1. Marking of Sacred Space *

Anvil fall three times

Amber: Ancestors! Our wise Alfar ("OWL-var")and Disir! ("DEE-seer") *same sound 3 times*
Nature Spirits! Our earthbound Landvetter! (“Land-VAY-tear") *same sound 3 times*
Gods and Goddesses! Our powerful Aesier ("AY-seer")and Vanir (Vah-near) ! *same sound 3 times*
We welcome your attention, our Kindreds three.
As one Tribe, we shall meet you between the worlds when the gates have been opened.

2. Welcoming the Public to the Rite

Drea: Brothers! Sisters! Children of the Great Mother Jörð (YOU-ed)! Welcome to Columbia Grove’s Yuletide ritual. Today we honor our Kindreds as one Tribe
Let us begin by calling upon the grove protector for the evening, Thor the God of Thunder, so that He may shield us throughout the course of this Rite.

3. Calling in the Protector

Arin: Mighty Thor, Storm Bringer,
Wielder of Mjolnir
we have witnessed your recent battles in Jottenheim (YUR-tun-hyme).
Now we ask your presence in Midgard
Attend our ritual and protect us
from those who would wish us harm
as we cross the gates and stand between.
In turn we offer this ale to slake your thirst
Accept our offering
Ale Offering

4. **Appeasing the Out dwellers**

Amber: The Outdwellers represent internal and external powers neither good nor bad that are counter-productive to our rite. Now is the time to set aside cynicism, doubt, and pettiness.
We ask that you avert your eyes as we make offerings to the Out dwellers. We do not want to form a close relationship with them. Arin, please make offerings to those spirits who do not support our Rite!

Arin: We call out to the entities of discord and fear, those aspects of the world that oppose our divine will! Selfish spirits of civilization, Wights of woe and envy, and all manner of shadow which would impede this ritual, trouble us not! To all dark denizens that seek to distort or disrupt our harmony this night, we give you honey to satiate thee, and in so doing mark a boundary that will serve to thwart any influences that would move against us. **(Give offering of Ale)**
:;Outdwellers, accept our offering and BEGONE!

5. **Procession**
Drea: Fair Folk of Midgard , let us now enter the sacred grove

Procession Song: Sacred Grove
Bard note: Last two times sung once guests are in place sing alternate version.

6. **Purification of the Folk and Grove**
Amber: Now it is time to purify ourselves of all imperfections, this allows us to present ourselves to the Kindreds as pure beings.

Coatney and Alice
"By the might of the water and the light of the fire
This grove is made whole and holy"

7. **Opening Statement and Precedence**
Drea: We belong to the gods and the gods belong to us, so let us pray with a good fire. Let us offer with a full heart, knowing that when we do, we nurture our connection to them and support the very gods themselves. In remembrance, we strengthen their powers. In honor, we balance the worlds. In love, we bring peace and keep the Old Ways alive and present!

8. Earth Mother and Columbia Offering
Amber: Today we honor the Earth Mother, Jörð (YOU-ed), and also our Goddess of Sovereignty, Columbia. Please touch the ground as best you can and feel your reach deep extend all the way to the earth as we invite them in.

Ember: Mother Jord, Great Goddess of Earth,
Goddess of Life, and the changing seasons.
Goddess of a green land, of a fertile land, and of fresh air.
Ancient Goddess of an Earth full of change, without sleep.

Jord, Great Goddess, and mother of Thor,
We call out to you today in deepest gratitude and love and ask for your presence and blessing in our Yule rite today.
Plant in our hearts the love you've blessed this world by,
Today your children offer you nuts and berries.
Earth Mother Jord we welcome you.

Drea: And now an offering of prayer and song to our sovereign goddess Columbia.

SONG: Columbia Song

Drea
Great Goddess Jord! Sovereign Goddess Columbia!
We welcome you to this rite and offer you these oats and cornmeal!
Beautiful Goddesses, accept our Offering!

9. **Powers of Inspiration**
David: Bragi:

Bragi, Skald among Skalds
Whose words are like the finest mead,
We invite you here today to inspire our words and make our songs Entrancing.
Bless us with the gift of your golden tongue and let your inspiration flow!
Bargi, Join us here and accept this offering of fine mead.

10. **Statement of Purpose:**
Amber: We gather here at Yule to bear witness to the rebirth of the sun, and to be assured that however long it remains, this winter shall not usher in Ragnarok, the end of all things. Tonight we celebrate the grand struggle of life, that which brings us closest to our fellow man, to endure, to protect and even to suffer together. For it in that struggle that life's greatest lessons may be learned, and it is in facing that struggle that we can truly come to discover ourselves... By the will of the Kindreds, May it be So! (Repeat)

11. **Two Powers Meditation**

Drea or Christina?
And now let us attune ourselves with the two powers meditation…begin by closing your eyes...

Let us begin to open our minds to Magic, to the presence of the Gods. Begin with your body. Plant your feet firmly on the ground, balanced and upright... shake out your arms and shoulders... let gravity pull you evenly toward the earth, as you release the everyday tensions in your flesh...begin to breath deeply.... With each breath fill your lungs slowly... and completely... with each outbreath empty them entirely... for a moment just watch your breath... in... and out...

As you continue to breath, imagine... feel... that from the bottoms of your feet, roots appear...extending through the earth below you... a strong tap-root slides down going deeper and growing stronger... down to touch the Waters that are under the Earth... the dark, cool, magnetic Power of the Land... with each deep breath, draw the waters up through your roots... feel it flowing into your feet... tingling and energizing... rising into your legs...pull the waters up to your waist... Breath deep, and draw the Earth Power up your spine... cool and powerful... to fill and pool in your heart...Pull it higher... rising up to pool in your head... filling and energizing you... rising finally to fountain out from the crown of your head and flow back into the earth...

You are filled with the Power of the Earth... Now imagine... that from overhead... from the stars in the turning Sky... a single ray of light shines out... out and down to bathe your body in the warm, electric Powers of the Sky... shining down over your head... over your heart... over your head... warming the waters... everywhere the light touches becomes bright...like fire dancing on water...raise your hands to the Sky and let the earth Power flow into your hands... feel... see... them brighten and energized with the Powers of Earth and Sky...

Now reach out to those beside you... join your shining hands together... let the Waters and the Fire flow through us all... through each and all of us from heart to fingertip... making us one light... one depth... as we open our hearts to the Powers of our rite.

12. **Hallowing the Portals**
Drea: Now let us reaffirm the sacredness of this place by hallowing the portals for our benevolent Kindred..

Christina:
Drea or Amber hands offering of silver
Well, fountain of wisdom.
You to whom Odin gave an eye for one drink.
We make this offering to you that you may carry our offerings to our ancestors below
From those of this world to the worlds below.

Coatney:
Drea or Amber hands offering of ale
Great flame which warms and protects us.
Wonderous Godly fire who's power has created the rainbow bridge.
We make this offering to you that you may carry our offerings to the Gods above.
From those of this world to the worlds above."

Alice:
Drea or Amber hands offering of Birdseed
Great World Tree, Yggdrasil, (**IG- DRASS-ILL**)
Your roots extend deep to reach the lowest world.
Your branches stretch above the highest world.
Great Tree who connects all the worlds.
We make this offering to you, That you may carry our offerings to the earth spirits around.
From those of this world, to those who share it.
Amber:
Sacred fire, burn within us! (Repeat)
Sacred Well, flow within us! (Repeat)
Sacred tree, grow within us! (Repeat)
The skull of Mighty Ymir stretches out above us!
The bones of Mighty Ymir support the land beneath us!

The blood of Mighty Ymir Flows under and around us!
All things are his Flesh
Our Wyrds (weirds) woven together
May we pray with a good fire!

13. **Opening of the Gates**

Drea: The portals have been hallowed, the realms have been appropriately honored, and we stand at the gates of creation, the gates of the universe. The mists of creation are forming around us, guiding us, empowering us. NOW is the time for us call upon our Noble Gatekeeper, Heimdall.

Amber:
Vigilant Watchman of the Gods, keen in sight and sound, Heimdall
Son of Odin, Warden of the bifrost bridge, Heimdall
We beseech you to join us here this day, and offer to you this mead so that you will join your magic with ours, and grant us safe passage throughout the realms!
Now, let this well become the portal to our sacred ancestors!
Let this flame serve as the portal to the gods and goddesses!
And let this log be as Yggdrasil, the World Tree, connecting us to all realms in mind, body and soul!
Heimdall, Loyal and Mighty Asgardian, we ask that you help us part the mists and allow us to…
(Chant Open the Gates...Audience Repeats, General Fanfare)
Let the Gates be Open!

Now Close your Eyes. See that the Mists have been parted, and before you the gates have swung wide open. Through the gate stands a God, Heimdall, he meets your gaze but for a moment as though measuring your worth, and then beckons you to walk across, with a smile that reveals his teeth of pure gold. You now move through the gates, over the bridge of the gods, to a place where you can communicate with the kindreds, to a place of magic…
Now open your eyes, and here we are in-between the worlds.

14. Offering to the Kindreds
Drea: Let us now make offerings to our kindred who may join us in celebration today. Who here calls upon the Sacred Ancestors, our Mighty dead, and Alfar ("OWL-var") , and Disir? ("DEE-seer")

Audience: I call upon the Mighty Dead
Oh Mighty ancestors, our mighty dead.
Those who have come before us, heroes of our blood, of our hearts, and of this land and place.
We honor you and ask for your blessing this day.
Guide us with your presence, wisdom and strength.
Your spirit remains strong in our hearts.

We offer to your well, the kindred that connects us to you, Ale in gratitude.
Ancestors! accept our offering.
(Offering of Ale)

SONG - Mothers and fathers of old.
Drea: As one we hail Mighty Dead, we welcome you!

Drea: Who among us will call the Spirits of Nature, the creatures of the wood and mountain, the Landvettir? (“Land-VAY-tear")

Audience: I call upon the Landvetter (“Land-VAY-tear")!
Nature Spirits!
Spirits of this land, those who join us here on Earth, we offer you welcome.
Flora, Fauna, and mystical beings, those that thrive in the sky, sea and soil and all realms in-between.
We honor you, and all your natural beauty.
Join us today, guide us as we walk the elder ways.
Today we offer you bird seed in acknowledgment for all you shown to us.
Nature Spirits, accept our offering.
(Offer Birdseed)

SONG - Fur and feather
Drea: As One we Hail: Landvetter (“Land-VAY-tear"), we welcome you!

Drea: Lastly, who among us will call upon the powerful Gods and Goddesses, the Aesir ("AY-seer") and Vanir? ("VAH-near")

Audience: I call upon the Aesir ("AY-seer")and Vanir! ("VAH-near")
From this sacred space, we call out to you, oh mighty Gods and Goddesses!
To the gods of our past, and to the gods of our present
To the faces carved in stone, those remembered through history and those hidden from sight.
We hear the tales of your valor and honor you as our ancestors of old once did.
To the Gods, we offer you this Mead as a symbol of our respect, devotion and Piety.
Gods and Goddesses, accept our offering
(Offer Mead)

SONG - Hail all the gods
Drea: As One we hail: Aesier ("AY-seer") and Vanier ("VAH-near"), we welcome you.
15: Welcoming Odin and Freya
Amber: Odin, we call you here to celebrate with us! We honor your magnificence with an offering invocation of song.

Amber sings:

Song: Odin Song

Upon the Tree for nine long nights,
You hung to win the runes of might,
You won the runes of might,
Upon the Tree for nine long nights,
You won the runes of might…

Your valkyries fare above the fray
And choose the slain to bear away,
The slain they bear away,
Your valkyries fare above the fray
The slain they bear away...

Nine worlds you wander, from them all,
Brings wisdom, welcome to our hall,
Brings wisdom to our hall,
Nine worlds you wander, from them all,
Brings wisdom to our hall...

© Lyrics: Diana L. Paxson
Music: Based on a Scandinavian folk song, adapted by Diana.
Vocals: Michaela Macha
© Odin Image, Sheet Music: Diana L. Paxson.

Amber: Odin, we welcome you and also offer you this Ale. **pours mead**
And for the one who always travels not far behind you, one for you as well. **pours mead**

Drea: Great Freya, beautiful and proud, leader of the mighty Valkyries. You take notice of all matters of the heart and quicken us to be unyielding in the pursuit of our passions. You would have us be fearless and unrelenting, to acknowledge the yearnings we have in our life and act on them decisively…and sensually if the opportunity presents itself. (Laugh) We welcome you to our Yuletide celebration and give you offering of Chocolate.

Drea: Freya, we welcome you

16. Praise Offerings
Amber: It is now time for us to make personal offering of praise to our kindreds. You may now come up and make an offering in silence if you like. We ask that if you would like to make an offering to the Gods, please place it near the candles representing today's fire. You may offer items to the well for your Ancestors, and any offerings to the Nature Spirits to our World Tree. Feel free to come up a few at a time and take hold of the wreath when ready to make your Praise offerings.

(Praise Offerings)

During praise offerings sing Voulspa song, at least 3 times through and then as a round

17. Oath-swearing: Bring out Freya's Boar: 9 Oaths given by Columbia Grove.

Drea: At this time of Yuletide cheer, we honor ancient Norse traditions as our ancestors did. One such tradition is that of Freya and her sacred boar. In days of old, a living boar was brought forth in a Yuletide celebration much like this one and all those in company would lay their hands upon the animal and make unbreakable vows, swear personal Oaths for the coming year to be sent directly to Freya herself. After the animal given these powerful Oaths of those loyal to Freya and adorned with decorations and oils, it was sacrificed to her.
In modern society, we recreate the rite of swearing the Oaths of our heart in the name of Freya as well, but we offer not to a living boar, but instead to a symbolic one handcrafted and filled with the Oaths of our community members here today. Our unbreakable oaths will rise not as blood flows but through candle flame as this kindred, this portal to the Gods and Goddesses, connects us to the ears of Freya at this Yuletide celebration.

Amber: (immediately on conclusion)
BRING FORTH THE BOAR OF FREYA!
(Jonathan bring forth the Boar of Freya)

Drea: It is with such intention that we honor you with our oaths of virtue and for the following year, in the hope that you will aid us in fulfilling them.

Each on a strip of paper to be placed into the Boar
Amber: The Oath of Piety
As Freya Wills, may it be so! (Repeat)

Drea: The Oath of Courage
As Freya Wills, may it be so! (Repeat)

Amber: The Oath of Hospitality
As Freya Wills, may it be so! (Repeat)

Drea: The Oath of Wisdom
As Freya Wills, may it be so! (Repeat)

Amber: The Oath of Perseverance
As Freya Wills, may it be so! (Repeat)

Drea: The Oath of Moderation
As Freya Wills, may it be so! (Repeat)

Amber: The Oath of Vision
As Freya Wills, may it be so! (Repeat)

Drea:The Oath of Integrity
As Freya Wills, may it be so! (Repeat)

Amber: The Oath of Fertility
As Freya Wills, may it be so! (Repeat)

Drea: May we walk forward with these virtues deeply rooted in our heart.
Amber Lights candles at base of boar

18. Yuletide Wishes: Bring out Yule Log

Amber
Many people have heard of the Yuletide tradition of the Yule Log, but far too few know of its origins. In the old Nordic world, the Yule log was an entire tree that was cut down and burnt in a community area over several days, in celebration and giving warmth during this dark and cold time of year. Over time, entire trees became problematic and smaller offerings were burnt, often times decorated lavishly with ribbons, oils and offerings. Individual wishes were made to the Yule log in hopes that they would be granted in the following New Year. The Yule log became a catalyst of hope, of dreams, and of personal desire and once lit aflame those wishes were sent up to the Gods and Goddesses to grant at their will. Today we do the same.

Drea: (immediately on conclusion)
BRING FORTH THE YULE LOG!

Bards: The Yule Log
The longest night is come, is come, the year is at an end.
May all ill-luck be gone, be gone, all broken fortunes mend.
Midwinter´s fire burns every bane, illuminates the night,
and so we hail the holy hearth, and the Yule Log´s living light!

Amber
Before the Ritual we asked you all to decorate our Yule Log here it sits in all its glory imbued with the wishes of us all.
Piacular Offering:
Amber: A special offering to the Kindreds! If any part of our rite has caused any offense or discord we offer you this Ale. We are imperfect beings but our intent is out of genuine respect.
Offer Ale

19. Prayer of Sacrifice

Drea:
Enigmatic Odin, Beloved Lady Freya,
Ancestors, Nature Spirits, Gods and goddess!
Prayers, Oaths, and wishes have been provided to you,
Offerings have we made through the Well, Fire and Tree!
May our Piety increase Your magic!
May our Courage increase Your Power!
And may our Fertile Spirits show the world Your abundance!
Mighty Kindreds, accept our sacrifice! (Repeat)

Amber Light Yule Log as Drea sacrifices Wreath to the Fire)

20. Taking of the Omen
Amber: So we have shown our devotion by giving of our hearts and our offerings to the Kindreds,
Now let our Voices arise on the Fire,
Let our voices resound in the well,
and let our words resonate within the World Tree.
May we open ourselves to the Kindreds,
asking what blessings they offer to us and what needs they may have of us...

(Bardic Group)
Offered our Gifts go to the Gods
Seer Takes Omen

21. **Blessing of the libation**
Drea We have made offerings to the Kindreds, and now we shall ask for their blessings in return. Close your eyes: See the blessings that each of you desire and need from the Kindreds. See it clearly in your mind's eye. And when we ask for the Waters of Life, when we say, "Give us the Waters of Life!", see the blessings you desire descend into the cup like a mist, filling the cup. And when we drink of the Waters, you will receive your blessing. When you are ready to receive those blessings, you may open your eyes...

Amber
Ancestors, May you fill this water with the blessings of _____
Nature Spirits, May you fill this water with the blessings of _____
Gods and Goddesses, May you fill this water with the blessings of _____
Behold! The waters of Life!

Drea Now, Kindreds your children cry out to you "Give us the Waters".
Again, we your children call out to you "Give us the Waters!"
A final resounding time, your children below "Give us the Waters of Life!!"
Fair Folk of Midgard, do you accept these blessings from the Kindreds?
Then you shall receive them!

Pass out waters
(Bardic Group)
Blessings in the Waters

22. **Thanking the Powers**

Amber
Before this rite can be concluded we must properly thank those who have joined us here today. We have invoked our Kindred, and Gods and Goddesses of Norse culture, we now give them our thanks for those who have joined us in celebration here today

Audience Member 1: Our Ancestors, those who share their wisdom with us, those who fought battles so that we did not need to. Thank you for honoring us with your presence today.
Ancestors, we thank you!

Audience Member 2: Nature Spirits, those who walk alongside us on this earth seen and unseen, we thank you for bringing your life and beauty to us.
Nature Spirits, We thank you!

Audience Member 3: Gods and Goddesses, several we have named today, and many others have joined us through the hearts of those in this community. We thank you for being a bright part of our Yuletide celebration in honor of this dark time of year.
Gods and Goddesses, We thank you!

Drea: Freya
We thank you

Amber: Odin
We thank you

David: Bragi
We thank you

Arin: Thor:
We thank you

Amber:
We give thanks to Heimdall, the ever present guardian of the Bifrost Bridge, Heimdall, we thank you!
Now it is proper that we end in the same way we have begun.

Now Close your eyes one final time:

As we walk through the gates and across the Rainbow bridge once again, you turn and thank Heimdall for granting you passage into the land of the Kindreds, to gaze upon their majesty.
And when you are ready to close the gates...open your eyes...

Now, by the will of Heimdall, and by our might and our magic:

(Close the Gates)
Let the Portal to the Ancestors return to a simple well
Let the Portal to the Gods and Goddesses become a singular fire
Let Yggdrasil the World Tree, be nothing more than a log
Let all be as it was before, and our sacred space return to its origin!
Let the gates be closed!
All: Let the gates be closed!

Ember: We give thanks to Jord, maiden of land and lake, great mother of the Vanir for her blessing.
Jord We thank you

Drea: To the sovereign Goddess of our region, named from the waters that give life and beauty to so much around us.
Our, sovereign Goddess Columbia, for all you give to us, each and every day
Columbia, we thank you!

25. Conclusion and Closing of Ritual
(Have everyone stand up and hold hands in a circle)
Drea:
We Belong to the Gods, and the Gods belong to Us…(Suggested edit: As our Ancestors once did, as we have done today, so that our children may do so in the future)We have gathered here tonight to cast aside the frigid grasp of Winter, and stand resolute in the dreams and ambitions we hold for the future, for our loved ones and for ourselves. While perhaps easy to forget at times, no person ever truly belongs to themself, but to their community and to humanity as a whole by our actions.

I would ask each of you to remember that regardless of our spiritual path, we are brethren. On this night, let matters of pride and ill-will be forgotten, for all here are family. Among us tonight, let there only be happiness, mirth and festivity to welcome in the new year!

Gods and Goddesses, Nature Spirits, Ancestors, Fair Folk of Midgard go in peace, this rite is now closed! May all spirits and entities come and go as they would wish. As the Kindreds will it, so it is done!!!