

Beltane '09 with Treibh na Tintean

Intro - Beltane is a celebration of the union of the Goddess and God, a celebration of fertility and new life. The maypole, a phallic symbol representing the King and spirit of vegetation, is planted into Mother Earth to symbolize union and balance.

May is a month of special magic, opposite the Wheel from Samhain. As Samhain is associated with other worlds, so is Beltane when the unseen can be seen. It was Beltane when the Tuatha de Danaan arrived in Ireland. They became known as the people of the hills, the Sidhe—we call them the fae. In May, their magic is strongest.

The waters of May are particularly potent for healing. Today, the Chalice Well at Glastonbury and the Cullonden Well in Scotland and others are pilgrimage sites. Brigid is also important at Beltane, as a fire goddess and as the one who presides over holy wells and healing. Some call her the Queen of the Faeries.

Directions -

WEST: This is our hearth...
NORTH: our earth...
EAST: our circle...
SOUTH: our clan...
SPIRIT: Demeter, bless our home.
WEST: Artemis, protect our home.
NORTH: Bona Dea, grace our home.
EAST: Sheila na Gig, make generous our home.
SOUTH: Our hearth, Treibh na Tintean.
SPIRIT: Our clan Treibh na Tintean.

THE SWITCH -

Richard to Sandy: Sandy, are you willing to be South, Fire, with its passion, enthusiasm, comfort and transformation?

Sandy: I am. Into this sacred grove, I call the sun. I call the leaping bonfire. I call the warmth of the summer afternoon. I call the flash of distant lightning. Fire, my power, my passion, I call you. So mote it be.

All: Give thanks to the God for his gift of life force.

Sandy to Denise: Denise, are you willing to be West, Water, with its cleansing, persistence, peace and creativity?

Denise: I am. Into this sacred grove, I call the sea. I call the river. I call the scent of wild roses. I call the dew, the mist, the downpour. I call the rain's renewal. Water, my healing, my peace, I call you. So mote it be.

All: Give thanks to our Mother, in whose womb we all were formed.

Denise to Mike: Mike, are you willing to be North, Earth, with its strength, stability, healing and abundance?

Mike: I am. Into this sacred grove, I call the oak, the pine, the redbud, the maple. I call the ivy winding toward the sun. I call the stones and soil. Earth, my strength, my abundance, I call

you. So mote it be.

All: Give thanks to the earth, our Mother, for her gifts.

Mike to Richard: Richard, are you willing to be East, Air, with its freshness, inspiration, clarity and vitality?

Richard: I am. Into this sacred grove, I call the wind. I call the turning starlit sky. I call the birdsong, the drifting leaves, I call the stillness of a spring evening. Air, my humor, my song, I call you. So mote it be.

All: Give thanks to the Sky Father for all our experiences.

Casting - We cast this circle as sons and daughters, / Spinners and weavers, Tool makers, potters; / As dancers and dreamers, / Fixers, changers, / Singers and screamers. / We cast this circle with our ancestors and guardians, / God and Goddess too, / You who teach and who speak true, / Who plant, who reap, / Who soar, who creep, / Who cook, who drum, / Who have been and yet to come, / Unreasonable women, / Unmanageable men. / We cast as pagan, druid and witches, / Loving hearts or furious bitches. / We are sweet water, we are the seed; / We are the storm wind to blow away greed. Into this circle we bring to birth / the love that reclaims our earth.

Covenant - As we gather here in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit.

The Handfasting of God and Goddess -

SOUTH: Your courtship trails behind you like a thread from Ariadne's spindle, strong and fine.

WEST: It shows the path the two of you have led through labyrinths of time to reach this shrine.

NORTH: The lips of your beloved are the wine that fill communion's chalice.

EAST: Your head is brimming with the memories you baked into the wedding bread.

SPIRIT: Now clasp your hands together; thrust them through the loop. Say to each other that you will be as one flesh, God and Goddess combined; that this vow will fit snug in your heart.

THEA: We call on our Mother to return, to reclaim her domain and her throne of power. Hail the Queen of the May!

BETTY: We call on our Father to return to let his flames melt our Goddess' heart once more. Hail the King of the May!

(Takes hands out of loop and crown both.)

Invocation -

BETTY: Lady of Flowers, Summer Bride, grace our circle with your gentle, joyful presence.

All: Nuture our wishes even as you nuture the child who grows in your womb. Welcome, Lady,

welcome.

THEA: Lord of the Greenwood, Hawk of May, swift-moving stag, enfold us in your fierce embrace.

All: Father, brother, healer, lover, friend—welcome, Lord, welcome.

The Dance -

WEST: Tonight, our cauldrons are filled with water to represent a holy well. The cauldron is a symbol of the womb of the Goddess and a place for transformation.

EAST: Tonight, as we dance and celebrate life, we call on the power of the fae to add enchantment to our personal intentions. As we dance, fix your intention in your mind.

SOUTH: You may be thinking of love, of a special someone you want to attract. You may call on Brigid for healing, or you may simply want to give thanks for LIFE!

NORTH: When you are ready, break away from the dance, take a coin from the tray beside the cauldron, then walk around the altar three times while whispering your intention.

SPIRIT: When you arrive back at the cauldron, drop the coin into the water, then rejoin the dance. As we dance, we will chant:

Holy well, / enchanted land, / take this coin / from my hand.
With my wish / now set free, / make it real, / so mote it be.

(When finished...)

SOUTH: May our joy, celebration and intentions be carried out into the world. As above, so below.

All: As above, so below.

NORTH: It's time to move back into our everyday world. Close your eyes. Let your breath fall into a comfortable rhythm. Let go of the motion of dancing and let your energy spiral down into the earth.... Take a minute to come back to the awareness of your body. Reflect on tonight's ritual. When you are ready, open your eyes.

Communion -

BETTY: This is Beltane, a time to celebrate life, a time to create life, the Lord and Lady join as One. The Lord and Lady share the dance of life, they share the kiss of life. *(Yes, there is kissing here!)*

Share the seeds of life.

THEA: Share the nectar of life. *(And now share with us!)*

Releasing Spirit -

SOUTH: Tonight we seek to release Spirit from her duties and show our gratitude as she prepares to leave and begin a new life.

EAST: We seek a parting within the love and grace of the Lady and the Lord.
NORTH: As the Lady and the Lord are separate, yet joined in love, so are we.
WEST: With love and honor have we served together, in respect and love do we part.
ALL: We release you from duty, but never from our hearts. So mote it be!

Acknowledging the Rune

Spirit Thanks the Directions

Thanks to God and Goddess - Sacred is the mating of our Lady and Lord. From their union the young God is formed, and everything prospers. Let this abundance touch our lives that our goals may flourish too. We give thanks to the Lady and Lord for blessing our work, and bid them farewell.

This ritual is finished. May the peace of the Lord and Lady be ever in your heart. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!

Potluck then Fire Jumping