

Brigid's Forge / Brigid's Well

Written by Kate Pennington

Created by Robin Dolan, Kate Pennington & Martha Storm

Master script 2007

Brigid's clergy will guide us with music and poetry to find the Irish Goddess who is healer, smith and poet. Together we will walk through her forge to clear the obstacles that riddle our path, be renewed in her well and find the clarity of vision we need to heal ourselves, our communities and the world we share.

Cast and Crew Roster

Brigid of the Mind / First Brigid:

Brigid of the Well / Second Brigid:

Brigid of the Forge / Third Brigid:

Sky / Poet

1-

2-

3-

4-

5-

6-

Sea / Healer

1-

2-

3-

4-

5--

6-

Land / Smith

1-

2-

3-

4-

5-

6-

19- Child –

The Cailiach –

Ninja Crew-

Ward Crew -

Preset Notes:

Cauldron will be in the center of the temple with bowl for the water and the vials.

19 tv tray tables will be set up in a circle on the outer edge of the room. Each has a white cloth preset.

The three Brigids will be veiled and seated in the corners of the room – one each with a warder/ninja stations with them:

The Cailiach will be seated in the fourth corner of the room.

Prop table will be near the back door.

Procession

19 clergy:

(Standing together - invoke Brigid into their presence prior to procession)

As it was,
As it is,
As it shall be
Evermore
O thou Triune Of grace! ⁱ

Be Thou a smooth way before me
Be Thou a guiding star above me
Be Thou a keen eye behind me
This day, this night, for evermore. ⁱⁱ

With the ebb, With the flow
O thou Triune Of grace!ⁱⁱⁱ

19 Clergy

(Walking with electric candle flames in hand– repeat as needed)

Clergy of Sky:

Brigid of the augury
Brigid of the poets
Brigid of the mind

All 19:

Holy Brigid, spark of life.

Clergy of Sea:

Brigid of the healing well
Brigid of the oceans
Brigid of the blood

All 19:

Holy Brigid, spark of life.

Clergy of Land:

Brigid of the mantle
Brigid of the forge
Brigid of the keep

All 19:

Holy Brigid, spark of life.

Child:
Each day and each night that I say the Descent of Brigid

All 19:
I shall not be afraid
I shall not be lost
I shall not be sick

Clergy of Sky:
Nor intolerance shall blind me
Nor dishonesty shall blind me
Nor poison shall blind me

All 19:
I shall not be abused
I shall not be hopeless
I shall not be wounded

Clergy of Sea:
Nor illness shall drown me
Nor poverty shall drown me
Nor oppression shall drown me

All 19:
I shall not be ravaged
I shall not be broken
I shall not be powerless

Clergy of Land:
Nor hate shall bury me
Nor greed shall bury me
Nor war shall bury me

All 19:
Nor will the Gods leave me forgotten.

For I am under the shielding of good Brigid each day
For I am under the shielding of good Brigid each night.
For I am under the keeping of the Gods
Each early and late, every dark, every light.

Brigid is my comrade
Brigid is my maker of song
Brigid is my healer
My choicest of women, my guide. ^{iv}

At the Temple Door

Clergy enter the temple.

As they speak:

The clergy will walk into the circle, past the cauldron and to the farthest aisle where they will form a Crescent facing into the room and the assembled audience.

Complete the processional chant and hold while the Ninja's feed people into the room.

In the Crescent

At a signal from Kate the clergy will begin to speak.

19 clergy:

As it was,
As it is,
As it shall be
Evermore
O thou Triune Of grace!^v

Be Thou a smooth way before me
Be Thou a guiding star above me
Be Thou a keen eye behind me
This day, this night, for evermore.^{vi}

With the ebb, With the flow
O thou Triune Of grace!^{vii}

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Brigid of the poets
Brigid of the mind

All 19:

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My choicest of women, my guide. ^{viii}

Clergy walk up the aisles to towards the cauldron and form a circle around it, including the child, do one rotation around the cauldron as they speak.

Circle Casting

All 19:

Brigid to enfold us
Brigid to surround us
Brigid to comfort us

Brigid in our speaking
Brigid in our thinking
Brigid in our dreaming

Brigid of our lives
Brigid of our hearts
Brigid of our ever-living souls ^{ix}

Person standing next to the Child will lead off up the "Sky" side aisle (the one to the back of the space.) Clergy will Form three rows near the back doors- facing the center of the room. (Give Candle to the ninja as you pass into rows)

As they walk they speak:

All 19:

Holy Brigid,
Never was known
One who was placed
'Neath thy generous care,

Who asked thy mercy,
Who asked thy shielding,
Who asked thy succor
With truthful heart,

Who found not thy solace,
Who found not thy peace,
Who found not the succor for which they sought.

This gives unto me faith
That my heart and my dreams
May find guest-room with thee.^x

Filling the Cauldron

One by one, clergy step forward, receive their chalice from a ninja. Then they walk down the aisle to the center and pour in the water from their chalice into the cauldron.

Cues for individual Clergy– walk all the way to the cauldron. Speak your line, pour water from chalice into the cauldron. Hold up the chalice, then bring it down (this is the cue for the rest of the clergy) and walk out via the aisle closest to your altar.

Cues for the full group Clergy – when the individual is at the cauldron – wait for them to raise and then lower their chalice (post speaking) to start the group line.

All: We come into thy presence,
Sky 1: O Breath of Life

All: We come into thy presence,
Sea 1: O Fountain of Healing

All: We come into thy presence,
Land 1: O Mother of Alchemy

All: We come into thy presence,
Sky 2: Well of Inspiration

All: We come into thy presence,
Sea 2: Teacher of Mystery

All: We come into thy presence,
Land 2: Mistress of Transformation

All: We come into thy presence,
Sky 3: Keeper of Dreams

All: We come into thy presence,
Sea 3: Chalice of Wisdom

All: We come into thy presence,
Land 3: Guide at the Forge

All: We come into thy presence,
Sky 4: O Hand of Change

All: We come into thy presence,
Sea 4: Guardian of the Well

All: We come into thy presence,
Land 4: Lady of Creation

All: We come into thy presence,
Sky 5: Thou Vessel of Spirit

All: We come into thy presence,
Sea 5: Thou Cauldron of Magic

All: We come into thy presence,
Land 5: Thou Well-spring of Art

All: We come into thy presence,
Sky 6: Divine Poet

All: We come into thy presence,
Sea 6: Compassionate Healer

All: We come into thy presence,
Land 6: Bright Smith

All: We come into thy presence,
Child: Grace Everlasting

All: We come into thy presence, Grace Everlasting

All 19 should now be at their tables around the temple.

Invocation of the Realms

Lead Clergy of each realm steps forward to the cauldron.

Sky 1:

The sky above us (*draw spiral three times above*)

Sea 1:

The sea around us (*define a circle*)

Land 1:

The earth beneath us (*touch and ground in the earth*)

All Three:

Thus the Realms make sacred our lives. ^{xi}

Clergy step back into their places in the circle.

WARDER Note: Doors close here.

Invocation of Brigid

Invocation Clergy Step forward and face the corners where the Brigids wait.

*The Brigids stand up in their corners at the opening words of the invocation..
Watchers will move ahead of them to clear a path if needed.*

Brigid's move on music, hold on spoken words.

Land 6, Sea 6, Sky 6:

Holy Brigid, Lady of our Hearts Desires,
We call you into this circle of celebration and healing.

(music)

We call
The Three Who are the words
The Three Who are the well
The Three Who are the forge,

(music)

We call
The Three Who are wisdom
The Three Who are dreams
The Three Who are creation

(music)

We call
The Three Who are the Poet
The Three Who are the Healer
The Three Who are the Smith

We call you
The Three who are the spark of all that is.^{xii}

(music)

Holy Brigid we call you!
Hail and Welcome!

All: Hail and Welcome!

Song For the Brigids: (Irish, Trad.)

Gabhaim Molta Bride
Ionmhaim i le hEireinn
Ionmhain le gach tir i
Molaimis go leir i

Lochrann geal na Laighneach
'Soilsiu 'feadh na tire
Ceann ar Oghaibh Eireann
Ceann na mban ar mine

Tig an geimhreadh dian dubh
'Gearradh lena Gheire
Ach ar La 'le Bride
Gar duinn earrach Eireann

I give praise to Brig-id
Bee-lov-ed of Ire-land
Be-l'v-ed of all the lands
All give praise to her!

The bright light of Leinstir
Shining through the land
Pride of Irish women
Gentle is St. Brigid

The dark winter comes
Cutting with its harshness
But on St. Brigid's day
The Irish spring is near

By the end of the song, the Brigid's will have taken places around the cauldron, face outward toward the assembled folk.

Music – *time for the Brigid's to meet and greet the crowd.*

Two – three songs should be performed here, depending on expected size of Crowd.

Blessing the gifts of Brigid

Clergy and all assembled should be in a circle, at their altars. The Brigid's stay at the center around the cauldron.

Brigid of the Mind:

I am the words
I am wisdom
I am the Poet

Turns in to bless the cauldron's contents. Hold the blessing as the next speaks.

Brigid of the Well:

I am the well
I am dreams
I am the Healer

Turns in to bless the cauldron's contents. Hold the blessing as the next speaks

Brigid of the Forge:

I am the forge,
I am creation
I am the Smith

*Turns in to bless the cauldron's contents. Hold the blessing to finish charging.
The Brigid's are now facing the cauldron and blessing the bottles, and everything in the cauldron.*

All Three:

We are the spark of all that is.^{xiii}

The Working

The Child and Clergy A & B migrate towards to the center as the Brigid's finish up.

Clergy A:

We rejoice in this season of Brigid. We celebrate her promise of spring and the warmth that the summer's winds will bring.

Clergy B:

As her Priests and Priestesses we know that we are under Brigid's Mantle and share the gifts of her grace.

Child:

But sometimes we take her for granted...
Sometimes we lose faith. Things get in the way.
The stresses of the day push off our meditations.
War beyond our borders distracts us from our own peace. Our fears overwhelm us, cutting us off from Her love.

Child steps in front of one of the Brigid's, facing the assembled guests and quietly begins to keen.

As they speak the next section, 1/3 of the clergy move into the center to block the Brigid's. Then the next 1/3, then the next, until the Brigid's are blocked from view.

*As each clergy completes their phrase they begin to keen *very softly*, building as each clergy joins in. We want to slowly build the keening as a wave of sound and emotion.*

Sea / Healer / personal fears: "I feel/am/get"

- 1 - depression
- 2 - loneliness
- 3 - hunger
- 4 - homeless
- 5 - illness
- 6 - unlovable

Land / Smith / Community: what gets in the way "it feels/is/gets"

- 1- work
- 2- bills
- 3- powerless
- 4 - caring for others
- 5- commitments
- 6- gas prices

Sky / Poet / global problems: "we feel/are/face"

- 1 – hate crimes
- 2 - abuse of power
- 3 - poisoning of land
- 4 - loss of freedom
- 5 – water pollution
- 6 - war

Keening

With the last phrase spoken, the building keening bursts out in to the room. The keening will be felt in the body as well as heard in the heart and mind.

Shills in the crowd will pick up the keening and writhing and help keep it going until all in the room are crying out their pain and fear.

The Brigid's should remain passive through out the keening. They witness and are aware, but do not make contact with the people.

Faith, Strength & Personal Power

From the back corner where she has been sitting and watching, the Cailiach will stand and walk forward. Use the cane to bang as needed.

The Cailiach:

Enough! Enough!! Tears are all well and good, but where do they get you?
Broken and flailing on the ground? Stay there long enough you will
become your pain. You will become what you fear!

Yes, there is pain. Yes, we all have fears that send us screaming into the
night. So what?

What? Did you think we would always have a special "just for me" link to
the goddess? That she would make everything safe and perfect everyday
and that we could sit back and relax? It doesn't work that way.

This is work. Faith is work.

You have the tools to make a difference in your life and in the world. But
you have to believe in yourself and you have to remember that She is
there with you at every moment. Behind your fear. Behind your pain. You
have to know. And you have to act on that conviction.

And sometimes, you have to reach out to her.

*The Cailiach steps around the 19 clergy to touch one of the Brigid's. Sometime
during the song she goes and sits back down.*

Song - "A Wealth of Gifts" by Robin Dolan

Brigid of the Mind/ First Brigid:

I hear you calling
Alone and afraid
Shut down in your distress
Where change cannot be made

Brigid of the Well / Second Brigid:

If you don't find me in yourself
You won't find me anywhere else
You are human and you are divine
And so you find your wealth

(The first two lines continue as a layer under everything)

Brigid of the Forge / Third Brigid:

Inside yourself
There is a spark
You bring to life
Your own power

You have the tools
To change yourself
To make the world
More as you dream

It's in your hands
It's in your voice
It's in your words
It's in your thinking

Then the two layers continue (b. is the main line for clergy to pick up)

- a. Find Her in yourself *(singers of this assigned by Robin)*
- b. It's in my silence, *(indicate self)*
It's in your writing etc...*(indicate participant)*

As the song is sung the Brigid's reach out to the clergy, connecting them back into Brigid's energy (make sure to touch the Child). The clergy join in the song as they stand, then turn to others in the crowd and raise them up, hugging and so forth until all are standing and naming their power.

Final layer: a designated person will start, everyone else follow as they hear it:

We are Brigid's Spark

Gifts of Brigid

Clergy and all assembled should be in a circle. The Brigid's stay at the center around the cauldron. Together the Brigid's reach into the cauldron and pull out handfuls of the tincture bottles and turn back to the gathered crowd, holding the bottles out. (short ninjas to help as needed)

Brigid of the Mind:

Remember me...
I am the words of wisdom
And I honor your Vision

Brigid of the Well:

Remember me...
I am the well of dreams
And I honor your Courage

Brigid of the Forge:

Remember me...
I am the forge of creation
And I honor your Strength

All Three:

We give to you these gifts, blessed from deep within our well, as a reminder of all that you have achieved and all that you carry within you. Do not hoard these gifts, share them with yourself and with others, and know that we are with you always.

Remember us...

We are the spark of all that is.^{xiv}
And we honor you, who are the spark of our being.

The Brigid's hand off the bottles to the 19 clergy.

The 19 ensure that everyone in the room gets one of the blessed bottles. Bottles contain messages/affirmations from Brigid.

Soft music to cover

The 19 clergy move to the tv tray tables/altars and stand waiting.

Devocation of the Brigids

Invocation clergy step forward to devoke the Brigids

Land 6, Sea 6, Sky 6:

Holy Brigid,
Lady of our Hearts Desires,
We thank you for joining us in this circle of celebration and healing
Hail and farewell!

All: Hail and farewell.

Brigid's go back to their seats so the priestesses can ground. Brigid warders stay with your Priestess till the room is cleared.

Devocation of the Realms

Lead Clergy of each realm steps forward.

All Three:

The realms are never truly gone from us.
We carry the realms with us moment to moment.

Sky 1:

The sky above us

Sea 1:

The sea around us

Land 1:

The earth beneath us

All Three:

Thus the Realms make sacred our lives. ^{xv}

Opening the Circle

The 19 Clergy walk widdershins around the outside of the circle to the front door and form up three lines at the door, facing the audience. (Speak these lines as often as needed to get to the doors and form up)

Note – Clergy need to pick up the candle from their altar and carry it with them as they begin this.

19 clergy:

Brigid to enfold us
Brigid to surround us
Brigid to comfort us

Brigid in our speaking
Brigid in our thinking
Brigid in our dreaming

Brigid of our lives
Brigid of our hearts
Brigid of our ever-living souls ^{xvi}

(Child stands with the rest of the clergy by the front doors)

Child:

As it was,
As it is,
As it shall be
Evermore
O thou Triune Of grace! ^{xvii}

Be Thou a smooth way before me
Be Thou a guiding star above me
Be Thou a keen eye behind me
This day, this night, for evermore. ^{xviii}

With the ebb, With the flow
O thou Triune Of grace! ^{xix}

The Cailiach: *(at the cauldron)*

Tonight we have been blessed with the power to reconnect with the spark of Brigid that lives within each of us. Through that spark we remember that we are Her instruments for healing and growth in our lives, our communities and at the global level. Your actions have meaning in the world... make your choices wisely...

As you leave, you will be offered a packet of ideas and practical tools that can help you make a difference in the world. Please take one, and carry your own spark into the world under Brigid's Mantle.

All: Joy in your coming.
Joy in your going.
Joy in your return.

Packets at the door

Clergy stand outside the temple doors and give out info packets as people leave. All three goals are pre bundled together with the program.

*Personal sets- things you can do for yourself
Community sets- things you can do for your community
Global sets- things that will effect the world*

Except where otherwise noted, all quotes are from “The Carmina Gadelica: Hymns and Incantations from the Gaelic” compiled by Alexander Carmichael, Floris Books edition (September, 2004)

ⁱ Fragment (216) edited

ⁱⁱ Petition (266 pp1)

ⁱⁱⁱ Fragment (216) edited

^{iv} Heavily adapted from Blessing of Brigit (264)

^v Fragment (216) edited

^{vi} Petition (266 pp1)

^{vii} Fragment (216) edited

^{viii} Heavily adapted from Blessing of Brigit (264)

^{ix} God's Aid (231; a morning prayer) Modified with the god named changed to Brigit and who is being cared for changed from the singular to the plural.

^x Prayer to Mary Mother (255)

^{xi} From Rowan Fairgrove's dedication to Brighid

^{xii} Heavily adapted from The Three (245)

^{xiii} Heavily adapted from The Three (245)

^{xiv} Heavily adapted from The Three (245)

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