

Litha '08 with Treibh na Tintean (try-v na tìn tawn)

“Litha, the summer solstice, is the longest day... a time of amazing bounty—the zenith of the year, high noon. It is a time of action—of doing, not simply being—and a time of the leap of faith. Action is always tempered by tension, as action can lead just as easily to failure as to success.

“Litha marks the end of the waxing half of the year, as from this moment onward the days will begin to grow shorter as we progress toward autumn. Therefore it is almost a frenzy of movement, of incredible brightness and exuberance—a last dance.” ~Dianne Sylvan, *The Circle Within*

Chant: Pan, Pan, the horned man, / Teach me, please, as much as you can!

To the sound of the bells / in Cernunnos' hand, / dance with me, / dear horned man.
Pan, Pan, the horned man, / Play your pipes for me and your band.
As Diana's moonbeams / float across the land, / sing with me, / dear horned man.
~adapted from Mystic Raven

Cleansing

Directions:

- EAST: Fireflies and summer sun in circles round we become as one. Singing songs at magick's hour we bring the winds and timeless powers.
- NORTH: Turning inward, hand in hand, chant while sun is setting. We dance around the precious hearth we've built upon our blessed earth.
- WEST: Chant while moon gazing. Hail, fair moon swaying breathless, beside the sea.
- SOUTH: Rise on the morn standing silent beneath the sky. To light my way, we catch fire from our God's eye.
- SPIRIT: Hail, fair Sun to heal the land, ruler of the day; ruler of the night, our Moon, we call the Goddess until the light.
~adapted from Patricia Telesco

Casting: (All) 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.

Invoking the God: (All) From this Grove, Your children call thee. Your antlers ride the sky, Horned One, and carry with them the legacy of Kingship. Come to our side, Lord of the Forests, bring Your strength and stability that are the mountains rising high. Bring Your joy and ecstasy, that we might know Your nature. Come to this dance and be with us tonight!

Invoking the Goddess: (All) Your moon a magic mirror hangs in space. Every month your three-fold image shines. Mistress of magic, Ruler of tides seen and unseen, Spinner of the threads of fate, O Ancient One upon whose shoulders Nature is exalted, vast and shadowed, Your power we invoke to aid us here!

Handfasting for Jenna and David

Rededication:

Earth: Green Earth Mother—bless this water, we do ask. Great One of the Stars and Spinner of Fates, we do honor You and call upon You in many names—some ancient and some unknown.

Fire: Mighty Sun God, God of Fertility and Plenty, we ask Your blessing. We give You honor and call upon You in many names—some ancient and some unknown.

(All take turns dipping fingers into the water and blessing forehead and heart; then all will read the blessing.)

We will serve and revere the Great Goddess and god.
We are pagans, heathens, witches and druids;
Stones of the ancient circle;
Standing firmly balanced upon the earth,
Yet open to the winds of the heavens;
And enduring through time.
May the Old Ones witness our words! So mote it be!

Communion: “May you drink from the cup of love.”

We Have Come To Be Danced!

ALL – We have come to be danced!

- not the pretty dance
- not the pretty, pretty, pick me, pick me dance
- but the claw-our-way-back-into-the-belly-of-the-sacred-sensual-animal dance
- the unhinged, unplugged, cat-is-out-of-its-box dance
- the holding-the-precious-moment-in-the-palms-of-our-hands-and-feet dance

ALL – We have come to be danced!

- not the jiffy booby, shake-your-booty-for-him dance
- but the wring-the-sadness-from-our-skin dance
- the blow-the-chip-off-our-shoulder dance
- the slap-the-apology-from-our-posture dance

ALL – We have come to be danced!

- not the monkey-see, monkey-do dance
- one, two, dance-like-you
- one, two, three, dance-like-me dance
- but the grave robber, tomb stalker, tearing-scabs-and-scars-open dance
- the rub-the-rhythm-raw-against-our-soul dance.

ALL – We have come to be danced!

- not the nice, invisible, self-conscious shuffle
- but the matted-hair-flying, voodoo mama, shaman-shakin'-ancient-bones dance
- the strip-us-from-our-casings, return-our-wings-sharpen-our-claws-and-tongues dance
- the shed-dead-cells-and-slip-into-the-luminous-skin-of-love dance.

ALL – We have come to be danced!

- not the hold-our-breath-and-wallow-in-the-shallow-end-of-the-floor dance
- but the meeting-of-the-trinity, the body-breath-and-beat dance
- the shout-hallelujah-from-the-top-of-our-thighs dance
- the mother-may-I? Yes, you-may-take-10-giant-leaps dance
- the olly, olly oxen-free, free, free! dance
- the everyone-can-come-to-our-heaven dance.

ALL – We have come to be danced!

- where the kingdom's collide in the cathedral of the flesh
- to turn back into the light
- to unravel, to play, to fly, to pray
- to root in skin sanctuary.

ALL – We have come to be danced! We have come!

--by Jewel Mathieson

Thanking the God: Horned One, Lover of the Goddess! You have consented to join us tonight and we thank You for that favor. Stay with us in our hearts, let us always feel the pull of Your wild forests even though we be in the midst of the city. Go if You must, stay if you will. Blessed be!

Thanking the Goddess: All praise the Lady by saying: Blessed be the name of the Maiden, blessed be the name of the Mother, blessed be the name of the Crone. Go if You must, stay if You will. Blessed be!

Thanking the Directions:

EAST: We thank the winds and timeless powers. Depart in peace. Blessed be.

NORTH: We thank our precious hearth, our blessed earth. Depart in peace. Blessed be.

WEST: We thank the fair moon and the sea tides. Depart in peace. Blessed be.

SOUTH: We thank fire that comes from our God's eye. Depart in peace. Blessed be.

SPIRIT: For the energies adrift on the enchanted night air, we give thanks. Blessed be.

This circle is open, yet unbroken. May the peace of God and Goddess be ever in our hearts.
Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!