A Beltane Celebration

May 1, 2020

Gathering Music ~ Daria

Rhiannon: Fleetwood Mac

Call to the Goddess and God (Opening Prayer and Welcome) ~ Barbara

Great Goddess, Bright and Pure Maiden,

Whose beauty we see in the fields of wild flowers,

Whose sweet, warm breath is the Spring breeze,

Whose gentle kisses are like the morning dew,

Whose body dances like the rolling waves,

Whose love washes over us like the Spring rain,

I call and welcome you with this Rite of Beltane.

Bless our circle with your loving presence

So that we may honor you in our ritual.

Great God, Strong and Virile Consort,

Whose charms we see in the sparkling night sky

Whose passion we feel in the rays of the Sun,

Whose booming voice is heard in the thunder,

Whose body is hard and strong like the sturdy oak,

Whose desire stirs us like the rushing wind,

I call and welcome you with this Rite of Beltane

Bless our circle with your loving presence

So that we may honor you in our ritual.

Welcome Dear Friends to our Celebration of Beltane !

ABOUT BELTANE ~ Barbara

Beltane represents the peak of Spring and the beginning of Summer. Earth energies are at their strongest and most active. All of life is bursting with potent fertility and at this point in the Wheel of the Year, the potential becomes conception. On May Eve the sexuality of life and the earth is at its peak. Abundant and fertile on all levels. The Maiden Goddess has reached her fullness and is the manifestation of growth and renewal. The Young Oak King falls in love with her and wins her hand. The union is consummated and the goddess becomes pregnant. This is symbolic of the Sacred Marriage (or Hieros Gamos), the union of Earth and Sky. The god and the goddess are balanced in power and age; they are lovers and truly equals.

Beltane honors Life. This is a time of sexuality and sensuality, passion, vitality, joy, and conception. We have arrived at a brilliant moment in the Wheel of the Year to bring ideas, hopes and dreams into action and to tend carefully to those that were planted before and are sprouting now.

Beltane presents a period of limbo too.  We’ve prepared, we’ve planted, and for a time, we wait without any encouragement or proof.  We doubt and we wait and we breath.  Eventually, every single year without fail, growth wins, and we move swiftly into the work of supporting and tending.

It is a time of trust and hope. Some new growth come from seeds and intentions planted last year, while others will grow from seeds we plant in the here and now. All must be tended and nurtured, given warmth and sustenance.

Beltane is also a time to contemplate the sacred union of polarities. Now, we open to the God and Goddess of Youth. At Beltane we jump over the fires of vitality and youth allowing that vitality to unite, enliven and heal us. Integration of the male and female aspects of the Self has long been seen as an outcome of spiritual practice. Beltane is the time when we can open to this work fully, allowing the natural union of polarities that occurs in nature at this time to help us in a work that is essentially alchemical.

As the Wheel turns inevitably once more focus on, honor and embrace

Creativity ~ Union ~ Beauty ~ Growth ~ Life ~ Fertility Great Marriage ~ Sexuality ~ Sensuality

 in any and all ways that are meaningful to you.

Creating Sacred Space ~ Daria

Welcome now, spirits of brightness, of blossoming, of new life…

We gather today in honor of Your love

{Turn to the South}

Welcome, Lady of the Fire, bright and shining … (purification, transformation, healing)

{Turn to the West}

Welcome, Lady of the Water, clear and calm … (flowing, soothing, nourishing)

{Turn to the North}

Welcome, Lady of Earth, strong and sturdy… (manifestation, fertility, steadiness)

{Turn to the East}

Welcome, Lady of the Air, new and fresh … (beckoning, blooming, singing)

{Turn to Center, to the candles on the altar}

Today we celebrate the sacred marriage of the Goddess and God

The union of White and Red; milk and blood; womb and seed

{Light God candle}

I light the red candle, representing the young God, the Stag.

The energy of activation, seeding all that will become; the Spear which pierces

Blessed Be

{Light the Goddess candle}

I light the white candle, representing the Goddess, the ripening maiden

The womb that will grow and nurture all that will be manifested; the Cup which receives

Blessed Be

The light of these candles unites us in this moment,

On this high holy day of Beltane

{Sprinkle the holy water}

Water joins fire in alchemical magic…

Welcome light, welcome love!

Welcome God and Goddess here with us! Hail, Divine Love!

Welcome, hail, and welcome!

And as we cast our circle, let us pray…in the words of the poet John O’Donohue, this is:

Prayer In Praise of The Earth ~ Daria

Let us bless
The imagination of the Earth.
That knew early the patience
To harness the mind of time,
Waited for the seas to warm,
Ready to welcome the emergence
Of things dreaming of voyaging
Among the stillness of land.

And how light knew to nurse
The growth until the face of the Earth
Brightened beneath a vision of color.

When the ages of ice came
And sealed the Earth inside
An endless coma of cold,
The heart of the Earth held hope,
Storing fragments of memory,
Ready for the return of the sun.

Let us thank the Earth
That offers ground for home
And holds our feet firm
To walk in space open
To infinite galaxies.

Let us salute the silence
And certainty of mountains:
Their sublime stillness,
Their dream-filled hearts.

The wonder of a garden
Trusting the first warmth of spring
Until its black infinity of cells
Becomes charged with dream;
Then the silent, slow nurture
Of the seed's self, coaxing it
To trust the act of death.

The humility of the Earth
That transfigures all
That has fallen
Of outlived growth.

The kindness of the Earth,
Opening to receive
Our worn forms
Into the final stillness.

Let us ask forgiveness of the Earth
For all our sins against her:
For our violence and poisonings
Of her beauty.

Let us remember within us
The ancient clay,
Holding the memory of seasons,
The passion of the wind,
The fluency of water,
The warmth of fire,
The quiver-touch of the sun
And shadowed sureness of the moon.

That we may awaken,
To live to the full
The dream of the Earth
Who chose us to emerge
And incarnate its hidden night
In mind, spirit, and light.

The circle is now cast – we are between the worlds

Joining the Powers Above, the Powers Below and the Powers Within

In the Spirit of Beltane

Where the portals are open,

Where we use the power of our collective intention

To focus on our place in the Wheel of the Year, and our place in the Wheel of our Lives

The sacred marriage of the Goddess and God within each of us

And the life and intentions that will be manifested through us

Selection of an Oracle Card ~ Caramaya

Guided Meditation ~ Ann

Close your eyes and use your breath to ground yourself. Go ahead and feel your body. Notice the soft, sensual rhythms of your breath, slow, slow in, slow, slow out. Empty yourself of thoughts and concerns, until your body feels supple, enervated and relaxed.

Imagine you are in a forest wilderness decked out in its glorious, Beltane display of new growth: the bright, leaf green canopy of trees, the musky scents of mating animals, and the melodic communion of nesting birds. Imagine ((( card ))) beside you.

Take a deep breath.

Breathe in, two, three, four and out, two, three, four and in, two, three, four and out, two, three, four.

Let yourself feel the warmth of the Sun. Begin at your feet; as you see and feel the Sun’s light touch your toes, let them soften and relax.

As the light moves up your body, to your feet and then your legs, feel them soften, releasing any tension. The light touches your knees, then your thighs. Feel the Sun release your inner light, reaching your chest, and your shoulders, traveling down your arms and in to your hands. Feel as your neck and jaws soften, and finally your face and you whole head. As you rest, bathed in the Sun’s light let its warmth fill you and give you energy.

Just breathe. Each breath in absorbing this brilliant light and storing it. The weeks between Beltane and the Summer Solstice are the brightest of the year.

Breathe in, two, three, four and out, two, three, four and in, two, three, four and out, two, three, four.

When you are ready bring your awareness to the center of your chest. With each breath in allow your awareness to shift, bringing you into the shade of an apple tree’s branches. You can hear the sound of honey bees and feel grass between your toes.

Your body is still full of the energy from the Sun, and when you look around you can see there is a narrow path leading away from the apple tree and towards a looming mountain.

Let yourself move down the path, leaping and cart wheeling. Release the energy that has been pent up all winter and feel the wind on your skin as you run. Reach your awareness and senses outward toward the exuberant ways in which Nature is bursting forth new life, and the wild world energies all around us; draw these energies into your body and let them connect you to Beltane magic, to your own magic.

What does the Earth feel like under your feet as you move? Can you hear sounds? What do the plants smell like as you brush up against them?

As you run you feel the wind picking up, growing stronger and stronger at your back.

Soon it is lifting you up, and carrying you towards the mountain. Let yourself feel free and light.

As the wind carries you, you pass over many fruit trees, each bearing colorful flowers and teeming with pollinators, bees and birds of every variety.

As you travel along the air current, take a moment to reflect on the areas in your life where you are a creator, the areas where you are creative or build things. Hear the message of ((( card ))) on the wind.

Breathe in, two, three, four and out, two, three, four and in, two, three, four and out, two, three, four.

When you are ready, let the wind set you down. Look around at your surroundings. Where have you landed? Are their plants or animals? Is it new or somewhere you have been? What does the air taste like?

Look around until you find a hidden nest. There is an egg in the nest. What color is it? What size is it?

Take a moment to reflect on what you would like to cultivate in your life. What you would like to bring into the world. When you are ready send that intention into the egg. Each day’s extra minutes of daylight have brought you ‘enlightenment’ – the light that fills your body. Warm the egg with that light from your inner fire and the light from the Sun. Lay your hands on the egg, and with each out-breath and the inspiration of ((( card ))), send your intentions into it.

Breathe in, two, three, four and out, two, three, four and in, two, three, four and out, two, three, four.

There is a movement beneath your hands, the egg is shaking, and cracks are forming along its surface. Feel the life force energy in your hands. As it hatches, what do you see emerge? Spend however much time you need with your creation.

Breathe in, two, three, four and out, two, three, four and in, two, three, four and out, two, three, four.

When you are ready, let it fully emerge, full with the energy you have given it, it will enter the world. A new creation. Your creation.

When it is time to return to your body, turn and look at the mountain. You are much closer now, and there is a path leading towards it. Follow this path. And with each step you take along it, let your awareness shift back to your body. With each breath come back at little more.

Open your eyes and say your name out loud. And now, let’s dance the united energy of our creation fully into being.

Dance Music ~ Daria

 White Wedding – Billy Idol

Reading ~ Ann

A Poem for Beltane by David Taliesin

I want to light a bonfire

And dance with the Divine Presence

Who is Unboxable and Unknowable

I want to howl with Cernunnos

And invite Jesus to join the party

I’m sure he would attend the celebration

Because he once turned six stone jars of water

Into the most delicious wine anyone had ever tasted

This is not the act of a pious ascetic

It’s the act of someone who knew how to celebrate

Life in all of its abundance

I want to light a bonfire

And feast at Sophia’s table of Wisdom

“Come,” she calls me

“Eat of my bread

And drink of my wine

Lay aside immaturity

And walk in the way of insight”

I want to recite love poems with Brigid

And snuggle up close

To the bosom of the Goddess

I refuse to attend a “guys only” shindig

The Divine Presence is much bigger than this

And I invite Him and Her to attend

In whatever form they see fit

I want to light a bonfire

And watch the narrow religion of my childhood

Be purified in its flames

Like the tongues of fire on Pentecost

I want to speak of the Eternal One

In a new language that everyone can understand

A language my soul now sings

With great passion and reverence

And as I sing and dance around the Sacred Flame

I pray that my life will be fertile Beltane soil

That will bring forth a harvest of good things

When the time is right

Closing Prayer ~ Barbara

On this, the night of Beltane, we celebrate the Union of the Lord and the Lady,

The Young God has looked upon the Fair Maiden and is filled with desire.

The Young Lady feels a rush of heat run through her body.

On this night, they come to one another

And join in the dance of passion

Through their union, all the Universe has sprung forth

Through their continued, eternal dance of romance,

The Circle of Life is perpetuated and all Life is Sustained.

We thank You Both, God and Goddess,

For everything you have given us;

For what you have given us is everything.

We honor your Union with love and gratitude.

May the blessings of your Union continue

To pour over the Earth.

Releasing The Circle ~ Daria

By the earth that is Her body

And by the air that is Her breath

And by the fire of Her bright spirit

And by the living waters of Her womb,

May life thrive, now and always!

God and Goddess, we thank you for your presence here

As I extinguish the flames, may they leap into each of our hearts

May Divine Love arise again this Beltane

Her Love meeting His light

And stoking the fires of transformation and renewed life in each of us

Each breath, each heartbeat, each moment

All is Your Blessing, and All is Your Love

Our circle is open, yet ever unbroken

Merry meet, and merry part

Closing Music

Kiss of Life - Sade