

3CG Beltane 2021 - Honoring Belenos

Sunday, May 2, 3:00 social, 3:30 ritual

Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/337362382?pwd=VE9nU1FDWDZRMHMrUjA2WUFCdIllyQT09>

Initiating the Rite

Processional

Welcome, all, to Three Cranes Grove's celebration of Beltane, honoring Belenos! Today's rite is semi-experimental, as we play with a hybrid online/in-person format, to keep things as safe as possible. We made the decision as a grove to limit in-person attendance to grove members so we can assure we are maintaining proper distancing and masking requirements, but we'd like to continue these hybrid rites in the future as we're able to. If anyone joining us from home experiences any technical difficulties, please let us know in the chat on Zoom: someone will be monitoring and addressing issues as they come up. We are unsure how much we'll be able to hear any verbal chat coming through Zoom, but we want this to be as participatory as possible. So join us and pray with us, as we honor the Kindred!

Song: "Come We Now As a People" (Ian Corrigan)

[Sheet music also available.](#)

Come we now as a people, to gather at the sacred well;
Come we now as a people, together in the warmth and the light of the flame.

Purification (Mike)

As we prepare to do this work today, let us take a moment to purify ourselves and our ritual spaces. If you are joining us online, please feel free to purify in whatever way you prefer. If you are here in person, I invite you to repeat after me:

This time is sacred to me, and I honor it. *(pause)*
This place is sacred to me, and I honor it. *(pause)*
This work is sacred to me, and I honor it. *(pause)*

May I be calm and ready to do this work. *(pause)*

So be it.

Opening Prayer (Erin)

We come today to honor the Kindreds, to honor Belenos.

The spirits of the sky are above us.
The spirits of the land are around us.
The spirits of the waters flow below us.
Surrounded by all the numinous beings of earth and sky and water,
Our hearts tied together as one,
Let us pray with a good fire.

Honoring the Earth (Deborah)

The Children of Earth call out to the Earth Mother.
You who bring us life,
You who nourish us,
You who sustain us,
Bless us this day.
Uplift us as we honor you.

Earth Mother, accept our offering!

Calling For Inspiration (Mike)

Children of the Earth call out to Ogmios! Giver of inspiration, honey our tongues, that our words may be pleasing to the Kindred. Guide our hands, that the offerings be true. Lift up our voices, so our prayers may be heard.

Be with us and lend us your magic. Grant us your inspiration.

Ogmios, accept our offering.

Purpose & Precedent (Erin)

Today we join together to honor Belenos, the god of the Shining Sky. Bright and beautiful, he is depicted wearing a cloak of stars. While not a sun god, he still watches over the light, and reaches each one of us with his blessings.

Attunement (Jonathan)

Our purpose set, let us prepare ourselves for the work to come. Children of Earth, take a moment to calm your mind and body. Breathe deep and close your eyes, if you are comfortable.

Sink into the sound and feel of your own breathing. Notice the feeling of air expanding your lungs and passing back out through your lips as you become still and quiet.

As you breathe, bring your awareness to the soles of your feet. Feel roots spring from your feet, pressing down through the dirt. The roots dig deep and spread wide, intertwining with the roots of those around you, near and far. Feel them as they spear down through bedrock, through magma, until they reach the cool, dark waters of the Earth.

Breathe deep, and draw those waters into your roots. Draw them up, through your feet, calves, thighs, to pool in the cauldron of your loins. Breathe deep again, and draw them up further, through your abdomen and chest, to pool in the cauldron of your heart. Breathe deep once more, and draw them up, through your shoulders and neck, to pool in the cauldron of your head. Feel those cool waters as they spring forth from the crown of your head to rain back down upon the Earth. You are filled with the power of the Earth.

Turn your mind's eye now to the sky. Among all the stars that shine, through day and night, there burns one that shines for you. Breathe in, see that star, and feel as a warm ray of light extends to shine upon the waters in your head. See and feel as it mixes with those waters, warming and brightening them. Breathe in again, and see that light flow down, into the waters in your heart, warming and brightening them. Breathe in once more, and see that light flow down again, to mix and mingle with the waters in your loins. Feel it warm them and see them shine in the dancing ray. You are now filled with the power of the Sky.

Breathe in deeply a final time, seeing those bright and shining waters as they suffuse your being. In your mind's eye, see the same waters as they warm and brighten those here gathered, near and far, uniting us as one holy grove.

The waters support and surround us.
The land extends about us.
The sky stretches out above us.
At our center burns a living flame.

May all the Kindred bless us.
May our worship be true.
May our actions be just.
May our love be pure.

Blessings, honor, and worship to the holy ones.

(Cosmology prayer: Ceisiwr Serith)

Recreation of the Cosmos (Mike)

With our minds and purposes all attuned, let us Recreate the Cosmos. In our rites, we bring the center to us, united in Fire, Well, and Tree. Today, we have those here, but we unite the center here with the centers at the hearths of all those who join us, so we may approach the sacred together.

Song: The Portal Song (Ian Corrigan)

[Sheet music also available.](#)

CHORUS

By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky
We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.

Come we now to the Well, the eye and the mouth of Earth,
Come we now to the Well, and silver we bring,
Come we now to the Well, the waters of rebirth,
Come we now to the Well, together we sing:

CHORUS

We will kindle a Fire, Bless all, and with harm to none,
We will kindle a Fire, and offering pour,
We will kindle a Fire, A light 'neath the Moon & Sun,
We will kindle a fire, our spirits will soar.

CHORUS

Gather we at the Tree, the root & the crown of all,
Gather we at the Tree, Below & above,
Gather we at the Tree, Together we make our call,
Gather we at the Tree, In wisdom & love.

CHORUS (with gusto)

Gatekeeper/Gates (Michael)

Calling the Gatekeeper

Our Center established, we now call to him who will guide us. Close your eyes once more, Children of Earth, and see in your mind's eye as the mists of magic begin to swirl around you. They fill the space, rainbow-hued and colorless at once, obscuring your view of all else. As you watch the mists dance around you, a part of them rolls back, revealing a lakeshore.

Where the lake meets the land there stands a Crane. One foot in the Water, one foot on the Earth, he turns his eye to the Sky. This, friends, is Garanus, the Crane. With his wings spread wide, he shelters us, with his watchful gaze, he guards us.

Garanus Crane! King of the Internet, warder of ways, hear us as we call to you. Bless us and guide us as we walk the Elder Ways. **Garanus, accept our offering!**

Opening the Gates

And now, Garanus, we call to you. May this Fire and the fires of those who join us from afar be more than simple flame, and may they stretch to the heavens, carrying our prayers to the spirits!

May this Well and the wells of those who join us from afar be more than water, but deepen as shafts plunging to the Underworld, bringing our prayers and offerings to all below!

And may this Tree and the trees of those who join us from afar be not merely wood and stone, but the great and mighty World Tree, rooted deep, crowned high, spanning all the worlds and realms, bringing our prayers and offerings to all the spirits, no matter where they be!

We stand here, connected at the Sacred Center to worlds Above and Below, to all the realms of Land, Sea, and Sky. **Let the Gates be Open!**

Children of Earth, the Gates lie open before the Holy Ones. Let only truth be spoken here, as we turn our attention to the Three Kindreds.

Inviting the Kindreds

Ancestors (Patricia)

The Children of the Earth call out to the Ancestors. You who knew us before we knew ourselves, we hail you. You who walked these roads before us, so our children may walk them after us, we bid you welcome. Heart kin, Hearth kin, today we honor you.

Come to our fire, Ancestors. Meet us at the boundaries. Join us at our Sacred Hearth and be warmed by our good fire, Aid us and guide us as we walk the Elder ways.

Ancestors, accept our offering!

Nature Spirits (Jeremy)

The Children of the Earth call out to the Nature Spirits. You who run, crawl, swim, and fly, we hail you. Fur, Feather, Stone, Plant, we bid you welcome. You who share this plane with us, today, we honor you.

Come to our fire, Nature Spirits. Meet us at the boundaries. Join us at our Sacred Hearth and be warmed by our good fire, Aid us and guide us as we walk the Elder ways.

Spirits of Nature, accept our offering!

Shining Ones (Shana)

The Children of the Earth call out to the Shining Ones. Gods, Goddesses, Godden, known and unknown, you who shine your blessings on us, we hail you. Beloved of those gathered here and afar, First Children of the Mother, we bid you welcome.

Come to our fire, Shining Ones. Meet us at the boundaries. Join us at our Sacred Hearth and be warmed by our good fire, Aid us and guide us as we walk the Elder ways.

Shining Ones! Accept our offering!

Three Kindreds Praise Offerings

Song: Hal-An-Tow (English trad.; adapted Lisa Lea Allshouse and Mike Bierschenk)
[Sheet music also available.](#)

Since Winter was created, and then its power abated,
We've always celebrated the coming of the Spring

CHORUS

Hal-an-tow, jolly rumble-o
We were up long before the day-o
To welcome in the summertime, to welcome in the May-o
For summer is a-coming in, and winter's gone away-o

Take no scorn to wear the horn — it was the crest when you were born
Your father's father wore it then; your father wore it, too.

While the sun is in the sky, a-blazing bright and carefree-o
We will to the merry wood to hunt the buck and hare-o

What shall he have who snares the deer? His skin and horns to wear-o
Then sing him home without a care; the rest shall bear the load-o

And what of all others there who made so great a boast-o?
Oh they shall eat the feathered goose and we shall eat the roast-o

The spirits' blessings on our Folk, their power and their might-o,
To send us peace throughout our days, send peace by day and night-o

Belenos, the Being of the Occasion (Erin)

The children of Earth call out to Belenos.

Bright and Shining god, cloaked in the stars, we honor you today. Brighten us so we may brighten the world. Shine your blessings on us so we may in turn shine those blessings on others.

This day, your day, we give you praise. We sing your name through the glorious sky, and we bring your praise to all corners that know darkness. Illuminator, bright one, hear us as we call you.

Come to our fire, Belenos. Meet us at the boundaries. Join us at our Sacred Hearth and be warmed by our good fire, Aid us and guide us as we walk the Elder ways.

Belenos, accept our offering!

Praise Offerings for Belenos

Song: Warder of Stars (Mike Bierschenk)

And this is the beauty of the warder of stars,
Bright-strider wending aloft and among.
Hear us now, wise one, and resolute deck us
In brocade of starfire and darkness of night.

CHORUS

How may the stars encumber the ground?
And how may the earthbound sustain heaven's fire?
O wanderer, grant us a scintillant measure
And a measure of solace entwined.

And what is the measure of the unending night,
And the distance that glides between here and beyond?
It is the handbreadth of fingers outstretched
To encompass both atom and ambit of light.

Firm is the handstaff that lines out the stars
And supple the tresses enfolding —
For the heavens are merely the burning of fire,
Yet merely the song of becoming.

CHORUS

Black is the midnight.
And white is the starfire,
And yellow, and red, and cerulean blue
Describing the myriad swirls of the starry brocade
Of the heavens' unfolding.

Bless us, warder.
Bless us, protector.
Bless us, adorer of glorious night.

Prayer of Sacrifice (Michael)

Having given offerings to the Ancestors, to the Spirits of Nature, to the Shining Ones, and especially to Belenos, Shining God, we now pour out one final offering to carry our prayers to the holy ones.

May our prayers descend in the Well to all who dwell below.
May our prayers arise on the Fire to all who dwell above.
May our prayers flow out along root and branch of the Tree, reaching all the worlds and realms.

Kindreds All, accept our sacrifice!

The Waters of Life (Jan)

Omen (Shawneen)

And now, having given, we ask that we may receive. Who then will take the omens?

Then we ask, what blessings or wisdom do the Ancestors bring us?

[Response]

And we ask, what blessings or wisdom do the Nature Spirits bring us?

[Response]

And finally, what blessings or wisdom do the Shining Ones, especially Belenos, bring us?

[Response]

Are the offerings good? These are good omens indeed, etc. [hopefully]

Call for the Blessing

Typically in our rituals we infuse the blessings into one central vessel, and then we pour them out that the folk may receive them. While we may be doing this here, we know that all waters

come from the Earth, and are by their very nature sacred. We invite you at home to set aside waters for yourself, so we may bless all the waters of those gathered, near and far. Lift your cup now.

These waters, held in each hand, are those we set aside now for our use, that we may fill them with the blessings of the Kindreds.

Pouring down from the heavens,
Through sunlight and moonlight,
From the highest heavens the waters cascade,
Bringing blessings to us here.
Holy ones, give us the waters!

Rising from the depths of the oceans,
From the deep places of the earth,
From far below the waters fountain forth,
Bringing blessings to us here.
Holy ones, give us the waters!

Rushing across the land,
From east and west and north and south,
From every corner of the earth the waters flow forth,
Bringing blessings to us here.
Holy ones, give us the waters!

Hallowing the Blessing

Then gaze into the waters before you and see these blessings mix and mingle in these waters, bright and shining with the gifts of the Kindreds. See them pouring in from all corners, the blessings that we have been given: [???], [???], and [???]. These are the waters of blessing, the waters of fellowship, the waters we share as one Grove together with the Kindreds Three.

Behold, the Waters of Life!

Affirmation of the Blessing

These waters now blessed, know that they hold the blessings of the Ancestors, the Nature Spirits, the Shining Ones. As I play and sing, think on our blessings — [???], [???], and [???]. When you are ready to take them into you and use them for the work ahead, then drink in the blessings of the Holy Ones. Sláinte!

Song: "Blessings in the Waters" (Traci Auerbach)
[Sheet music also available.](#)

May the power of the Kindreds be shown to me
May the omens and the blessings be shown through me
May the blessings in the waters fill my soul
May the wisdom of the Kindreds make me whole

Working (Erin)

Many of you know and are familiar with our Ancestor Box. This small black box holds a treasure trove of items, pictures, and memories of our dear and beloved ancestors. Every year, we open it at the Druid Moon before Samhain, and close it at the Druid Moon after Samhain, to spend that time with our ancestors and add to the box whatever we might desire.

What many may not know is that we have a similar box for our Nature Spirits. Today, we will open this box, and sing the praises of those spirits whose tokens are held within. We will also add to it the tokens of any spirits dear to those gathered who may not already be honored within the box. As each token is added, feel free to say a few words (key word: few) about that spirit and what they mean to you.

[People put stuff in a box and talk about it]

Thanking the Kindreds

Belenos (Erin)

Belenos, shining one, cloaked in stars, we call out to you once more. You who brighten us, you who guide us, we say: we thank you.

Belenos, we thank you.

Shining Ones ()

Shining Ones, Gods, Goddesses, and Godden, we call out to you once more. For all you have done and all you continue to do, we say: we thank you.

Shining Ones, we thank you!

Nature Spirits (Jeremy)

Spirits of Nature, who dwell with us and around us, we call out to you once more. For all you have done and all you continue to do, we say: we thank you.

Spirits of Nature, we thank you!

Ancestors (Deborah)

Ancestors, beloved dead, you of our blood, hearth, and culture, we call out to you once more. For all you have done and all you continue to do, we say: we thank you.

Ancestors, we thank you!

Gatekeeper/Gates (Michael)

Thanking the Gatekeeper

Garanus, Crane, King of the Internet, we call out to you once more. For guiding us, guarding us, and warding us, we are grateful. For all you have done, and all you continue to do, we say: we thank you.

Garanus, we thank you!

Closing the Gates

And now, Garanus, we ask of you one final blessing, that you join your magic with ours once more as we close these Gates. Be with each of us as we together close the Gates on our shrines and in our hearts.

May this Tree, wide-limbed and deep-rooted, draw back and become a simple pillar of wood.

May this Well, deep shaft of offering, draw up and become a simple bowl of water.

May this Fire, pillar of flame reaching the heavens, draw down and become a simple candle's light..

May all be as it was before, save the work we have done here. **Let the Gates be closed!**

Thanking Inspiration (Mike)

Ogmios, honey-tongued, who has lifted our voices, we call to you once more. For all you have done and all you continue to do, we say: we thank you. **Ogmios, we thank you.**

Thanking the Earth (Patricia)

Earth Mother, giver of life and abundance, we call out to you once more. For all you have done and all you continue to do, we say: we thank you.

Earth Mother, we thank you!

Closing Statements & Recessional (Erin)

Thank you all for joining us in this semi-experimental hybrid ritual. We welcome your feedback: Please tell us what worked for you, what didn't work for you, and what you'd like to see us try. Our grove spreads wide indeed, and all who honor the Kindred in reverence and love are welcome. We continue to pray for justice and for health, and we're eternally grateful for those who have prayed alongside us today. We are requesting that anyone who is able donate to the Columbus Branch of the Audubon Society using threecranes.org/donate, and including "Audubon" in the memo field. Go now in peace, this rite is ended!

Song: Walk in the Light (Mike Bierschenk)

[Sheet music also available.](#)

Walk in the light
Of fire-flicker and starshine,
Of sun-splendor and moonlight;
And hold the Holy Ones' glow
In your heart.