

Order of Service:

Children's Programming –

Lore – Jenni

Hospitality - Shawneen

Song Circle - Mike B

Pre-Ritual Briefing – Jan

Opening Statements & Prayer - Jan

Purification/Khernips – Jan

Song: Temenos guitar noodling

Honoring Hestia - Jess

Earth Mother - Shawneen

Surrounding Sea -

Sky Father - Thorne

Inspiration (Muses) - Jenni

Purpose and Precedent - Jan

Attunement - "We Are the Trees" & Cosmos Prayer

Recreate the Cosmos/Placing the Omphalos - Jan

Gatekeeper /Gates – Jan (Kerberos & Hekate)

Ancestors - Jenni

Nature Spirits – Lisa Lea

Shining Ones -

3K Praise Offerings: Kindreds Three, We Honor You

DotO (Hades & Peresphone) – Jan (Hades) & Mike B (Persephone)

DotO Praise Offerings: Earth & Starry Heaven

Prayer of Sacrifice – Lisa Lea

Omen (Satyr Deck) - Corbin

Return Flow -

Waters Song: Pour the Waters

Working (Underworld Journey) - Jan

Thanks Those Called – each to their own!

Recessional Song: Go With the Fire

End of Ritual Announcements – Mike B.

Things to Bring!

- Children's Programming – pumpkins, paint & brushes, table cloths, paper towels, foam pumpkins
- Hallows & altar cloths
- Small firewood, kindling, fatwood, lighter
- Book
- Nametags
- Mini offering boxes for the folk

- Ancestor Box
- Offerings/Ritual Part Supplies
 - o Khernips – bay, clean towel(s)
 - o Hestia – oil, lamp
 - o Gaea – Grain
 - o Okeanos – Salt
 - o Ouranos – Incense
 - o Muses – oil, wine, or grain
 - o Recreate the Cosmos – incense, silver, oil, towel, omphalos, candles, bowl, water
 - o Hekate – eggs & wine
 - o Kerberos – dog biscuits
 - o Three Kindreds – oil, wine, or grain
 - o Hades – precious stones
 - o Persephone – any plant except mint
 - o Prayer of Sacrifice – oil or wine
 - o Omen - bay
 - o Return Flow – water, candles
 - o Working – tissues

Opening Statements & Prayer (by Irisa MacKenzie)

Now is the time of year, when the veil between the worlds is thinnest. The wheel turns and the balance between day and night shifts in favor of night. As we gather to celebrate Samhain we will welcome and the Goddess Persephone and the God Hades as rulers of the underworld.

The spirits of the sky are above us.

The spirits of the land are around us.

The spirits of the waters flow below us.

Surrounded by all the numinous beings of earth and sky and water,

Our hearts tied together as one,

Let us pray with a good fire.

Purification (by Erin Fallath)

Folk will begin seated in the ritual space (unless it is unseasonably warm, in which case we may process)

Pour water into a bowl and say: "All waters come from the earth, and are by their very nature sacred."

Light a match/bay leaf and say: "Fire is a gift of the gods, and is by its very nature divine."

Drop lit match/bay leaf into the bowl of water and say: "This fire and water are here joined, that by them all things may be made pure and holy."

We will now bring around a clean cloth and these khernips, these purified waters, so that you may purify yourself before we begin the rite.

Song: ambient guitar noodling based on "Journey to the Temenos"

Honoring Hestia (by Jan Avende)

Light hearth lamp

For Hestia, I make these first offerings,
First-Born, and Last-Born,
Keeper of the Sacred Flame,
Tender of the Hearth and Guardian of the Home.
You whose fire burns brightly within our hearts,
I now ask that it burn brightly upon our hearth.
Hestia, become now the Sacred Fire within our rite.

Hestia, accept our offering!

All: Hestia, accept our offering!

Earth Mother (by Jan Avende)

The Children of the Earth call to the Great Titan Gaea,
great primal mother of gods and man.
It is you, in the beginning, who gave form to our world.
It is it you who grounds us and sustains us,
You who gives us the air that we breathe, and the beauty that we live in
It is you who gives us the precious gift of life.
You bestow upon us such great bounty.
Gaea, meet us at the boundaries.
Join us at our Sacred Hearth and be warmed by our good fire.
Aid us and guide us as we walk the Elder Ways.

Gaea, accept our offering!

All: Gaea, accept our offering!

Surrounding Sea (by Jan Avende)

The Children of the Earth call out to Okeanos, the Surrounding Sea!
You who encircle the Earth with your nine shining streams.
Bull-horned god, you drench us in calm and understanding,
In magic and mystery.
From your waves you share with us love and beauty.
You guide the rising and setting of the stars.
Father of river, wells, and springs,

Your serpentine form wraps the powers of the waters around us all.
Okeanos, Mighty Titan,
Meet us at the boundaries.
Join us at our Sacred Hearth and be warmed by our good fire.
Aid us and guide us as we walk the Elder Ways.

Okeanos, accept our offering! *All: Okeanos, accept our offering!*

Sky Father (by Jan Avende)

The Children of the Earth call to Great Ouranos,
whose mighty frame no respite knows,
Father of all, from whom the world arose:
Hear our call, source and end of all,
Your mighty primal force of air and sky
forever whirling high above the mountaintops
you wrap us in your celestial fold.
We ask you grant us your blessing.
Ouranos, meet us at the boundaries.
Join us at our Sacred Hearth and be warmed by our good fire.
Aid us and guide us as we walk the Elder Ways.

Ouranos, accept our offering! *All: Ouranos, accept our offering!*

Call for Inspiration (by Irisa MacKenzie)

Glorious Mousai, daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne (Memory)
Goddesses of music, song, dance, inspiration and knowledge.
I call to the daughters nine ...
Eloquent Kalliope,
Charming Kleio,
Heavenly Ourania,
Ivy crowned Thaleai,
Harmonious Melpomene,
Praised Polyhymnia,
Beloved Erato,
Musical Euterpe,
Delightful Terpsikhore,
Make my words honeyed and wise so they may please the gods
Daughters nine, infuse us with your gifts!

Muses, accept our offering! *All: Muses, accept our offering!*

Statement of Purpose & Precendent (by Irisa MacKenzie & Jan Avende)

In the Spring we honored the Kore, the name Persephone is known by when she is the spring maiden. She delights in flowers then. When autumn comes she descends to the Underworld to dwell with her husband, Hades, where they delight in the riches of the earth.

So today, the Wheel of the Year having turned to autumn, with the weather growing colder with each passing day, we gather to honor Hades and Persephone, who watch over our Beloved Dead. We will spend some time communing with those Beloved Dead that we may remember them and grow ever closer to them.

So, as our ancestors once did beofre us, so we do today, and so our descendants will do in the future, let us join together as one folk to make our offerings in joy and reverence.

Grove Attunement

Song: "We Are the Trees" by Jacob Hornbeak

The Fire, it burns.
The Water, it flows.
In this sacred space,
a sacred grove grows.

We are the trees.
Our roots, they are old.
Our limbs, they are strong
Our seeds, they will grow.

We are the trees.
Together we grow.
We are the folk.
We are the grove.

We are the folk.
We are the Grove.

The Cosmos Prayer (by Ceiswr Serith)

The waters support and surround us
The land extends about us
The sky stretches out above us
At our center burns a living flame.
May all the Kindred bless us.
May our worship be true.
May our actions be just.
May our love be pure.

Blessings, and honor, and worship to the Holy Ones.
Esto!

Recreate the Cosmos/Placing the Omphalos (by Jan Avende)

Let this area around us be purified sacred space where we go to meet the gods, and the gods descend down to meet with us.

Let the smoke from our sacred fire carry our voices to the heavens to be heard by the gods.

I place this omphalos at the center of worlds, just as it marked the center of the ancient world. My hands, like two eagles, flying to meet in the middle and establish this as the sacred center of worlds.

Through this sacred center, let the World Tree grow, plunging deep within the earth to touch the Sacred Waters below and reaching through the sky to embrace the Sacred Fires above.

Standing here at the Center, let us seek our allies as we prepare to open the Gates between the Worlds.

GateKeeper Meditation – Kerberos & Hekate (by Jan Avende)

Today, at this Autumn Cross-Quarter, when we seek to journey to the land of the dead, there is a need to have a skilled guide on the path, as well as a good relationship with the guardians that dwell in the mists below.

Take a moment now to focus on your breath, and allow your vision eye to open as we seek those guides and allies. Allow the mists of magic to appear, and stepping out from those mists see a figure, garbed in white, holding two torches raised aloft. Hanging on the side of her robes you see a set of golden keys. Keys to all the Realms. This is Hekate. She can see in many directions and go many places.

At her side you see a great black dog. He is vast, with three heads and a serpent's tail. Wicked claws tip the ends of his paws and he has a mane of snakes wreathing his neck. This is Kerberos.

whistle

Kerberos, I call to you now: We, the Children of Earth and Starry Heaven, come to honor tonight those whom you guard. Allow our memories of them to brighten and their spirits to speak with us. Take these treats now, for the good work that you do, and let us do our work tonight in peace.

offer dog biscuits

And now we call out now to Hekate to guide us in walking between the worlds!
Hekate, at moonlit crossroads, you befriend the helpless.
Keyholding Mistress of Land, Sea, and Sky.
Dark Mother Hekate,
Ghosts and hounds follow you.
You are the black puppy and the black she-lamb.
Torchbearer, we praise you for the brightness of your power.
We offer you [eggs and wine].

make offering

Hekate of the Crossroads be our Guide!
Guide us as you guided Demeter in her journey.
Reveal to us the way to walk in safety.
Radiant Hekate of the Torches,
Guiding Light, Keeper of the Keys,
Join your hidden knowledge and power with ours
and help us to open the Gates between the worlds.

Opening the Gates- (by Jan Avende)

Let this water become the Well, and open as a Gate to the worlds below.
Our connections to the Chthonic beings deepen as the Gate is opened.

Let this flame become the Fire, and open as a Gate to the worlds above.
Our connections to the Ouranic beings deepen as the Gate is opened.

Let this Omphalos stand at the center, and mark our sacred center here and in all
the worlds. Let the tree wrap its roots around the stone and sink into the Well, and
let its branches stretch upwards and reach for the Fire.

We stand here, connected at the Sacred Center
to all the realms of Land, Sea, and Sky.
Let the Gates be Open!

With Hekate as my guide, I have opened the gates.
From below, from around, from above, the mighty kindreds draw near.

The gates are open. Let naught but truth be spoken here and love be shown.

Inviting the Three Kindreds

Ancestors (by Jan Avende)

The Children of the Earth call out to the Ancestors!
Those of our blood and our bone, who have given us life.
Those of our heart and our hearth, who have guided our steps.
Those of our friends and our folk, who strengthen and deepen our relationships.
Those Mighty Dead, Seers, Priests, and Bards.
Apotheothnai, Heroes among the ancestors
who have shaped our world and made our community strong.
It is to you we call out to and to you whom we make sacrifice.
You have taught us the ways of old and given us the path to walk,
You have toiled and worked so that we might grow in our gifts,
And bring strength and love to our community.
Ancestors, Mighty Dead,
Meet us at the boundaries.
Join us at our Sacred Hearth and be warmed by our good fire.
Aid us and guide us as we walk the Elder Ways.

Ancestors, accept our offering! *All: Ancestors, accept our offering!*

Children of Earth, see in your mind's eye the Ancestors stepping out from the mists
and joining us here at our sacred fire.

Nature Spirits (by Irisa MacKenzie)

Brightly colored Anthousai, flower nymphs, play in epimelide's mountain meadow
pastures. While, Adria's gentle breezes caress my skin with the reverence of a lover.

From distant corners Bakkhai's drumming fills the air as comforting as a mother's
heartbeat to her infant. Dryades, of trees, groves, woods, and forests dance to this
beat, as do nature's worshippers. Hamadryades, of our sacred oak groves. You lend
our energy to ours and uplift our rites.

Water dwelling nymphs abound. Naiad dwelling in the rivers, streams, lakes,
marshes, and fountains of the earth protect girls and maidens as they journey
toward adulthood. Haliai, sea nymphs who ride the waves and play with the
dolphins. Krinaiai, fountain nymphs who bring light-heartedness and play to the city
centers. Limnades, nymphs of the lakes where heron hunt, ducks teach their young,
and turtles swim after sun.

Walking, swimming, flying, crawling, and slithering within the realms of the nymphs
are our companions of many forms. Their wisdom is willingly shared if we but listen.
As there are companions in this realm there are companions below. Lampades, the
torch bearing nymphs who guide our departed to the underworld are our final
nature spirit companion when our journey transforms.

Nature Spirits, accept our offering!

All: Nature Spirits, accept our offering!

Children of Earth, see in your mind's eye the Nature Spirits stepping out from the mists and joining us here at our sacred fire.

Shining Ones (by Irisa MacKenzie)

Mighty Olympians, governors of human life, I call to you!

Hestia, Virgin goddess of the hearth, home and sacred flame keeper

Zeus, King of Heaven, God of sky, weather, law and fate

Hera, Queen of Heaven, Goddess of women, marriage, sky and starry heavens

King and Queen of the gods, I honor you!

Demeter, goddess of agriculture, grain, bread and the prime sustenance of mankind. President over the mystery cults with promise a blessed afterlife to initiates.

Dionysus, God of wine, vegetation, pleasure, and festivity.

Mighty Theoi, I honor you!

Artemis, Virginal Goddess of hunting, wilderness, wild animals, and childbirth.

Mighty protectress of girls and maidens.

Apollon, god of prophecy, oracles, healing, plague, disease, music, song, poetry, and archery. Mighty protector of the young.

Mighty Theoi, I honor you!

Ares, god of war, battle lust, civil order, and manly courage.

Athene, goddess of wise counsel, war, defense of towns, heroic endeavor, weaving, pottery and crafts.

Mighty Theoi, I honor you!

Aphrodite, goddess of beauty, love, pleasure, and procreation.

Hephaestus, god of fire, metalworking, stone masonry, and the art of sculpture.

Mighty Theoi, I honor you!

Poseidon, god of the sea, rivers, flood, drought, earthquakes, and horses.

Hermes, god of animal husbandry, roads, travel, hospitality, heralds, diplomacy, trade, thievery, language, writing, persuasion, cunning, athletic contests, astronomy, and astrology.

Mighty Theoi, I honor you!

Hades, king of the dead. God of death, the dead and hidden wealth within the earth.

Persephone, queen of the underworld.

Goddess of spring growth. King and queen of the underworld, I honor you!

Hestia, virgin goddess of the hearth, home and sacred flamekeeper.

Mighty Theoi, accept our offerings!

All: Mighty Theoi, accept our offerings!

Children of Earth, see in your mind's eye the Shining Ones stepping out from the mists and joining us here at our sacred fire.

Praise Offerings to the Kindreds

Have the folk brought Praise?

We have

Then come forward with your offerings

Three Kindreds Praise Offerings Song: Kindreds Three, We Honor You (by Luke Landry & Missy Ashton)

To those who dwell on high
Mighty Gods and Goddesses
Join us at our Sacred Fire
Shining Ones, we honor you.

To those in the middle realm
Nature Spirits, Land kin
Join us at our Sacred Fire
Noble Ones, we honor you

To Those Who've Gone Before
Mighty and honored Dead
Join us at our Sacred Fire
Ancestors, we honor you

Let our voices resound in the Well
Let our voices arise on the Fire
Let our voices and hearts sing our praise
Our voices and hearts, together as one

Shine your blessings down
Grant us wisdom and truth
As we give to you your due
Kindreds, Three, we honor you
Kindreds, Three, we honor you

Deities of the Occasion

Hades (inspired by Orphic Hymn 18; written by Jan Avende & Missy Ashton)

The Children of the Earth and Starry Heaven call out to Hades!

Magnanimous, Whose realms are fixed beneath the firm and solid ground, in the Tartean plains remote from sight,
And wrapt forever in the depths of night.
Ruler of the Sleeping and Lord of the Dead.
Hades, you are known by many names.
The Invisible One: You who crept up on Kronos in your Helmet of Invisibility.
The Unseen One: You whose absence from the upper realms lends an air of surprise to your entrances.
The Abundant One: You whose realm houses precious metals, gold and silver, jewels used in all manner of finery above.
The Good Counselor and Bearer of Sorrow: You who aid the departed souls from this world in their transition to yours, introducing them to an afterlife of riches and peace.
The Zeus of the Underworld, God of Death and Strength of Solitude.
The Poseidon of the Underworld, God of the Primal Waters beneath the Earth.
Be welcome and warmed by our Good Fire.

Hades, we give freely to you in honor of your work
And dedication to the care of our dearly departed,
We come to you in reverence and gratitude,
We give you thanks and praise.
Plouton, Chthonios, Aidoneus

Hades, accept our offering!

All: Hades, accept our offering!

Persephone (Orphic Hymn 28)

To Persephone! Daughter to Zeus, almighty and divine, come, blessed queen, and to these rites include: Only-begotten, Pluto's honored wife, O venerable goddess, source of life. 'Tis thine in Earth's profundities to dwell, fast by the wide and dismal gates of hell; Zeus' holy offspring, of a beauteous mein, fatal, with lovely locks, infernal queen: Source of the furies, whose blest frame proceeds from Zeus' ineffable and secret seeds:

Mother of Bacchus, sonorous, and many-formed, the parent of the vine. The dancing Horai attend thee, essence bright, all ruling virgin, bearing heavenly light, illustrious, horned, of a bounteous mind, alone desired by those of mortal kind. O vernal queen, whose grassy plains delight, sweet to the smell, and pleasing to the sight, whose holy form in budding fruits we view, Earth's vigorous offspring of a various hue, Espous'd in Autumn, life and death alone to wretched mortals from thy power is known;

For thine task accordingly to thine will, life to produce, and all that lives to kill.
Hear, blessed Goddess, send a rich increase of various fruits from the earth, with lovely peace;

Send Health with gentle hand, and crown my life with blest abundance, free from noisy strife;

Last in extreme old age the prey of Death, dismiss me willing to the realms beneath, to thy fair palace, and the blissful plains where happy spirits dwell, and Hades reigns.

Persephone, accept our offering. *All: Persephone, accept our offering!*

Praise Offerings for DOTO

Have the folk brought praise for (DOTO)?

We have

Come forward with your offerings

Song: "Earth & Starry Heaven" by Jan Avende

Verse 1:

A field of flowers tempted her on
Demeter's fair daughter bathed in light.
An asphodel blooming caught her eye
Then chariot arose taking her.

Long-winged horses carried her down
This autumn bride brought sunlight to his realm.
Beyond the river, her spark, it takes hold
Drenched no more in darkness are the Dead

Pre-Chorus:

Hades, Persephone, I'm singing your praise.
Hear my prayer at the end of my days:

Chorus:

For I am a child of Earth and Starry Heaven.
I'm divine: my race it is heavenly.
I am thirsty, so give me cool water
From the Lake of Memory.

Verse 2:

Persephone you've thawed my gloomy heart
Refracting all your brightness through these gems.
I'm begging you to stay with these seeds.
Cultivate my fields to match your joy.

These shades all around make my heart weep.
I want a path to my fields of gold.
I'll stay with you if this you grant:
Past cypress we'll go to Elysium.

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Verse 3:

Though mortals avoid it, she calls out his name:
Hades, Aidoneus, my love.
To which he replies: Persephone.
My flower you've bloomed before my eyes.

Forced apart by seasons, their love only grows,
Spreading to our Beloved Dead.
And thru her secrets we have the keys
To life beyond death if we choose

Pre-Chorus

Chorus x2

Prayer of Sacrifice (by Jan Avende)

So we have given of our love and our wealth
To the Powers, that they may know our intentions.
Now let our voices arise on the Fire
Let our voices resound in the well
Let our words pass the boundary to the Otherworld

Persephone! Hades! Kindreds All! Accept our sacrifice!

All: Persephone! Hades! Kindreds All! Accept our sacrifice!

Omen (by Jan Avende)

Having given offerings to the Kindreds, we now seek to know what blessings and advice they give us in return.

Seer crushes and makes an offering bay

Apollo Mantikos guide my hand.
See with my eyes, Hear with my ears, and Speak with my voice.
What blessings or wisdom do we receive...

Seer: Three Common Ritual Questions:

Have our offerings been accepted?
What do the Powers offer us in return?
What further needs do the Powers have of us?

Return Flow (by Jan Avende)

Calling for the Waters

Haven given of ourselves, and received wisdom and blessings in return, we now seek to take of those blessings to enrich ourselves for the work that is to come. We seek to fill ourselves with these blessings so that we may be thusly imbued with the sacred powers and apply ourselves to the work ahead.

hold vessel of water above the Fire on the altar

See now this vessel of water, and beneath it our Fire of Sacrifice. Focus for a moment on these flames that burn bright on our altar. They have been well tended and well fed by our offerings during this rite. And see these flames in your minds eye and physical eye as they begin to come forth. And see those flames begin to reflect in these waters. See them as they begin to brighten.

Hallowing the Waters

And no more are these Waters here just simple waters, clear waters with nothing in them. They are filled with [omen]. See it spark bright and come into these Waters. They are filled with [omen]. See it spark bright and come into these Waters. They are filled with [omen]. See it spark bright and come into these Waters.

Take a moment to reflect upon the blessings we have received.
These blessings of [omen], [omen], and [omen].
How do they affect you? How can you take them into yourself to enrich your life?

Think next on how these blessings relate to our community, our Grove.
These blessings of [omen], [omen], and [omen].
How can you take them into yourself and share them with our community, our Grove?

Finally, think on how these blessings relate to the world.
These blessings of [omen], [omen], and [omen].
How can you take them into yourself and share them with the world?

Affirmation of the Blessing

See now in your mind's eye all of those blessings as they come from the flames into these Waters here. See them glow. See the way that the ripples of the Fire meet the ripples of the Water. And as they glow here see yourself reflected in them, and know that these waters are for you.

Children of Earth: Behold, the Waters of Life!

(Waters are passed out)

Song:

Children of Earth, as you hold now this cup before you, see once more those shimmering flames within the Waters, brightening them with blessing. Drink deep, Children of Earth, and know that we hold the blessings within ourselves. Esto!

Workings (by Jan Avende)

A Journey to Meet with Our Beloved Dead

Today, at the time when the Kore has descended below and become Persephone, Queen of the Underworld, we seek a connection where we may go to meet with her, with Hades, and with our Beloved Dead. We seek connection across the river.

So, Children of Earth, close your eyes if you are comfortable and once more focus on your breath. Allow those mists of magic to once more rise about you and fill your vision eye. As you feel their coolness alight on your skin and their mystery penetrate your mind, allow them to completely envelop you. Now, breathe in once more and see them descend and be left with your journey body standing in a dark and misty hollow.

As you stand here, see before you a tunnel leading down into the dark earth below. Standing at the edge of the tunnel you see a figure, garbed in white, holding two torches raised aloft. This is Hekate. With her aid we may journey into the dark, approach the gates of the Underworld, and safely traverse the realms.

Hekate nods to you and then turns to the tunnel to begin her descent downward. If you desire to make this journey into the Underworld to meet with your Beloved Dead, follow her. If you would rather not make the journey, settle yourself comfortably into this hollow to reflect on the blessings of the season while you await the return of Hekate and those who Journey tonight.

If you choose to follow Hekate into the deep, step into the light of her torches, and into the tunnel that leads below. Gazing upon the walls of the tunnel you notice as they turn from dirt to powerful and strong stone, easily supporting the weight of the Earth. Occasionally rivulets of water run down the walls, breaking the heavy silence with their drip drip. You can see the water sparkling in the light of Hekate's torches. Your footsteps remain quietly muffled by the soft dirt beneath your feet.

The tunnel continues to lead you deeper and deeper into the earth. You become aware of the sounds of dripping and running water becoming louder and louder. The tunnel begins to widen and open, with the light from Hekate's torches easily expanding to keep your path well lit. The tunnel then opens into a giant cavern and you find yourself standing in the pool of Hekate's light, and see it glittering off of a

swiftly running river. This is the River Styx, the River of the Dead. You know not to approach this river, and not to enter it.

Further on Hekate leads you, until you come to a golden bridge. Stretched across this bridge is a gate. She pulls from within her robes a set of shining and jingling keys and carefully inserts one into the lock on the gate and pushes it open before her.

As the gate opens a great black dog steps out from the darkness and into the light of her torches. He is vast, seeming to take up the full width of the bridge, and as he steps further into her light two more heads appear from the darkness. This is Kerberos. Although his teeth were bared and his hackles up when the gate opened, as she reaches out a hand towards him his expression softens and he greets her as an old friend. He sits a moment for her to scratch each of his heads, and then gets up and trots his way down the length of the bridge.

Hekate turns to you and plants one of her torches into the earth, beside the gate to the bridge. Focus now on the Ancestor you wish to meet, on the Beloved Dead you seek connection with. Stay here in this pool of light Hekate has given you and, as you think on the connection you seek, watch the goddess turn and follow Kerberos down the length of the bridge. The light of her torch becomes smaller and smaller until it is just a spark.

The spark disappears for just a brief moment before you see it again, this time growing larger and larger as Hekate approaches you again. Kerberos is walking calmly at her side, and behind them come a host of spirits. As you gaze upon them see the one you seek stand out, glowing, and taking form more fully. Hekate and the spirits approach the gates back out into the cavern, and Kerberos sits at the edge of the bridge, on alert and ever watchful.

Here is the time for you to commune with your Beloved Dead. They have, with the aid of Hekate and the permission of Lord of the Underworld, come to visit you under the watchful eye of Kerberos. Take some time now and be with your Beloved Dead.

... ..

It is now time to bid farewell to the Ancestor you have connected with here. Take a moment to say goodbye and remember any wisdom, memories, or blessings they have shared with you.

See now in your vision eye as the host of spirits turns back towards that golden bridge. Their forms become more misty again. Kerberos watches them pass by him, back down the length of the bridge and into the Underworld once more.

Hekate pats Kerberos on each of his heads, and gives each a treat, before closing the gates to the golden bridge and locking them shut again.

She picks up her torch once more, and by their light leads you back out of the deep and to the realm above. Travel through the deep cavern until you reach the tunnel again and follow Hekate and her light back through the Earth. Watch as the walls of the tunnel turn from stone to dirt. Breathe in, and sense the change in the air, as you move from the Land of the Dead and back to the Land of the Living.

Step out of the tunnel and back once more into the misty hollow. Hekate stays at the edge of the tunnel, the light from her torches fading as you come further out of the tunnel.

Now, standing in this hollow, once more focus on your breath. Allow those mists of magic to once more rise about you and fill your vision eye. As you feel their coolness alight on your skin and their mystery penetrate your mind, allow them to completely envelop you. Now, breathe in again and see them descend. You stand here now, in this place, in your body. Roll your shoulders and wiggle your fingers and toes. Breathe deep and come completely and fully back into yourself.

Thanking the Deity of the Occasion (by Irisa MacKenzie)

Mighty Persephone and Hades

We thank you for your many blessings this day and everyday
Persephone and Hades, we thank you!

Thanking the Kindreds (by Irisa MacKenzie)

Shining Ones

Theoi,

To all the Theoi, Great Goddesses and Gods, Deathless blessed one

I thank you for your many blessings this day and everyday

As our bonds of ghosti grow ever stronger

Theoi, hail and farewell

Shining Ones, we thank you!

Nature Spirits

Nature spirits, worldly spirits, spirits of place

I thank you for your many blessings this day and everyday

As we continue to share our world in peace, harmony and fellowship

Nature spirits, we thank you!

Ancestors

To my ancestors of hearth, heart, home, kings, god, and grove

I thank you for your many blessings this day and everyday

My love is yours, as I know yours is mine
Ancestors, we thank you!

Thanking the GateKeeper (by Irisa MacKenzie)

Hekate, Key-Holding mistress of the Land, Sea, and Sky,
You who have held your torches high for us to travel in safety today.
For all the aid that you've given to us we say:

Hekate, we thank you! *All: Hekate, we thank you!*

Closing the Gates

Now, Hekate, hold your torches high once more, and have your keys in hand. Join
your magic with mine once more and aid me in closing the gates:

Close the Gates- (by Jan Avende)

Let this Well be but water, ever sacred in its own right,
but no longer a Gate opening to the many paths.
Let this Fire be but a flame, ever sacred in its own right,
but no longer a Gate opening to the many ways.
Let the omphalos no longer be the Center of the Worlds holding us at the
Crossroads.

Let the Gates be Closed! *All: Let the Gates be Closed*

Remove Omphalos

"Let all be as it was before, only better"

Thanking the Bardic Deity (by Irisa MacKenzie)

Glorious Mousai, daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne (Memory)
Goddesses of music, song, dance, inspiration and knowledge.

Muses, we thank you! *All: Muses, we thank you!*

Thank Sky Father (by Jan Avende)

Ouranos, Brilliant Sky Father,
You who shine down your wisdom,
Who drape us in your star-studded cloak,
Your primal forces breathing life into us.

We say: Ouranos, We thank you! *All: Ouranos, We thank you!*

Thank Surrounding Sea (by Jan Avende)

Okeanos, great Surrounding Sea,

You who encircle the Earth with your nine shining streams,
Guiding the stars and the tides.
Your form laps against our shores as your Waters wrap us in their blessings.

We say: Okeanos, we thank you! *All: Okeanos, We thank you!*

Thank Earth Mother (by Jan Avende)

Gaea, Earth Mother, All Mother,
You who gave life at the beginning of all things,
You who ground us in your soil and sustain our being.
We walk lightly upon your bosom as we honor you.
For you support this day and all days,

We say: Gaea, we thank you! *All: Gaea, We thank you!*

Thanking Hestia (written by Jan Avende)

extinguish hearth lamp

For Hestia, I make these final offerings,
First-Born, and Last-Born,
Keeper of the Sacred Flame,
Tender of the Hearth and Guardian of the Home.
Though this fire may go out here on our hearth,
May it burn ever strong within our hearts.

Hestia, we thank you! *All: Hestia, we thank you!*

Ending the Rite

Go now, Children of Earth in peace with the blessings of the Kindred and a fire in
your heart
This rite has ended!

Song: Go With the Fire

End of ritual announcements (by the Bard or DiC)

Invite people for potluck and to stay and talk about involvement
Find someone with a nametag if you've got questions
Ritual is free, but the site is not
PFS Save the Date & Call for Proposals (which are due by Dec 1)