

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

The sun does not shine for a few trees and flowers, but the wide world's joy.

—Henry Ward Beecher

Sow everywhere the good seed given to you. Sow in good ground, sow in sand, sow among the stones, sow on the road, sow among the weeds. Perhaps some of these seeds will open up and grow and bring forth fruit, even if not at once.

—Seraphim of Sarov (1759–1833) Russian monk

A TIME FOR CENTERING

Holy One,

The warmth of the sun's embrace
the gentle breeze swept in by incoming tide
the rhythm of seasons
of new birth
death and recreation

All these speak so clearly of Your love
Your power and Your beauty

That we can glimpse You within creation
is a beautiful thought
Open our eyes, Most Divine
as we walk through this world
to feel the wind and sunshine and
see the majesty of creation unfolding before our eyes
Help us to see You

Creator God,

forgive our moments of ingratitude
that prevent us
from appreciating the wonder that is this world
and the endless cycle of nature
of life and death and rebirth.

May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread
and our footsteps be worthy of following
for they lead to you.

WALKING THE ROUNDS

SONG

THE LOVE BURNING DEEP

(see separate sheet)

SILENCE

CELEBRATING BELTANE

Beltane (also known as May Day) is one of the four main festivals, or quarters, on the Wheel of the Year. Beltane was originally a Celtic celebration of the sun and the fertile land below. During this time, we revel in the warmth of the sunshine as well as the growth, vitality, and fertility that it promises.

Beltane is about honoring the light half of the year and rejoicing in warmth, passion, fertility, and all of the earth's blessings. It is a form of veneration of the warm sun, positivity, radiance, and abundance.



PRAYERS FOR SUNSHINE AND GROWTH

Where is the warmth of the sun needed in your life?

How are you hoping to grow in the summer months?

Where is light and love needed most in the world?

WELCOMING THE SUN

SONG

NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES

“Noël Nouvelet”

(see next page)

BLESSING

God of renewal
of life and death
rebirth

All: Renew our hearts and minds

God of promise
of all beginnings
and all endings

All: Renew our hearts and minds

God of hope
of new growth
and harvest

All: Renew our hearts and minds

Together we say

**We bless you,
God of Seed and Harvest
And we bless each other
That the beauty of this world
And the love that created it
Might be expressed through our
lives
And be a blessing to others
Now and always
Amen**



NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES

Based on John 12:23-24

John M.C. Crum, 1872-1958, alt.

"Oxford Book of Carols," 1928

NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.11.10.

French carol, 15th century



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



Wheat that in the dark earth man - y days has lain;
May your touch now call us back to life a - gain,



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



Love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.