

# **Beltaine 2007 Liturgy**

The Sacred Grove is arranged and hallowed, hopefully with lots of fresh flowers and brightly colored ribbons. Preferable altar cloth colors = red and white.

## **Purpose**

**Six months ago we gathered at Samhain to celebrate the end of summer. Now, a perfect half-year later, we gather at Beltaine to welcome it back. Sap has risen in the trees and in us, and all life responds with the urgent need to blossom, releasing itself from the shackles of winter into the joyful abandon of spring. Today is a day of play and pleasure. We gather for May Day. Let us celebrate well!**

## **Procession**

**“Come we now as a People”** – upbeat and fast. I DEMAND DRUMMING. People are censed and aspersed as they enter, perhaps passing between two trays of candles.

## **Opening Prayers**

### **Universal Spirit Prayer**

**That which is without name  
That which is without gender  
That which is without form  
Spirits which exist in all Creation  
We, the Children of the Earth, call out to you  
And ask that you bless this work and our lives.  
So be it.**

## **Earth Mother**

Please orient this toward spring/summer-time. The face of the Earth at this time is young and vibrant uncertain and vulnerable but also hopeful and fiercely determined – like spring incarnate, transforming into summer. Think of the fawn becoming stags, the buds becoming flowers, the snakes that have emerged from their eggs... good times

**Inspiration** Would be pretty cool if we made up a little harmony and a male and a female led us in Awen or something.

## **Purpose and Precedent**

**As the ancients did before us, so do we now, and so may our descendants do in the future. We have come into the Sacred Grove to worship as the Elders did, to offer to the Ancestors, the Nature Spirits, to Gods.**

**In elder days the feast of Beltaine was a time of power and renewal, when the clans extinguished their fires and re-lit them brightly to encourage the sun to bring a gentle, prosperous summer. The folk left their work and went into the fields and the greenwood, where they made love amid the richness of the Earth to celebrate the Power of Life. They**

made their worship of the Goddesses and Gods that sustained them in the flowering Groves.

Today we honor Sirona, Lady of the Enchanted Well, bearer of the erotic power of renewal. Today we also honor Belenus, Lord of Radiant Light and the sun's quickening of the Earth. We feel their energy coursing through us as we celebrate the dawning of May.

### Outdwellers

I don't know if many people think of this, but on Beltaine it's every bit as important to appease the Outdwellers as it is on Samhain. The Veil is thin once again and the fey in particular are being rambunctious. I like to give them a little dish of milk or cream with strawberries soaking in it; we could perhaps also set up a game for the non-fey. We can be more playful than grim this time, but let's make sure to state a clear "Accept this offering!" that everybody can echo.

### Grove Attunment

One male and one female willing to do the traditional one? I secretly really like it. Nothing radical this time, por favor.

### Fire, Well And Tree

Censer and Asperser. Offerings are given when the song instructs.

**Chant:** "Portal Song", happy and awesome. Drums? I wish?

### Opening The Gates

Garanus Crane,

You who stand with one foot in the Water and one foot on the Land,

Winged One, you tilt your eyes toward the Sky,

Welcome in all realms but beholden to none.

Guide as we seek to travel as you do,

Ward us as we walk the Elder Ways.

Share your magic with us,

Winged One, Free One,

As we travel to meet the Kindred together.

Garanus, accept our sacrifice! [Shrimpy goodness! Pink ones! Mm!]

Now, Garanus

Join your magic with ours

And let the fire open as a gate, [gesture with staff for these? I am NOT twirling]

Let the well open as a gate,

Let the tree be the crossroads of all Worlds.

Open as a road to our voices and to the Spirits.

Let the gates be open!

**Kindred Offerings**

### Ancestors

Maybe mention our connection to people who went a-Maying in the past, and to all those who honoured the rites of May. Hell, knowing us, most of our Ancestors were probably conceived today! **Offering = condoms. JK!!! Tasty beer.**

### Nature Spirits

Springy and summery – many gorgeous things are going on in Nature right now. Also don't forget the beloved yet rascally Sidhe. **Offering = seeds, a peach**

### Deities

Don't forget the place gods and the gods of our people. **Offering = Oil, fragrant herbs for the fire if anybody has some?**

### Key Offerings

**Welcome to the Gods and Goddesses, the Mighty Dead and the Noble Sidhe!**

**To all of you who have gathered at our fire, we pray you join us in worshipping the patrons of this holy rite here in our sacred grove.**

Turning to the well:

### Sirona Invocation

**Sirona, Lady of the Flowing Waters,  
Hear my words as they resound in the Well!  
Yours is the supple movement of the dark waters that course beneath the land,  
And the murmur of cool sweet rivers  
That wash away exhaustion  
And bring forth life.**

**Sensuous One,  
You pull the heavy robes of winter off the land  
And expose the potential within us,  
Teaching us of strength in vulnerability,  
Teaching us of delight in uncertainty and hope.**

**Sirona,  
As you caress the lands and encourage the erotic blossoming of life,  
Bring us a sensual and prosperous summer  
And heal away the scars that winter has wrought.  
Bless us with pleasure, freedom, and fertility  
As we bless you in turn and show you our love.**

**Goddess Sirona!**

**We dress your Well  
Where the Earth opens up to the Sky.**

**Sirona, bless and renew us!**

**[ Now, if the folk have brought praise offerings for Sirona, you may give them now.  
Sinkable, pref...]**

Turning toward the fire:

**Belenus Invocation**

**Belenus, Lord of the Radiant Sun,  
Hear my words as they arise on the fire!  
Yours is the glittering movement of stars  
And the heat of the noon-day sun on our faces;  
You are the Quickener of Life,  
The Blossomer of Flowers and Opener of Seeds.**

**Powerful One,  
Your awaken the world from slumber  
And bid it to dance in your light,  
Exposing that which was hidden  
And allowing it to thrive in unrestrained joy.**

**Belenus,  
As you stir the sap in the trees,  
Stir the sap within us as well.  
Awaken us to our potential and allow for new, beautiful growth.  
Bless us with freedom from fear and want  
As you shower us in your generous light,  
Knowing that we bless you in turn,  
Thanking you for the spark of life.**

**Belenus,  
Bless and awaken us!**

**[Folk's praise offerings for Belenus – flammable, pref]**

**General Praise Offerings**

**Final Sacrifice and Omen**

**So we have given of our love and our wealth  
To the Powers, that they may know our intentions.**

**Now let our voices arise on the Fire  
Let our voices sound in the Well**

**Let our words pass the boundary to the Otherworld.**

**Sirona and Belenus,  
We give you our love, our respect, and our devotion  
As we pray to you.**

**Belenus, Sirona, accept our sacrifice!**

### **Omen**

Having sacrificed to the Powers,  
Let us open to them  
Asking what blessings they offer us in return  
And the needs they have of us.

1. Have our sacrifices been accepted?
2. What do the Gods offer us in return?
3. What further needs to the Gods have of us?

Omen is taken with tarot preferably. Carmen or Mariel?

### **The Blessing**

#### **The litany of the waters**

**Chant: “Pour the Waters” or “Power of the Spirit”**

The circle is brought back together, and all are re-grounded and centered.

### **Work**

Now it is time to play. ☺

Long ago, it was ancient tradition to randomly draw bannocks (biscuit) from a basket on Beltaine. One would be marked – burnt, usually – and the recipient of the burnt one would be called upon to do something. Luckily for you guys, I am well aware that nobody wants to eat my burnt bannocks, and thus we have M&M’s here for everyone to blindly select. Whomever draws the red one will be crowned our Fool and asked to lead us in a romping procession between the two fires (trays of candles or whatever we have). This act of passing between two fires is a form of ritual purification, so as you pass between the fires let go of your troubles and feel whatever scars the winter may have left in you healing away. [Note that the Fool will remain the fool even after the rite has ended, and then if they want to pass the crown on they have to sing/lead a song, tell a funny story or joke, dance, etc. during the feast. ]

### **Closing**

**The Great Ones have blessed us!  
With joy in our hearts,  
Let us carry the magic from our sacred Grove  
Into our lives and our work.**

Each time we offer to the Powers  
They become stronger  
And more aware of our needs and our worship.

So now as we prepare to depart  
Let us give thanks  
To all those who have aided us.

O Belenuns, O Sirona, We thank you!

Thank yous

O Gods and Goddesses of elder days, We thank you!

All: We thank you!

O Spirits of this land, We thank you!

All: We thank you!

O Ancestors, our Kindred, We thank you!

All: We thank you!

To all those Powers that have aided us, we say again...

We thank you!

All: We thank you!

Recenter and return all unused offerings:

Mother of all

To you we will return all we leave unused  
Uphold us now in the world as you have in our rite.

We thank you!

All: We thank you!

The druids go to the center. They speak:

O Gatekeeper, warder of the ways  
For your presence and power  
Your guiding and guarding we say...

We thank you!

All: **We thank you!**

Now by the Keeper of Gates and by our magic  
We end what we began.

Now let the Fire be flame  
Let the Well be water  
Let the Tree be only wood  
Let all be as it was before  
Let the Gates be closed!

All: **Let the Gates be closed!**

Go now, Children of the Earth  
In peace and blessings  
The rite is ended!

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**Chants:**

"Come We Now As A People"

Inspiration chant

"Portal Song"

"Power of the Spirits"

**Offerings:**

Outdwellers - small dish of milk/cream and strawberries, games

Garanus - pink shrimp?

Ancestors - Beer / seasonal alcohol?

Nature Spirits - Peach, some seeds?

Deities - Olive oil, fresh herbs?

Sirona - well decorations (flowers, silver?)

Belenus – Oil/Alcohol for fire?

**Other needs:**

Flowers

Ribbons

Drums

M&Ms