

VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS

May 2021

Greetings –
And Happy May Day!

How many of you cringed at that salutation? Own up! 😊

In much of the Western world, the first day of May is associated with extreme left-wing ideologies and the triumphalist singing of the “Red Flag.” A connection for which the US is largely responsible!

In the 1880’s, American labour organizations wanted to draw attention to the plight of industrial workers. So, they decided that May 1st should be a day of strikes and demonstrations. Widespread protests against long hours and dangerous working conditions took place. Other nations soon took up the cause. It was the beginning of the workers’ rights movement.

May Day continues to pay tribute to the workforce in much of the world. In America, “Labor Day” was moved to September as a way of divorcing the holiday from its rebellious roots.

The politicalization of May 1st has obscured its original, sacred meaning. Our Celtic ancestors (Christian and pre) considered May Day to be holy. It was a cross quarter day, a time when the veil between humanity and the Divine was believed to be particularly thin.ⁱ God was at God’s nearest! Good harvests were prayed for and worked towards. Crops were planted, and livestock taken out to their summer pastures. *Beltane* was the season of hopefulness, of joy and merrymaking, of dancing round the maypole!

May Day was originally all about God and the blessings of God’s bounty. It was a day of hopes and dreams, fresh starts and new beginnings. The date evolved to become a celebration of workers’ right. Or, tragically, an occasion to boast of rights denied!

How can we restore May Day to its Godly role?

Here are a few ideas:

- Invite God to spend May Day with you – the whole day! It will make 5/1/21 the BEST day ever.
- Plant something that will yield a good harvest. Herbs on a sunny sill or bee & butterfly friendly flowers.
- Take up something new – a practice or hobby that will refresh both body and soul.
- Do something important for workers – buy fair-trade or shop from a company that empowers marginalized groups.

Let’s give May Day back to God!

Richest May blessings to you,

Brenda

ⁱ A cross-quarter day falls between equinoxes and solstices. The spring cross-quarter day (“*Beltane*”) is traditionally observed May 1st.