

The Festival of Lughnasadh – Trinity Grove 2008

Herald: Let us begin our work in peace for without peace can no work be.

2nd Bard: May there be peace in the North
 May there be peace in the South
 May there be peace in the West
 May there be peace in the East

All: May there be peace throughout the whole world.

North: With the blessing of Uriel of the dark and fertile earth, overshadowing Columba of Scotland we call upon the powers of the north.

South: With the blessing of Michael of the red flame, overshadowing David of Wales we call upon the powers of the south.

West: With the blessing of Gabriel of the blue water, overshadowing Patrick of Ireland we call upon the powers of the west.

East: With the blessing of Raphael in his golden cloak, overshadowing George of England, we call upon the powers of the east.

Chief casts circle with a wand....

Herald: Let us contemplate the super-essential light of lights, the unconquerable sun of suns; the unquenched flame with each one.

All: May we receive enlightenment from that great Source.

Chief: So be it. Let us unite in that prayer which is the the bond of all Druids:

All: Grant of Spirit Thy protection
and in protection strength
and in strength, understanding
and in understanding, knowledge
and in knowledge, the knowledge of justice

and in the knowledge of justice, the love of it
and in the love of it, the love of all existences
and in the love of all existences, the love of Spirit and all goodness. Amen.

2nd Bard: We seek the understanding that is sure, the wisdom that is undying, the love that is all pervading, the peace that is supernal, and the large-mindedness that is all-seeing.

Chief: We come this evening to bid farewell to the season of summer and to welcome the season of autumn. Let us recall some of the blessings of summer:

Participants are encouraged to mention blessings. After each blessing the following chant is sung:

Go raibh maith agat	We give thanks to you,
Go raibh maith agat	We give thanks to you.

1st Bard - Threshold Invocation

Lady of the Land, open the door,
Lord of the Forest, come you in.
Let there be welcome to the bountiful compassion,
Let there be welcome to the Autumn of the Year.
In fruit and grain you travelling,
In ferment and bread you will arrive.
May the blessed time of Lughnasadh
Nourish the soul of all Beings,
Bringing love and healing to all hurts.
From the heights to the depths,
From the depths to the heights,
to the wounds of every soul.

All: Yeast of Life,
Ferment of Ecstasy,
I grow and ripen with you.
I return under the shade of twilight,
under the veils of work and worship.

Hymn - Bread and Roses

As we go marching, marching, in the beauty of the day,
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lofts grey,
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses,
For the people hear us singing: Bread and Roses! Bread and Roses!

As we go marching, marching, we battle too for men,
For they are women's children, and we mother them again.
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes;
Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses.

As we go marching, marching, unnumbered women dead
Go crying through our singing their ancient call for bread.
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew.
Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses too.

As we go marching, marching, we bring the greater days,
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.
No more the drudge and idler, ten that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories: Bread and roses, bread and roses.

Let us pray:
Increase O God, the fertility of the earth,
water it abundantly, for we are in your hands.
Crown the year with your goodness
for the sake of the poorest of your people,
the widow, the orphan, the stranger
and all your creatures.
We look to you, hope of our lives,
that your name may be blessed among us.
Give us our bread in due time.
Treat us, O lord according to your goodness,
you who give food enough for all.
Fill our hearts with joy and gratitude

so that, equipped with the necessities of life,
we may grow in every good work. Amen. (*based on Coptic liturgy*)

The Blessing of Bread and Mead

Assisting Minister: As this bread was once scattered seed, O bread of Life, sown in the earth to die and rise to new life, so gather all peoples together in one humanity of your coming new age. Restore the broken life of your creation; heal the disfigured body of your world; draw all creatures into yourself through the cross and in the power of your risen life. And grant to all the faithful departed a share in your bliss, that with them we too at the end may be welcomed into your kingdom through your inexhaustible grace, and guided by your indwelling Spirit. (*Church of South India*)

Sub-deacon: Almighty Father, eternal God, graciously deign to + bless this bread with Thy spiritual benediction that all who eat it may have health of body and soul and that they may be protected against all sickness and against all the snares of their enemies. Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, the living bread that came down from heaven and giveth life and salvation to the world; who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, forever and ever. Amen.

Chief: Blessed art Thou, King of the Universe, who brings forth Bread from the Earth. Taste and see that God is good. (*a piece of bread is given to each participant*)

Earth, water, fire and air are honey for all beings,
And all beings are honey for the elements. This truth is honey for all beings,
And all beings are honey for this truth. May our lives be filled with sweetness.
Peace up to Heaven,
Heaven to earth,
Earth below heaven,
Power in each.
A cup very full,
Full of Honey,
Mead in abundance.
Summer in Winter,
Peace up to Heaven,

Heaven to Earth.

(The Mead cup is passed around the circle)

1st Bard – We welcome you, O Spirit of Lughnasadh
Come into our circle laden with your gifts,
Lady of abundance, Lord of bountifulness, enter our homes.
Spirit of fulfilment, fill our hearts with your blessings.
Spirit of fruitfulness, encircle our home and our land.
We bid you welcome as we sing:

Blessings of the season
Blessings of the night
Blessings of the universe
To fill our hearts with light.

The Song of Lughnasadh – recited around the circle

I AM the Bread of Life,
I AM the sovereign splendour of creation,
I AM the fountain in the courts of bliss,
I AM the bright surrender of the will power,
I AM the watchful guardian and the kiss.
I AM the many coloured landscape,
I AM the transmigration of the geese,
I AM the burnished glory of the breastplate,
I AM the harbour where all strivings cease.
I AM the Bread of Life.

All: *(all hold hands in a ring and sing (to the tune of the National Anthem)):*

Hail! Mystic Light divine,
May'st Thou ne'er cease to shine
Over this land.
Wisdom in Thee we find,
Beauty and strength combined
Druids are ever joined

In heart and hand.

East: We thank Raphael in his golden cloak, overshadowing George of England, and the powers of the east.

South: We thank Michael of the red flame, overshadowing David of Wales, and the powers of the south.

West: We thank Gabriel of the blue water, overshadowing Patrick of Ireland and the powers of the west.

North: We thank Uriel of the dark and fertile earth, overshadowing Columba of Scotland, and the powers of the north.

(circle is uncast)

Chief: This Gorsedd ends in peace, as in peace it began. Let us withdraw in peace, and may there be peace outward and inward until we meet again.

May the harvest be plentiful.

May the fields yield healthy crops.

May the hedgerows be alive with abundance.

May the gathering-in be good and wholesome.

May the whole community of life be truly blessed. Amen.



Sources:

OBOD Alternative and Ancient rituals

Roman Ritual & Hymns of Faith and Freedom

Cherish the Earth – Dr Mary Low

Heartbeat of the Seasons – Sr Kathleen Glennon

Celtic Devotional – Revd Caitlin Matthews