help to renew and restore our world.
Spirits of Nature, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Ancestors of blood, I thank you for the choices you made to bring me into existence.
Ancestors of heart, I thank you for the gifts and love you have brought to my life.
Ancestors of mind, I thank you for the challenge to grow in my journey.
Ancestors, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Shining Ones, may I learn to walk with courage in this world. May I endeavour to do the work you set in front of me. May I remember the lessons you have taught through the ages. Shining Ones, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Key Offerings [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I call now to the Deities of my Hearth. [insert names of Hearth Deities if you desire]. I call you to be my guests of honor. May you feel welcome at my fire and join with me today in this rite of honor to you. Hearth Deities, I give you praise and invite you to my fire!

make offering

Prayer of Sacrifice

Kindreds I have made offerings to you of gifts and praise. Accept this my final sacrifice!

make offering

Omen

May wisdom flow through the omens to bring to me a message and gift for the coming season.

Take omen

Return Flow

I have offered to you and you have blessed me with your wisdom.
I ask now that you pour out the waters and infuse them with your gifts.
By the powers of the Nature Spirits,
by the powers of the Ancestors,
by the powers of the Shining Ones,
fill these waters with vision and (omen).
Behold the waters of life!

drink of the cup

Seasonal Working [Hearth Keeper Essential]

Kindle the Flame of Purification in your heart. During this time of the Winter Cross-Quarter we take time to let go of the things that no longer serve our lives. Focus on the flame and release any pain of what you may have done wrong. Seek to make right what you can, but also use this time to seek to identify and put into action how you can become the best version of yourself.

Restoration of the Ordinary

To the Hearth Deities, I thank you especially today.
To the mighty Kindreds, I thank you.

To the Gatekeeper, for watching and warding the ways I thank you. As I depart from the Crossroads, let all be as it was before, save for the magic I have done here today.

Let the Gates be Closed!

Inspiration, I thank you for letting my voice flow clearly.

Earth Mother, for always sustaining me in my life and work, I thank you.

And again, to the Hearth Deity, I thank you once more for your presence and protection in my life.

Kindreds all I thank you!

As I have given honor today, so will I do again. Help me to hold the virtues in my heart: to walk with wisdom, have a pious heart, see clearly with vision, go forth with courage, act always with integrity, persevere, live with hospitality, be moderate in my actions, live a life of fertile creativity, and to have compassion in my heart.

This rite is now ended. May all depart in peace and fellowship.

Spring Equinox

Spring Equinox, often called Ostara, is the time of year when winter is finally letting go of the world and the day and night are the same length. It is a time for fertility, new life, and new beginnings. Farmers can begin planting, and new livestock are born to sustain the herds. We focus on perseverance and renewal in particular during this rite because historically this is the leanest part of the year. The food stores from winter were running low, but the new crops hadn't begun growing yet.

As Hearth Keepers, during this High Day we honor the Flame of Renewal - During this time of early spring we stop to renew our vows as tenders of the Hearth Flame. Focus on the flame and envision how you will serve your home and Hearth this coming year.

As we prepare to celebrate the season, we've included in the ritual script a few Pan-Indo-European beings that are commonly associated with the High Day: the Earth Mother. We have also noted the Virtue that is the focus for this High Day (Perseverance). As with the other Hearth Keeper ritual scripts, feel free to modify, add, or remove pieces for the prayers and rituals included within to best meet the needs and cultural focus of your Hearth. We will note which elements of the scripts are essential and should not be removed, though you are still welcome to adapt those to best fit your needs.

If doing this rite as written you will need:

- Offerings for:
 - The Hearth Deities
 - the Earth Mother
 - the Ancestors
 - the Nature Spirits
 - the Shining Ones
 - the Being of the Occasion
 - the Prayer of Sacrifice
- A representation for the Fire, Well, and Tree
- A divination set
- Something to drink
- A candle or other representation for the Flame of the Season

Opening Prayer [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I (we), [insert Hearth name if applicable], am a tree in the Grove of Ár nDraíocht Féin. As my spine straightens, my roots entwine with the trees in the grove and my branches provide shade for the me (the members of our Hearth). The fire within me (each of us) is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit.

Initiating the Rite

Breathing In I take a moment to give thanks for life.

Breathing Out I let my frustrations go.

Breathing In I feel the air energize my body.

Breathing Out I feel my body relax.

Pause for a moment to center

I come to this space with my mind free of worries.
I come to this space with my heart free of cares.
I come to this space to worship the Kindreds and build on the work I have done here before.

The Hearth and our Allies

The Hearth

Born in the Waters, kindled on the Land,
With a pillar of smoke that supports the Heavens,
This Fire burns at the Center of All
To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill
Join with our common hearth, that these flames be one

Sacred Keepers of the Flame, shine within me here today.
Take these words and deeds above, accept my offerings.
Purify me, lead and guide me, aid me as I pray,
Fill my heart with hope and love, illuminate my way.

make offering

Earth Mother

A Child of the Earth calls out to the Mother.
Earth Mother, you are my foundation, my place of safety, and the source of my strength.
From you came all life and to you all life will return.
I give you this offering in gratitude and love.
Earth Mother, accept my offering.

make offering

Inspiration

May the powers of inspiration flow through me to give me ease of speech and lightness of heart.

Purpose and Precedent [Hearth Keeper Essential]

As the sun moves in its timeless cycle, so do I, [insert Hearth Name if applicable], gather again to honor the allies of my home and hearth, that I may be in harmony with the Grove of ADF and deepen my relationship with the spirits. I come now under the light of the sun, beginning a new season of connection and fellowship with the spirits, other Hearths, and the Grove of ADF. As my Ancestors did before, so I do now, so may my descendants do in the future.

As the Earth Mother once again awakens in the world, I kindle the Hearthfire and call out to her. Beloved Mother of Earth, awake and fill our world with wonder! May I strive to persevere in my personal work to uphold you in my life.

The Sacred Center

Sacred Well, waters so deep.
Reaching to the realms beneath.
Bring to my life the powers you grant.
Creation, Wisdom, Destiny.
Through the powers of chaos, connect me to the Ancestor's realm.

Sacred Fire, Flames so bright.
Reaching to the realms on high.
Bring to my Gods the words I pray.
Honor, Ghosti, Piety.
Through the powers of order, connect me to the Shining Ones realm.

Sacred Tree, pillar so great.
Spanning worlds, connecting the gates.
Bring to the worlds my actions this day.
Trueness, fairness, honesty.
Connecting the powers above and below, we are shown the realm of the Nature Kin.

Sacred Center of the Worlds, Fire, Well, and Tree.
Connect me to the realms about.
With sky above, and land around, and in the waters deep.
In this place I meet the Kindreds.

Opening the Gates

Sacred Keeper of the ways between the worlds.
Join your magic with mine as I open the gates between the worlds.
Gatekeeper, let the gates be open!

Inviting the Three Kindreds

Spirits of Nature, may I learn to walk gently through this world. May I endeavour to protect you and our mother. May I remember that even the smallest things help to renew and restore our world.
Spirits of Nature, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Ancestors of blood, I thank you for the choices you made to bring me into existence.
Ancestors of heart, I thank you for the gifts and love you have brought to my life.
Ancestors of mind, I thank you for the challenge to grow in my journey.
Ancestors, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Shining Ones, may I learn to walk with courage in this world. May I endeavour to do the work you set in front of me. May I remember the lessons you have taught through the ages. Shining Ones, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Key Offerings [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I call now to the Earth Mother of my Hearth. [recite her many names if desired]. I call you to be my guest of honor. May you feel welcome at my fire and join with me today in this rite of honor to you. Earth Mother, I give you praise and invite you to my fire!

make offering

Prayer of Sacrifice

Kindreds I have made offerings to you of gifts and praise. Accept this my final sacrifice!

make offering

Omen

May wisdom flow through the omens to bring to me a message and gift for the coming season.

Take omen

Return Flow

I have offered to you and you have blessed me with your wisdom.
I ask now that you pour out the waters and infuse them with your gifts.
By the powers of the Nature Spirits,
by the powers of the Ancestors,
by the powers of the Shining Ones,
fill these waters with perseverance and (omen).
Behold the waters of life!

drink of the cup

Seasonal Working [Hearth Keeper Essential]

Kindle the Flame of Renewal in your heart. During this time of early Spring we stop to renew our vows as tenders of the Hearth Flame. Focus on the flame and envision how you will serve your home and Hearth this coming year.

Restoration of the Ordinary

To the Earth Mother, I thank you especially today.
To the mighty Kindreds, I thank you.

To the Gatekeeper, for watching and warding the ways I thank you. As I depart from the Crossroads, let all be as it was before, save for the magic I have done here today.

Let the Gates be Closed!

Inspiration, I thank you for letting my voice flow clearly.

And again, to the Earth Mother, I thank you once more for always sustaining me in my life and work, I thank you.

To the Hearth Deity, for your presence and protection in my life, I thank you.

Kindreds all I thank you!

As I have given honor today, so will I do again. Help me to hold the virtues in my heart: to walk with wisdom, have a pious heart, see clearly with vision, go forth with courage, act always with integrity, persevere, live with hospitality, be moderate in my actions, live a life of fertile creativity, and to have compassion in my heart.

This rite is now ended. May all depart in peace and fellowship.

Spring Cross-Quarter

The spring cross quarter, often called Beltane, is a time of revelry, and similar to Samhain, is a time when the veil between the worlds is thin. It is another liminal time, though in the case of pop culture it is associated more with fairies and other magical creatures than with the dead. Because of this it is seen as a time when the folk can communicate more easily with the Gods and Nature Spirits.

As Hearth Keepers, during this High Day we honor the Flame of Creativity - During this time of the Spring Cross-Quarter we pause to reflect on the world reawakening and how that manifests in our own creativity. Focus on the flame and envision how you want to expand on your creativity this year. Would you like to paint more, sing more, write more? How will you bring creativity to your Hearth and home this year.

As we prepare to celebrate the season, we've included in the ritual script a few Pan-Indo-European beings that are commonly associated with the High Day: the Nature Spirits. We have also noted the Virtue that is the focus for this High Day (Fertility). As with the other Hearth Keeper ritual scripts, feel free to modify, add, or remove pieces for the prayers and rituals included within to best meet the needs and cultural focus of your Hearth. We will note which elements of the scripts are essential and should not be removed, though you are still welcome to adapt those to best fit your needs.

If doing this rite as written you will need:

- Offerings for:
 - The Hearth Deities
 - the Earth Mother
 - the Ancestors
 - the Nature Spirits
 - the Shining Ones
 - the Being of the Occasion
 - the Prayer of Sacrifice
- A representation for the Fire, Well, and Tree
- A divination set
- Something to drink
- A candle or other representation for the Flame of the Season

Opening Prayer [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I (we), [insert Hearth name if applicable], am a tree in the Grove of Ár nDraíocht Féin. As my spine straightens, my roots entwine with the trees in the grove and my branches provide shade for the me (the members of our Hearth). The fire within me (each of us) is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit.

Initiating the Rite

Breathing In I take a moment to give thanks for life.

Breathing Out I let my frustrations go.

Breathing In I feel the air energize my body.

Breathing Out I feel my body relax.

Pause for a moment to center

I come to this space with my mind free of worries.
I come to this space with my heart free of cares.
I come to this space to worship the Kindreds and build on the work I have done here before.

The Hearth and our Allies

The Hearth

Born in the Waters, kindled on the Land,
With a pillar of smoke that supports the Heavens,
This Fire burns at the Center of All
To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill
Join with our common hearth, that these flames be one

Sacred Keepers of the Flame, shine within me here today.
Take these words and deeds above, accept my offerings.
Purify me, lead and guide me, aid me as I pray,
Fill my heart with hope and love, illuminate my way.

make offering

Earth Mother

A Child of the Earth calls out to the Mother.
Earth Mother, you are my foundation, my place of safety, and the source of my strength.
From you came all life and to you all life will return.
I give you this offering in gratitude and love.
Earth Mother, accept my offering.

make offering

Inspiration

May the powers of inspiration flow through me to give me ease of speech and lightness of heart.

Purpose and Precedent [Hearth Keeper Essential]

As the sun moves in its timeless cycle, so do I, [insert Hearth Name if applicable], gather again to honor the allies of my home and hearth, that I may be in harmony with the Grove of ADF and deepen my relationship with the spirits. I come now under the light of the sun, beginning a new season of connection and fellowship with the spirits, other Hearths, and the Grove of ADF. As my Ancestors did before, so I do now, so may my descendants do in the future.

As the Nature Spirits presence fully manifests in our waking world, I kindle the Hearthfire and call out to those Spirits of Nature. Spirits of the world around me, help me to rejoice in the beauty of the world surrounding me. Fill my heart with wonder as I look upon what nature is revealing at this time of year. May I remember the virtue of fertility, and how preparing my heart and mind for new ideas helps to bring forth wonders into the world.

The Sacred Center

Sacred Well, waters so deep.
Reaching to the realms beneath.
Bring to my life the powers you grant.
Creation, Wisdom, Destiny.
Through the powers of chaos, connect me to the Ancestor's realm.

Sacred Fire, Flames so bright.
Reaching to the realms on high.
Bring to my Gods the words I pray.
Honor, Ghosti, Piety.
Through the powers of order, connect me to the Shining Ones realm.

Sacred Tree, pillar so great.
Spanning worlds, connecting the gates.
Bring to the worlds my actions this day.
Trueness, fairness, honesty.
Connecting the powers above and below, we are shown the realm of the Nature Kin.

Sacred Center of the Worlds, Fire, Well, and Tree.
Connect me to the realms about.
With sky above, and land around, and in the waters deep.
In this place I meet the Kindreds.

Opening the Gates

Sacred Keeper of the ways between the worlds.
Join your magic with mine as I open the gates between the worlds.
Gatekeeper, let the gates be open!

Inviting the Three Kindreds

Spirits of Nature, may I learn to walk gently through this world. May I endeavour to protect you and our mother. May I remember that even the smallest things help to renew and restore our world.
Spirits of Nature, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Ancestors of blood, I thank you for the choices you made to bring me into existence.
Ancestors of heart, I thank you for the gifts and love you have brought to my life.
Ancestors of mind, I thank you for the challenge to grow in my journey.

Ancestors, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Shining Ones, may I learn to walk with courage in this world. May I endeavour to do the work you set in front of me. May I remember the lessons you have taught through the ages. Shining Ones, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Key Offerings [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I call now to the Nature Spirits of my Hearth. [insert names of the Spirits of Nature around your home if known]. I call you to be my guests of honor. May you feel welcome at my fire and join with me today in this rite of honor to you. Nature Spirits, I give you praise and invite you to my fire!

make offering

Prayer of Sacrifice

Kindreds I have made offerings to you of gifts and praise. Accept this my final sacrifice!

make offering

Omen

May wisdom flow through the omens to bring to me a message and gift for the coming season.

Take omen

Return Flow

I have offered to you and you have blessed me with your wisdom.
I ask now that you pour out the waters and infuse them with your gifts.
By the powers of the Nature Spirits,
by the powers of the Ancestors,
by the powers of the Shining Ones,
fill these waters with fertility and (omen).
Behold the waters of life!

drink of the cup

Seasonal Working [Hearth Keeper Essential]

Kindle the Flame of Creativity in your heart. During this time of the Spring Cross-Quarter we pause to reflect on the world reawakening and how that manifests in our own creativity. Focus on the flame and envision how you want to expand on your creativity this year. Would you like to paint more, sing more, write more? How will you bring creativity to your Hearth and home this year.

Restoration of the Ordinary

To the Nature Spirits, I thank you.

To the mighty Kindreds, I thank you.

To the Gatekeeper, for watching and warding the ways I thank you. As I depart from the Crossroads, let all be as it was before, save for the magic I have done here today.

Let the Gates be Closed!

Inspiration, I thank you for letting my voice flow clearly.

Earth Mother, for always sustaining me in my life and work, I thank you.

To the Hearth Deity, I thank you for your presence and protection in my life.

Kindreds all I thank you!

As I have given honor today, so will I do again. Help me to hold the virtues in my heart: to walk with wisdom, have a pious heart, see clearly with vision, go forth with courage, act always with integrity, persevere, live with hospitality, be moderate in my actions, live a life of fertile creativity, and to have compassion in my heart.

This rite is now ended. May all depart in peace and fellowship.

Summer Solstice

Summer Solstice, often called Midsummer or Litha, is the longest day of the year. It is a time to celebrate the glory and power of the sun, as well as the mighty Fire within ourselves. During this celebration there are often many bonfires or other things symbolizes the fire.

As Hearth Keepers, during this High Day we honor the Flame of Awakening - During this Summer Solstice we stop to honor the glorious sun and how its flames bring us awakening in the morning dawn. Focus on the flame and envision how it feels to be woken gently by the sun's rays. Feel how it gently touches your world and shows you new things every day in its brightness. How will you brighten your days in the year to come?

As we prepare to celebrate the season, we've included in the ritual script a few Pan-Indo-European beings that are commonly associated with the High Day: the Sun. We have also noted the Virtue that is the focus for this High Day (Moderation). As with the other Hearth Keeper ritual scripts, feel free to modify, add, or remove pieces for the prayers and rituals included within to best meet the needs and cultural focus of your Hearth. We will note which elements of the scripts are essential and should not be removed, though you are still welcome to adapt those to best fit your needs.

If doing this rite as written you will need:

- Offerings for:
 - The Hearth Deities
 - the Earth Mother
 - the Ancestors
 - the Nature Spirits
 - the Shining Ones
 - the Being of the Occasion
 - the Prayer of Sacrifice
- A representation for the Fire, Well, and Tree
- A divination set
- Something to drink
- A candle or other representation for the Flame of the Season

Opening Prayer [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I (we), [insert Hearth name if applicable], am a tree in the Grove of *Ár nDraíocht Féin*. As my spine straightens, my roots entwine with the trees in the grove and my branches provide shade for the me (the members of our Hearth). The fire within me (each of us) is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit.

Initiating the Rite

Breathing In I take a moment to give thanks for life.

Breathing Out I let my frustrations go.

Breathing In I feel the air energize my body.

Breathing Out I feel my body relax.

Pause for a moment to center

I come to this space with my mind free of worries.
I come to this space with my heart free of cares.
I come to this space to worship the Kindreds and build on the work I have done here before.

The Hearth and our Allies

The Hearth

Born in the Waters, kindled on the Land,
With a pillar of smoke that supports the Heavens,
This Fire burns at the Center of All
To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill
Join with our common hearth, that these flames be one

Sacred Keepers of the Flame, shine within me here today.
Take these words and deeds above, accept my offerings.
Purify me, lead and guide me, aid me as I pray,
Fill my heart with hope and love, illuminate my way.

make offering

Earth Mother

A Child of the Earth calls out to the Mother.
Earth Mother, you are my foundation, my place of safety, and the source of my strength.
From you came all life and to you all life will return.
I give you this offering in gratitude and love.
Earth Mother, accept my offering.

make offering

Inspiration

May the powers of inspiration flow through me to give me ease of speech and lightness of heart.

Purpose and Precedent [Hearth Keeper Essential]

As the sun moves in its timeless cycle, so do I, [insert Hearth Name if applicable], gather again to honor the allies of my home and hearth, that I may be in harmony with the Grove of ADF and deepen my relationship with the spirits. I come now under the light of the sun, beginning a new season of connection and fellowship with the spirits, other Hearths, and the Grove of ADF. As my Ancestors did before, so I do now, so may my descendants do in the future.

As the Sun shines at its brightest, I kindle the Hearthfire and call out to the Sun. Bright Shining One who fills our lands with the energy to grow and bring forth a good harvest. May I also remember

that virtue of moderation, that even the best things such as the sun's bright light, can be too much and hurt the world around. May I hold this virtue in my heart as I seek to moderate my actions.

The Sacred Center

Sacred Well, waters so deep.
Reaching to the realms beneath.
Bring to my life the powers you grant.
Creation, Wisdom, Destiny.
Through the powers of chaos, connect me to the Ancestor's realm.

Sacred Fire, Flames so bright.
Reaching to the realms on high.
Bring to my Gods the words I pray.
Honor, Ghosti, Piety.
Through the powers of order, connect me to the Shining Ones realm.

Sacred Tree, pillar so great.
Spanning worlds, connecting the gates.
Bring to the worlds my actions this day.
Trueness, fairness, honesty.
Connecting the powers above and below, we are shown the realm of the Nature Kin.

Sacred Center of the Worlds, Fire, Well, and Tree.
Connect me to the realms about.
With sky above, and land around, and in the waters deep.
In this place I meet the Kindreds.

Opening the Gates

Sacred Keeper of the ways between the worlds.
Join your magic with mine as I open the gates between the worlds.
Gatekeeper, let the gates be open!

Inviting the Three Kindreds

Spirits of Nature, may I learn to walk gently through this world. May I endeavour to protect you and our mother. May I remember that even the smallest things help to renew and restore our world.
Spirits of Nature, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Ancestors of blood, I thank you for the choices you made to bring me into existence.
Ancestors of heart, I thank you for the gifts and love you have brought to my life.
Ancestors of mind, I thank you for the challenge to grow in my journey.
Ancestors, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Shining Ones, may I learn to walk with courage in this world. May I endeavour to do the work you set in front of me. May I remember the lessons you have taught through the ages. Shining Ones, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Key Offerings [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I call now to the Sun of my Hearth. [insert specific names or praise of the sun if called]. I call you to be my guest of honor. May you feel welcome at my fire and join with me today in this rite of honor to you. Bright Sun, I give you praise and invite you to my fire!

make offering

Prayer of Sacrifice

Kindreds I have made offerings to you of gifts and praise. Accept this my final sacrifice!

make offering

Omen

May wisdom flow through the omens to bring to me a message and gift for the coming season.

Take omen

Return Flow

I have offered to you and you have blessed me with your wisdom.
I ask now that you pour out the waters and infuse them with your gifts.
By the powers of the Nature Spirits,
by the powers of the Ancestors,
by the powers of the Shining Ones,
fill these waters with moderation and (omen).
Behold the waters of life!

drink of the cup

Seasonal Working [Hearth Keeper Essential]

Kindle the Flame of Awakening in your heart. During this Summer Solstice we stop to honor the glorious sun and how its flames bring us awakening in the morning dawn. Focus on the flame and envision how it feels to be woken gently by the sun's rays. Feel how it gently touches your world around to show you new things every day in its brightness. How will you brighten your days in the year to come?

Restoration of the Ordinary

To the Sun, I thank you.

To the mighty Kindreds, I thank you.

To the Gatekeeper, for watching and warding the ways I thank you. As I depart from the Crossroads, let all be as it was before, save for the magic I have done here today.

Let the Gates be Closed!

Inspiration, I thank you for letting my voice flow clearly.

Earth Mother, for always sustaining me in my life and work, I thank you.

To the Hearth Deity, I thank you for your presence and protection in my life.

Kindreds all I thank you!

As I have given honor today, so will I do again. Help me to hold the virtues in my heart: to walk with wisdom, have a pious heart, see clearly with vision, go forth with courage, act always with integrity, persevere, live with hospitality, be moderate in my actions, live a life of fertile creativity, and to have compassion in my heart.

This rite is now ended. May all depart in peace and fellowship.

Summer Cross-Quarter

The summer cross quarter, often called Lughnasadh or Lammas, is the first of the three harvest festivals. The summer months where food is in short supply due to the heat are coming to an end and the bounty of the fall harvests is a time for celebration. This is also a time when many cultures would hold a festival, often containing games of strength and skill.

As Hearth Keepers, during this High Day we honor the Flame of Abundance - During this time of the Summer Cross Quarter celebration we look to the the abundance that the season provides. It is a time of renewed resources and a time to refocus on our goals. For many of us, we are able to refocus on the new beginnings that the educational year brings. For others this is when the things we have been working on or tending often come to fruition, and our work can be revitalized by the new resources we have at our disposal now. Focus on the flame and think of what abundance you have in your life, and how you might apply it to the work to come.

As we prepare to celebrate the season, we've included in the ritual script a few Pan-Indo-European beings that are commonly associated with the High Day: Deities of the First Harvest (grains & summer fruits). We have also noted the Virtue that is the focus for this High Day (Courage). As with the other Hearth Keeper ritual scripts, feel free to modify, add, or remove pieces for the prayers and rituals included within to best meet the needs and cultural focus of your Hearth. We will note which elements of the scripts are essential and should not be removed, though you are still welcome to adapt those to best fit your needs.

If doing this rite as written you will need:

- Offerings for:
 - The Hearth Deities
 - the Earth Mother
 - the Ancestors
 - the Nature Spirits
 - the Shining Ones
 - the Being of the Occasion
 - the Prayer of Sacrifice
- A representation for the Fire, Well, and Tree
- A divination set
- Something to drink
- A candle or other representation for the Flame of the Season

Opening Prayer [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I (we), [insert Hearth name if applicable], am a tree in the Grove of Ár nDraíocht Féin. As my spine straightens, my roots entwine with the trees in the grove and my branches provide shade for the me (the members of our Hearth). The fire within me (each of us) is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit.

Initiating the Rite

Breathing In I take a moment to give thanks for life.

Breathing Out I let my frustrations go.

Breathing In I feel the air energize my body.

Breathing Out I feel my body relax.

Pause for a moment to center

I come to this space with my mind free of worries.

I come to this space with my heart free of cares.

I come to this space to worship the Kindreds and build on the work I have done here before.

The Hearth and our Allies

The Hearth

Born in the Waters, kindled on the Land,
With a pillar of smoke that supports the Heavens,
This Fire burns at the Center of All
To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill
Join with our common hearth, that these flames be one

Sacred Keepers of the Flame, shine within me here today.
Take these words and deeds above, accept my offerings.
Purify me, lead and guide me, aid me as I pray,
Fill my heart with hope and love, illuminate my way.

make offering

Earth Mother

A Child of the Earth calls out to the Mother.
Earth Mother, you are my foundation, my place of safety, and the source of my strength.
From you came all life and to you all life will return.
I give you this offering in gratitude and love.
Earth Mother, accept my offering.

make offering

Inspiration

May the powers of inspiration flow through me to give me ease of speech and lightness of heart.

Purpose and Precedent [Hearth Keeper Essential]

As the sun moves in its timeless cycle, so do I, [insert Hearth Name if applicable], gather again to honor the allies of my home and hearth, that I may be in harmony with the Grove of ADF and deepen my relationship with the spirits. I come now under the light of the sun, beginning a new season of connection and fellowship with the spirits, other Hearths, and the Grove of ADF. As my Ancestors did before, so I do now, so may my descendants do in the future.

As the celebration of the first harvest begins, I kindle the Hearthfire and call out to the spirits of abundance. May the seeds I have sewn through the year be fruitful. May I have the courage to continue in my work with strength.

The Sacred Center

Sacred Well, waters so deep.
Reaching to the realms beneath.
Bring to my life the powers you grant.
Creation, Wisdom, Destiny.
Through the powers of chaos, connect me to the Ancestor's realm.

Sacred Fire, Flames so bright.
Reaching to the realms on high.
Bring to my Gods the words I pray.
Honor, Ghosti, Piety.
Through the powers of order, connect me to the Shining Ones realm.

Sacred Tree, pillar so great.
Spanning worlds, connecting the gates.
Bring to the worlds my actions this day.
Trueness, fairness, honesty.
Connecting the powers above and below, we are shown the realm of the Nature Kin.

Sacred Center of the Worlds, Fire, Well, and Tree.
Connect me to the realms about.
With sky above, and land around, and in the waters deep.
In this place I meet the Kindreds.

Opening the Gates

Sacred Keeper of the ways between the worlds.
Join your magic with mine as I open the gates between the worlds.
Gatekeeper, let the gates be open!

Inviting the Three Kindreds

Spirits of Nature, may I learn to walk gently through this world. May I endeavour to protect you and our mother. May I remember that even the smallest things help to renew and restore our world.
Spirits of Nature, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Ancestors of blood, I thank you for the choices you made to bring me into existence.
Ancestors of heart, I thank you for the gifts and love you have brought to my life.
Ancestors of mind, I thank you for the challenge to grow in my journey.
Ancestors, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Shining Ones, may I learn to walk with courage in this world. May I endeavour to do the work you set in front of me. May I remember the lessons you have taught through the ages. Shining Ones, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Key Offerings [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I call now to the Spirits of the First Harvest and Abundance of my Hearth. [insert names of Deities who preside over crops, harvest, and abundance if called to do so]. I call you to be my guests of honor. May you feel welcome at my fire and join with me today in this rite of honor to you. Deities of the First Harvest and Abundance, I give you praise and invite you to my fire!

make offering

Prayer of Sacrifice

Kindreds I have made offerings to you of gifts and praise. Accept this my final sacrifice!

make offering

Omen

May wisdom flow through the omens to bring to me a message and gift for the coming season.

Take omen

Return Flow

I have offered to you and you have blessed me with your wisdom.
I ask now that you pour out the waters and infuse them with your gifts.
By the powers of the Nature Spirits,
by the powers of the Ancestors,
by the powers of the Shining Ones,
fill these waters with courage and (omen).
Behold the waters of life!

drink of the cup

Seasonal Working [Hearth Keeper Essential]

Kindle the Flame of Abundance in your heart. During this time of the Summer Cross Quarter celebration we look to the abundance that the season provides. It is a time of renewed resources and a time to refocus on our goals. For many of us, we are able to refocus on the new beginnings that the educational year brings. For others this is when the things we have been working on or tending often come to fruition, and our work can be revitalized by the new resources we have at our

disposal now. Focus on the flame and think of what abundance you have in your life, and how you might apply it to the work to come.

Restoration of the Ordinary

To the Spirits of the First Harvest and Abundance of my Hearth, I thank you.

To the mighty Kindreds, I thank you.

To the Gatekeeper, for watching and warding the ways I thank you. As I depart from the Crossroads, let all be as it was before, save for the magic I have done here today.

Let the Gates be Closed!

Inspiration, I thank you for letting my voice flow clearly.

Earth Mother, for always sustaining me in my life and work, I thank you.

To the Hearth Deity, I thank you for your presence and protection in my life.

Kindreds all I thank you!

As I have given honor today, so will I do again. Help me to hold the virtues in my heart: to walk with wisdom, have a pious heart, see clearly with vision, go forth with courage, act always with integrity, persevere, live with hospitality, be moderate in my actions, live a life of fertile creativity, and to have compassion in my heart.

This rite is now ended. May all depart in peace and fellowship.

Autumn Equinox

Autumn Equinox, often called Mabon, is the second of the three harvest festivals. It begins the dark half of the year, as it is the day when the day and night are the same length, but the nights will become longer from this day on. It is a time for reflection on the joys of the summer months and the light half of the year, and a time for contemplation of the coming hardships of the dark half of the year.

As Hearth Keepers, during this High Day we honor the Flame of Thanksgiving - During this time of the Autumn Equinox we pause to give thanks to the bountiful harvests of the world around us. Focus on the flame and reflect upon what you are thankful for this year.

As we prepare to celebrate the season, we've included in the ritual script a few Pan-Indo-European beings that are commonly associated with the High Day: Deities of the Second Harvest (apples, squash, and other winter fruits). We have also noted the Virtue that is the focus for this High Day (Integrity). As with the other Hearth Keeper ritual scripts, feel free to modify, add, or remove pieces for the prayers and rituals included within to best meet the needs and cultural focus of your Hearth. We will note which elements of the scripts are essential and should not be removed, though you are still welcome to adapt those to best fit your needs.

If doing this rite as written you will need:

- Offerings for:
 - The Hearth Deities
 - the Earth Mother
 - the Ancestors
 - the Nature Spirits
 - the Shining Ones
 - the Being of the Occasion
 - the Prayer of Sacrifice
- A representation for the Fire, Well, and Tree
- A divination set
- Something to drink
- A candle or other representation for the Flame of the Season

Opening Prayer [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I (we), [insert Hearth name if applicable], am a tree in the Grove of *Ár nDraíocht Féin*. As my spine straightens, my roots entwine with the trees in the grove and my branches provide shade for the me (the members of our Hearth). The fire within me (each of us) is a star in the sky of ADF's spirit.

Initiating the Rite

Breathing In I take a moment to give thanks for life.

Breathing Out I let my frustrations go.

Breathing In I feel the air energize my body.

Breathing Out I feel my body relax.

Pause for a moment to center

I come to this space with my mind free of worries.
I come to this space with my heart free of cares.
I come to this space to worship the Kindreds and build on the work I have done here before.

The Hearth and our Allies

The Hearth

Born in the Waters, kindled on the Land,
With a pillar of smoke that supports the Heavens,
This Fire burns at the Center of All
To carry my voice to the Spirits.

Kindled from the Great Flame, kept by prudent skill
Join with our common hearth, that these flames be one

Sacred Keepers of the Flame, shine within me here today.
Take these words and deeds above, accept my offerings.
Purify me, lead and guide me, aid me as I pray,
Fill my heart with hope and love, illuminate my way.

make offering

Earth Mother

A Child of the Earth calls out to the Mother.
Earth Mother, you are my foundation, my place of safety, and the source of my strength.
From you came all life and to you all life will return.
I give you this offering in gratitude and love.
Earth Mother, accept my offering.

make offering

Inspiration

May the powers of inspiration flow through me to give me ease of speech and lightness of heart.

Purpose and Precedent [Hearth Keeper Essential]

As the sun moves in its timeless cycle, so do I, [insert Hearth Name if applicable], gather again to honor the allies of my home and hearth, that I may be in harmony with the Grove of ADF and deepen my relationship with the spirits. I come now under the light of the sun, beginning a new season of connection and fellowship with the spirits, other Hearths, and the Grove of ADF. As my Ancestors did before, so I do now, so may my descendants do in the future.

As I celebrate the second harvest this year, I kindle the Hearthfire and call out to the spirits of thanksgiving and harvest. May my mind focus on what I am thankful for this year. May I think about what it means to live a life of integrity and how that is manifest in the gifts given to me.

The Sacred Center

Sacred Well, waters so deep.
Reaching to the realms beneath.
Bring to my life the powers you grant.
Creation, Wisdom, Destiny.
Through the powers of chaos, connect me to the Ancestor's realm.

Sacred Fire, Flames so bright.
Reaching to the realms on high.
Bring to my Gods the words I pray.
Honor, Ghosti, Piety.
Through the powers of order, connect me to the Shining Ones realm.

Sacred Tree, pillar so great.
Spanning worlds, connecting the gates.
Bring to the worlds my actions this day.
Trueness, fairness, honesty.
Connecting the powers above and below, we are shown the realm of the Nature Kin.

Sacred Center of the Worlds, Fire, Well, and Tree.
Connect me to the realms about.
With sky above, and land around, and in the waters deep.
In this place I meet the Kindreds.

Opening the Gates

Sacred Keeper of the ways between the worlds.
Join your magic with mine as I open the gates between the worlds.
Gatekeeper, let the gates be open!

Inviting the Three Kindreds

Spirits of Nature, may I learn to walk gently through this world. May I endeavour to protect you and our mother. May I remember that even the smallest things help to renew and restore our world.
Spirits of Nature, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Ancestors of blood, I thank you for the choices you made to bring me into existence.
Ancestors of heart, I thank you for the gifts and love you have brought to my life.
Ancestors of mind, I thank you for the challenge to grow in my journey.
Ancestors, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Shining Ones, may I learn to walk with courage in this world. May I endeavour to do the work you set in front of me. May I remember the lessons you have taught through the ages. Shining Ones, I give you praise and invite you to my fire.

make offering

Key Offerings [Hearth Keeper Essential]

I call now to the Spirits of the Second Harvest of my Hearth. [insert names of Deities who preside over the second harvest or Thanksgiving if called to do so]. I call you to be my guests of honor. May you feel welcome at my fire and join with me today in this rite of honor to you. Spirits of the Second Harvest of my Hearth, I give you praise and invite you to my fire!

make offering

Prayer of Sacrifice

Kindreds I have made offerings to you of gifts and praise. Accept this my final sacrifice!

make offering

Omen

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Take omen

Return Flow

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drink of the cup

Seasonal Working [Hearth Keeper Essential]

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Restoration of the Ordinary

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This rite is now ended. May all depart in peace and fellowship.

Connecting Further with **Ár nDraíocht Féin**

Congratulations, Hearth Keeper! We're so glad to have you with us. Not only does your Hearth and your piety feed the Hearth of **Ár nDraíocht Féin**, but you also contribute to this larger community of folks, all worshipping together. Thank you for your commitment to build and contribute to our fellowship.

Being a Hearth Keeper is an important aspect of practicing our religion, and can form the foundation for any work you may choose to do in the future. While many people will be happy to simply continue to worship in this way, we know that some may want to deepen their knowledge or begin the study programs of ADF. To that end, we've included a list of resources that you may find beneficial.

Connecting with the People of **Ár nDraíocht Féin**

There are many opportunities to meet and engage with others on the path of ADF Druidry. We have subgroups that focus on a variety of things:

- The Guilds of ADF focus on learning about specific skills.
- The Kins of ADF focus on specific hearth cultures.
- The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of ADF focus on connecting people with shared interests.
- The Orders of ADF focus on varied ways to deepen your practice as an ADF Druid.

There are also local congregations, Groves and Protogroves, across the globe. These are made up of people from a small geographical region who come together to worship, learn, and socialize.

The ADF Study Programs

While not all Hearth Keepers will choose to continue their studies with ADF, there are many other programs of study that we offer.

- Dedicant Path
- Initiate Path
- Clergy Training Program
- Generalists Study Program
- Guild Specific Study Programs
- Kin Specific Study Programs
- Order Study Programs

To learn more about these groups and programs visit adf.org or mail us at:

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