Prometheia (Summer Solstice) 2014 - Three Cranes Grove, ADF (ritual performed at ComFest)

Processional-

<u>Song:</u> "We are a Circle Moving" (- Marae Price)

We are a circle moving, One with another, we are Moving together, we are one.

I am spirit and I flow in you. You are spirit and you flow in me.

Purification- (written by Jan Avende)

Celebrants will cleanse hands in a bowl of salt water, and dry on a clean white cloth.

Look within yourself, and set aside those things that will not serve you in this rite. Look within yourself, and strip away the miasma that clouds your visions. Look within yourself, find the center of you, and come be welcome in this sacred space.

Opening Statements- (written by Jan Avende)

Children of Earth, we come together today, the longest day of the year, the Summer Solstice, to celebrate Prometheia, honoring the Mighty Titan Prometheus. It is fitting that we honor him today, as the Sun rides high in the Sky, burning bright for all to see. Prometheus is friend to all mankind, having stolen the Divine Fire for us, so that we may live in comfort and joy, and be joined together through the community that the Fire offers us. With our focus on Community this weekend, joined together here at ComFest, let us honor the Kindreds with reverence and love in our hearts.

Opening Prayer:

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.

Hestia- (written by Jan Avende)

The Children of the Earth call out to Hestia!
First born and last born,
you are the Lady of our Hearth and Heart.
Your fire burns strong in us,
And we ask that it burn brightly here on our hearth now.
Hestia, sweet fire maiden,
Join us here. Be our good fire and sanctify our hearth.
Warm us and light our way.
Hestia, accept our sacrifice!

All: Hestia, accept our sacrifice!

Outdwellers- (written by Paul Wasson)

Outdwellers!

I speak for those in this sacred space, with the power of the warriors sharing our rite.

I speak to those in this realm that may want to physically disrupt our rite,

To those of the spirit realm, ancestors that may not have shared our faith,

To the Shining Ones whose intent may be cross-purpose to ours.

I also speak to that which is in our heart that prevents us from moving on and conducting this rite with our full focus.

I ask that you leave us in peace this day, and allow our rite to proceed without your influence.

I stand ready to defend this rite if our agreement is not accepted.

Take this offering, and leave us in peace.

Outdwellers, accept this offering!

All: Outdwellers, accept this offering!

Earth Mother- (written by Christina Mosher)

I 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's it you who grounds and sustains us,

Gives us the air that we breathe, and the beauty that we live in

It is you that gives us the precious gift of life.

Great Mother Gaea, please accept this sacrifice in honor of the bounty

that you have bestowed upon us.

Gaea, accept our sacrifice!

All: Gaea, accept our sacrifice!

Surrounding Sea- (written 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 sacrifice!

All: Okeanos, accept our sacrifice!

Sky Father- (Orphic Hymn 4; adapted by Anthony Nelson)

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

grant us your blessing. We ask you join us here at the center of the world

and share with us your knowledge. Aid and guide us as we walk the ancient ways Ouranos accept our sacrifice.

All: Ouranos, accept our sacrifice!

Inspiration- (written by Corbin Kramer)

The Children of the Earth call out to the sweet-voiced Muses Nine! We ask that you be with us this morning, That you touch our hearts and minds, Honey our words, And inspire us as we give praise and worship on this solstice day! Muses Nine, Accept our Sacrifice!

All: Muses Nine, accept our sacrifice!

Two Powers- (written by Joe Auerbach)

Children of earth, close your eyes, breathe deep, and relax into the strength of the earth. In your mind's eye see before you a great mountain rising from deep within the earth, reaching up into the heavens to kiss the very heights of the sky. Olympus stretches up, tipped in clouds and mist, hiding the home of the gods from mortal sight. It slopes down to meld with the land around us, but the Children of the Earth know better. We know that it continues down deep into the earth into the Underworld.

Feel that great mountain now reflected in you. Feel your core reaching deep down into the depths of the world below. Feel the primal cold chaos of the Underworld as it rushes around you charging and infusing, and filling you up completely with the drastic energy of endless potential.

Now direct your mind's eye up and feel your peak, stretching high up into the morning sky to kiss the rosy-fingered dawn. Feel as it is surrounded by the hot white sky power, that energy which gives order and structure to creation. This is the energy of the gods, which grants form to the primal energies below. Feel now as this power fills you completely.

Feel around you now and sense the middle world where mortals live their lives; where crops grow and herds graze. It is from here that we draw our third power, the power of time and motion. We draw forth this third power to give motion and intention to the other two, anchoring these powers in our world and using them to take action and make change. Feel now as this power, too, fills you completely.

Now, Children of the earth, you are your own Olympus, filled completely with the three powers of the primal earth, the ordered sky, and the finite space and time of this place: three powers becoming one mountain. But open your eyes now and look around and see that you are not alone. You are but one of a range of mountains in this place and in this time, all bound together by these powers, anchored in a place where...

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, honor, and worship to the holy ones. (- by Ceisiwr Serith)

Recreate the Cosmos & Place the Omphalos- (written 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, it is now time to Open the Gates to the Many Realms.

Opening the Gates- (written by Jan Avende)

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

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

Let this Omphalos stand at the center, and mark our sacred center here and in all the world. Let the tree wrap its roots around the stone and sink into the Well, and let it's 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!

Gatekeeper- (written by Jan Avende)

We now seek assistance in maintaining our connection to the Other Realms, and so we call on a Gatekeeper:

The children of the Earth call out to Atlas,

Great guardian who holds the earth and sky asunder.

You stand as the axis mundi, amongst the pillars connecting the many realms.

Driving the stars before you as the very heavens revolve around you.

Your feet know the depths of the sea and you hands the clouds of the sky.

Mighty Mountain, with your starry crown,

I make this offering to you and bid you welcome.

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.

Atlas, accept this sacrifice!

All: Atlas, accept this sacrifice!

And now, Atlas, I call to you and ask that you act as our Great Guardian here. Be our Star Crowned and Earth Shod Pillar.

Be the Mountain that holds the earth and heavens asunder. Hold our axis mundi firm and maintain our connection to all the realms. Atlas, Guard the Gates!

All: Atlas, Guard the Gates!

Children of Earth, The Gates now stand open and protected. Let only truth be spoken here.

We have come together today for the Summer Solstice, where the sun stands at its brightest in the sky, and it is right and proper that we do as our Ancestors did before us, and honor the Kindreds on this holy day.

Who calls to the Ancestors?

Ancestors- (written by Ellie V. McDonald)

The Children of the Earth out to the Ancestors; heroes of old:

To Hercules, the strong laborer, who regained his honor through service in Mycenae

To Penelope, the clever weaver, who outwitted the greedy men of Ithaca

To Theseus, the brave idealist, who battled the Minotaur for the sake of his fellow Athenians

To Antigone, the steadfast sister, who stood up against the merciless king of Thebes

To Perseus, exile of Argos, who petrified injustice with Medusa's stony stare

To Pandora, first woman of Greece, who, despite her many sorrows, continued to hope

And to all those who lived, and loved and toiled to make this community strong, We welcome you and honor you.

Ancestors all, accept our sacrifice.

All: Ancestors all, accept our sacrifice!

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

Who calls to the Nature Spirits?

Nature Spirits- (written by Shawneen)

The Children of the Earth call out to the Spirits of Nature!

To Spirits of Soil and Stone and Crystal,

To Spirits of Root and Stem and Leaf,

To Spirits of Scale and Fur, of Flesh and Feather,

We call out to all of the Totems, and Helpers, Aids, Companions,

Allies and to all of the Nymphs,

We call out to the Dryads and the Naiads,

to the Hamadryads and Oceanids...

to all of the Noble Kin!

Whether you stand or crawl, burrow or wriggle,

Walk, run, soar, fly or swim,

We call out and give you honor and praise,

Hear our voices, Spirits of Nature, know that we welcome you and call you kin,

That we share your community and we too are part of the great web,

Hear our voices and know that we will support you as we know you support us Spirits of Nature, Meet us at the Boundaries,

Join us at our sacred hearth and be warmed by its good fire!

Aid us, and guide us and blend with us as we too walk the ancient ways! Spirits of Nature, accept our Sacrifice!

All: Spirits of nature, accept our sacrifice!

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

Who calls to the Shining Ones?

Shining Ones- (written by Melissa S Burchfield)

The Children of the Earth call out to the Shining Ones,
Theoi, Gods and Goddesses on high!
First Children of the Mother! We honor you today.
To the Khthonioi who rule below,
to the Apotheothenai, Heroes among our Ancestors, promoted to Gods,
and above all, to the Titans, be welcome in our midst.

Mighty Gods and Goddesses all
Teachers of wisdom, of craft and magic
Creators and Destroyers, Keepers of Balance
In the deep recesses of caves, in golden fields and treetops
We hear your voices in our hearts
And learn about wonder, humility, beauty and grace
Come to this place and bless our rite
Bless the grove and the people herein
Theoi! Accept our Sacrifice!

All: Theoi, accept our sacrifice!

Children of Earth, see in your minds eye the Shining Ones appearing from the mists and joining us here at our sacred fire.

DotO Prometheus- (written by Jan Avende)

Your wisdom shines brightly down upon us

Surrounded now by all the Kindreds, we call out especially on this day to Prometheus.

Prometheus, flame-haired Foresight and friend of mankind The Children of the Earth call out to you! Sculpting our flesh from the banks of the sacred River Styx You made us: Children of the Earth and starry Sky. You see the future, and know what may come. You stole the Divine Fire, the Sun itself, Giving us this gift of Fire, knowing the cost to you. Through you we know the ways of the land, We gather together as community, bound together by your gift, Though this gift yet binds you to the Earth. The Fire, burning light of the Stars, burning light of the Sun, Meant only for the Gods. You won it for us, your Children. Your fiery spirit burns hot and strong, sharing its heat with us here on Earth. Flame-haired trickster, and Mighty Titan.

As the Sun rides high in the Sky today.

Prometheus, you who sacrificed for us

So that we may sacrifice for you and all the Gods.

We call out to know and honor you this day!

Come, be warmed at our Fire, that we have kept burning for you,

Join us at our Sacred Hearth, that we would not have if not for you,

Meet us here at this time when the Fire is strongest,

And continue to aid and guide us as we walk the Elder Ways.

Prometheus, Fiery Titan,

Accept our Sacrifice!

All: Prometheus, accept our sacrifice!

Have the Folk brought praise?

All: We have!

Then come forth now and make your offerings!

(Praise Offerings)-

Song: "Come Pray With Me"

(Music: Traditional Lyrics: Jan Avende)

A Fire lit with piety in the center of the rite
The Druids pray around it, around the fire's light.
They call to the Gods and Goddesses so bright.
Sing praise you joyous pagans, and come pray with me!

Sacred Waters far below, flow into our Well With our voices raised together, our song will surely swell. Remember all our Heroes, their stories we'll tell. Sing praise you joyous pagans, and come pray with me!

CHORUS

So it's into the Grove, and beside the Tree Come you pious pagans, and make your offering Let's honor the Kindreds of Earth, Sky, and Sea Sing praise you joyous pagans, and come pray with me!

Standing tall and strong is the all-connecting Tree Beneath its arching branches we stand in harmony Honoring the spirits so wild and free. Sing praise you joyous pagans, and come pray with me!

CHORUS

We pagans all together still long for the day When we'll honor the Earth upon which we lay. She holds us forever, in her arms we'll stay. Sing praise you joyous pagans, and come pray with me!

CHORUS x3

Final Sacrifice- (written by Jan Avende)

We have made many offerings this day.

See now as they burn, smoke rising to the heavens.

See now as they sink, into the depths of the well.

See now as they traverse all the realms and are delivered to the Spirits we have called.

We now make one last offering, one final sacrifice,

to honor the Sprits and ensure our gifts are received.

Prometheus, Kindreds All, Accept this Sacrifice!

All: Prometheus, Kindreds All, accept this sacrifice!

Omen- (written 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

I ask now that 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...

From the Ancestors...

From the Natures Spirits...

From the Shining Ones...

Waters- (written by Jan Avende)

Calling for the Waters

Having 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.

All waters are by their very nature sacred,

We set aside these Waters, for they have been won for us.

We ask that you allow us to partake of them and of these blessings,

To take these sacred waters into our hearts and our minds.

Shining Ones, give us the Waters!

All: Shining Ones, Give us the Waters!

We ask for The Waters of Community.

We call forth The Waters from the Well of Fellowship.

We draw these Waters forth, to sparkle in the air about us,

That we may feel their cool mist surround us,

And quench our thirst in the Summer's heat with their blessings!

Shining Ones, give us the Waters!

All: Shining Ones, Give us the Waters!

We open our hearts and our minds to the blessings we have been given.

As we stand amongst the Kindreds,

Amongst our Folk, and amongst our community

We call forth these Waters as our due. We stand, united with all the Powers of the Worlds, ready to receive the blessing! Shining Ones, give us the Waters!

All: Shining Ones, Give us the Waters!

Hallowing the Waters

Let the brightness of the Shining Gods fill these waters with the omens we have received, [Omen, Omen, and Omen].

Let their blessings grow in strength, just as the sun has cycled to its greatest power today, Let the blessings shine with the brilliant power akin to this Summer Solstice Sun. Theoi! Shine your blessing down upon us, and fill our Sacred Cup.

When we share these Waters

We share our own wisdom and love.

We prepare to do the good work of the Kindreds in the world.

We prepare to grow and nurture the community in which we live.

Shining Ones: Hallow these Waters!

All: Shining Ones: Hallow these Waters!

We, your children, rejoice in your gifts Bless our spirits and our lives with your magic and bounty. As we celebrate the strength of our community here today.

Behold, the Waters of Life!

All: Behold, the Waters of Life!

Receiving the Blessing

waters are passed and quaffed

"Blessings in the Waters" (by Traci Auerbach)

May the power of the Kindreds be shown to me.

May the omens and the blessings be shown through me.

May the blessings in the waters fill my soul.

May the wisdom of the Kindreds make me whole.

Working- Receiving the gift of fire and community from Prometheus (story is a retelling of Hesiod, by Thexalon, working is written by Jan Avende)

Story: The Finding of Fire (retelling of Hesiod, by Thexalon)

In the earliest days of the world, there Gods, and there were Beasts, and there were Men. The Men feared the Gods, because the Gods were much older and much wiser than Men. And the Men feared the Beasts, because the Beasts were faster and stronger than Men could hope to be. Sometimes the Beasts would attack the Men's village, and the Gods would send hail or drought, and the Men suffered. So the Men came together in council, and decided to leave tribute for the Gods and Beasts in the hopes that they would be left in peace.

The built a high altar and left trinkets for the Gods, and left food for the Beasts in the nearby forest. The Gods seemed to listen to the Men, and sent no more hail or drought, but the Beasts did not understand Men's gifts and continued to attack the Men. And so the Men suffered still.

One of the Gods was named "Foresight", and it was his job to observe and predict what would happen. He had an idea, and went to the king of the Gods to explain it:

"Ah, sir, you see how those Men down there keep offering us gifts? Perhaps we could make them our allies by helping them against the Beasts."

"Why do we need allies? We're Gods, and the Men have nothing we care about."

"Not even the occasional dalliance?"

"You leave my private life out of this! And don't tell my wife! Now listen, remember why I'm in charge here? I overthrew my father and his crew. He overthrew his father and his crew. These Men are our children - what do you think would happen to us if they got too strong? We cannot help them, and that's all there is to it."

"But wouldn't it be nice to have Men down there happily doing what we want? We could enjoy more of their gifts, watch their triumphs in our name, ..."

"Enough! You are forbidden to do anything to help them, do you understand?"
But Foresight had known what the king might say, and he had a plan. He went to the highest parts of the heavens, and took a small piece of the Fire he found there, and headed down to the Earth to give it to the Men.

But the king of the Gods noticed what Foresight was doing, and knew he had to stop Foresight from delivering his gift. He sent a storm, and flung a lightning bolt *KABOOM!* at Foresight. The king then rushed to where Foresight was, grabbed him and dragged him to the far ends of the Earth, and chained Foresight to a rock, and sent a bird to peck at him every day.

Some Men heard the commotion, and came to investigate what had happened. There they discovered Fire, still burning, forgotten on the battlefield. They were scared of it at first, but decided this might be useful, took it back to their village, and tended it, and cared for it. The Fire kept them warm, it allowed them to see at night, and the next time the Beasts attacked the Men brought out pieces of Fire and scared the Beasts away, and the Men could prosper.

Generations went by, with Men becoming stronger and wiser with the help of the Fire. And one day, a great hero of Men was wandering the Earth when he discovered Foresight, still chained to the rock.

"I was wondering when you would get here!"

"How did you know I was coming?"

"Listen, I am Foresight, and I knew that if I helped Men one day Men would find me, and help me in return."

"But why are you chained here?"

"That's not important right now. If you release me, I will be an aid to Men henceforth."

"But how do I get you out? If these chains are too strong for you, a God, surely they are too strong for me."

"Remember the tool that saved you from the Beasts? Try that."

The hero took the Fire bundle from his pack, and rekindled it near the chain. As the chain heated, it became weaker, and Foresight and the hero pulled and bent and tugged until Foresight was free.

Foresight was good to his word. And so now, if you have a difficult decision to make, sit quietly by the Fire and listen carefully - the voice of Foresight will whisper from the flame

and tell you the path of wisdom.

a tea light is given to each celebrant. A taper is lit from the Fire, and used to light each candle in turn

Children of Earth, think now on the gifts that we have received. Prometheus knowingly made a sacrifice, so that we might have such a bright and shining gift. Think on the community that can be built around a Fire. Think on the prayers that can be spoken around a Fire. Think on the offerings that can be made around a Fire.

In it's simplicity, this flame burns hot and strong.

When you lack for community, let this flame remind you of your folk.

When you lack focus, let this flame be your guiding light.

When all the world seems dark and unforgiving, let this flame brighten your heart.

Children of Earth, the gift of Fire is ours, and through it we may continue to find joy and light, warmth and community in our lives.

Take this flame, extinguishing it for the moment,

Back to your hearth, where you may again rekindle it.

With it's life and light, be warmed and reminded of the joy today.

Rejoice, for we have the gift of Fire!

And now, Children of Earth, having honoring the Kindreds, received their blessings, and done good work, it is time we thank those we have called so that we may take the blessings we have received out into our community and out into the world.

Thank Prometheus- (written by Jan Avende)

Prometheus, Flame-haired trickster, For you presence here today, And for all the gifts you have given us, We say: Prometheus, we thank you!

All: Prometheus, We thank you!

Thank the Shining Ones- (written by Jan Avende)

Bright and shining Theoi, Mighty Gods and Goddesses on High. You who shine down your wisdom upon us And walk with us, guiding us, each day. We say: Theoi, we thank you!

All: Theoi, We thank you!

Thank the Nature Spirits- (written by Jan Avende)

Nature Spirits and Noble Guides, You who, through your living, teach us the ways to honor the Earth. Nymphs of all the realms, as we walk amongst your blessings And listen to your sweet songs, We say, we thank you! All: Nature Spirits, We thank you!

Thank the Ancestors- (written by Jan Avende)

Ancestors, Mighty Dead, Heroes,
Those of our blood and bone,
Those of our friends and folk,
Those of our hearth and home,
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.
We say: Ancestors, we thank you!

All: Ancestors, We thank you!

Thank Atlas- (written by Jan Avende)

Great Titan and Mighty Mountain, Atlas.
You who have stood as our Star-Crowned and Earth-Shod pillar,
Holding the earth and sky asunder, aligning them as our axis mundi.
You have stood firm as we celebrate here today.
You have Guarded the Ways for us as we rejoice here today.
Accept this gift now *make offering* and know we honor you for the work you do.
For the connections you've helped us to maintain,
And for aligning the cosmos itself,
We say: Atlas, we thank you!

All: Atlas, We thank you!

Close the Gates- (written 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

Thank Ouranos- (written 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 Okeanos- (written 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 Gaea- (written 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!

Thank the Muses- (written by Jan Avende)

Sweet voiced Muses Nine, You have sung with my voice, danced with my feet, enflamed my passion, and sweetened my words. For the fire you have filled us all with And for letting it pour forth in harmony and wisdom We say: Muses, we thank you!

All: Muses, We thank you!

Thank Hestia- (written by Jan Avende)

For Hestia, I pour these last libations.
First-Born, and Last-Born,
Lady of the Hearth
And Keeper of the Sacred Flame.
Though your flame may go out on our hearth,
May it continue to burn ever strong within our hearts.
Hestia, we thank you!

All: Hestia, We thank you!

Recessional-

<u>Song:</u> "Walk With Wisdom" (- Sable)

Walk with wisdom from this hallowed place. Walk not in sorrow, our roots shall ere embrace. May strength be your brother, and honor be your friend, And luck be your lover