

Meditation

Cleansing – We walk between Beltane “fires.”

Calling the Directions –

- EAST: 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.
- SOUTH: 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.
- WEST: Into this sacred grove, I call the sea. I call the river. 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.
- NORTH: 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.

Casting – We cast this circle as sons and daughters, / Spinners and weavers, Toolmakers, 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.

Invocation –

Goddess: (*women*) I am the Blessed Mother, the bountiful Lady of the Harvest, I am clothed in the cool depths of the waters and draped in the gold of fields laden with grain. By me are all seasons of the earth ruled that all things come to fruition through me, for lo, I am the Life-Giving Mother, fertile and joyous in my abundance. I am the Eternal Maiden, Mother of

all, and Crone of Transformation. I stir the cauldron of Wisdom, Abundance, and Renewal, and I pour forth my Limitless Love upon all my peoples of the Earth.

God: (*men*) I am the Cycle of the Wheel of the Year. I am the Bright Child, I am the Oak Crowned King of Winter Solstice; I am the Greenman of Spring, the Holly Crowned King at the marriage feast of Summer Solstice; I am the Stag-Antlered Hunter, I am the Goat-Horned Lord of Shadows, offering rest and renewal to spirits in passage; I am the Youth who dances with the Maiden, the Father who embraces the Mother, and I am the Son of the Mother. Honor me through the seasons of the year, for I am the Spirit of Nature, free and untamed, and by my hand are ye lead through the Great Mystery unto thy rebirth.

Re-Blessing the Circle -

NORTH: Five years ago, we named and blessed this circle as our hearth...

EAST: our earth...

SOUTH: our circle...

WEST: our clan.

NORTH: Demeter, bless our home.

EAST: Artemis, protect our home.

SOUTH: Bona Dea, grace our home.

WEST: Sheila Na Gig, make generous our home.

NORTH: Our hearth, Treibh na Tintean.

EAST: Our earth, Treibh na Tintean.

SOUTH: Our circle, Treibh na Tintean.

WEST: Our clan, Treibh na Tintean.

NORTH: We do so promise to live in peace...

EAST: to respect nature...

SOUTH: to know ourselves...

WEST: and to love one another.

All: Blessed be!

Crowning -

All: The Light, long smothered by Winter's chill, is now set free. The seed of life, buried in the loam long ago, springs forth anew. We, the children of the Goddess, on the verge of summer, remember warm days and seasons.

Men: We call on our Mother to return, to reclaim her domain and her throne of power. (*crown*) Hail the Queen of the May!

(*Women step forward, take queen's hands and dance around fire at least once while men say,*) Women, strong to conceive and to create, to give birth and to tend: you are the daughters of the

Goddess, blessed by the God. Thus do we mark this holy day. (*Women step back into the circle.*)

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

(*Men step forward, take king's hands and dance around fire at least once while women say,*) Men, whose passion is beauty, whose warmth is life: You are sons of the Goddess, blessed by the God. Thus do we mark this holy day. (*Men step back into the circle.*)

Queen: (*light sun candle*) I light this candle to the Sun.

(*pick up dish of earth and lay hand over*) I bless, consecrate and set apart this earth in the name of the Triple Goddess. May this be sacred earth, set apart for magic; for earth is of the Goddess, being her sacred body.

King: (*take wooden wand and pass quickly through flame of sun candle*) I bless this in the name of the Lord of the Day, the youthful ardent one, the Lord of Life, God of the Greenwood. (*place wand on dish of earth*)

Queen & King: (*join hands*) As the wand is to the earth, so the male is to the female and the Sun to our blossoming world. Joined, they bring happiness.

Six-cord Handfasting of Monica and Tim

The Ascent of the God -

East: The God is our Fire, the Vine and the Beast; / the Goddess's son, and her Lover at feast. / He lives and He dies as circles the Year, / In both death and rebirth his fate always clear.

South: When harvest comes due then He lays down His life, / Grieving the Goddess as mother and wife. / Down through the grave His path guides His feet, / And in death comes to life a womb that's earth-sweet.

West: She follows Him there, He explains to Her fears; / He lightens Her heartache, He tempers Her tears. / She is reminded that sorrow's not all, / For grief's to endow Her glad-ringing hall.

North: She gives up life not, He dies only awhile: / In light He returns through Earth's blessed aisle; / In green'ry resprouts, in flesh reappears, / And in May, with embraces and urges, endears.

Queen: Deep separation deep marriage becomes, / Their rhythms like blooming; Their heartbeats like drums.

King : He blooms through Her realm as She wept ent'ring His, / And They open the Gates to the forces of bliss.

All: Long days from long nights grace this bright period / When the Worlds celebrate the ascent of the God! Blessed be!

Communion -

Monica: 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.

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

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.

NORTH: 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 worlds. 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.

Thanking the God and Goddess -

EAST: Sacred is the mating of our Lady and Lord.
NORTH: From their union the young God is formed.

WEST: And everything grows and prospers.

SOUTH: Let this abundance touch our lives; affect our goals.

Thanking the Directions -

WEST: Water—healing, peace, the sea, the river, the lakes, the dew and the downpour—we thank you. Blessed be.

NORTH: Earth—strength, abundance, the bur oak, the white pine, the stones and soil—we thank you. Blessed be.

EAST: Air—humor, song, the wind, the turning starlit sky, the drifting leaves, the stillness of a spring evening—we thank you. Blessed be.

SOUTH: Fire—power, passion, the sun, the leaping bonfire, the summer afternoon, the flash of distant lightning—we thank you. Blessed be.

ALL: The circle is open, but unbroken. May the peace of the God and Goddess be ever in our hearts. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again! Blessed Be!

Potluck and Fire Jumping!