

Magdalen Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, April 9, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

*The Magdalen Community is a connective community seeking conversation
and dialogue with other spiritualities and religious traditions.*

Call to Silence and Opening Meditation

A Reading from *Graceful Passages - A Companion for living and dying*

The end of Suffering read by Thich Nat Hanh

May the sound of this bell penetrate deep into the cosmos
Even in the darkest spots living beings are able to hear it clearly
So that all suffering in them cease, understanding comes to their heart
And they transcend the path of sorrow and death.

The universal dharma door is already open
The sound of the rising tide is heard clearly
The miracle happens
A beautiful child appears in the heart of the lotus flower
One single drop of this compassionate water is enough
To bring back the refreshing spring to our mountains and rivers.
Listening to the bell I feel the afflictions in me begin to dissolve
My mind calm, my body relaxed
A smile is born on my lips
Following the sound of the bell my breath brings me back
To the safe island of mindfulness
In the garden of my heart, the flowers of peace bloom beautifully.

Opening Greeting

Solo: *Peace Be With You.*

Unison: *Acquire My Peace within you.*

Opening Dialogue

Solo: Blessed be the Divine Realm

Unison: The Realm of the Good
The Realm of our Image
The Realm of our True Humanity

Solo: The Good has come among us

Unison: We will pursue the Good
Our nature belongs to the Good

Solo: Blessed be the Divine Teachers

Unison: The Blessed Ones of Perfect Peace

Solo: How do we acquire that Perfect Peace?

Unison: Look within!

Solo: Not over here

Unison: Not over there
But within. The child of true humanity is within us.

Solo: Search for the true self within. Those who seek it will find it.

Unison: We will find it.

Solo: Such is the promise

Unison: Anyone who has ear to hear should listen.

Readings and Call to Meditation

A Reading from PRATYABHINNAHRDAYAM

As the shards and pieces of life's mirror pass, the bright glints of light catch our eye, we are drawn to them, the reflections that are the facets of our own bright soul akritima-aham-vimarsha. Piece them back together for understanding, for freedom. See your Self.

(Embrace the silence.)

A Reading from Psychotherapy: Purpose, Process and Practice – an Extension of the Principles of A Course in Miracles

Let us stand silently before God's Will, and do what it has chosen that we do. There is one way alone by which we come to where all dreams began. And it is there that we will lay them down, to come away in peace forever. Hear a brother call for help and answer him. It will be God to Whom you answer, for you called on him. There is no other way to hear His Voice. There is no other way to seek His Son. There is no other way to find your Self.

(Embrace the silence.)

A Reading from the Gospel of Mary; From The Gospel of Mary Magdalene by Jean-Yves Leloup

The soul answered:

*“That which oppressed me has been slain;
that which encircled me has vanished;
my craving has faded,
and I am freed from my ignorance.”*
*“I left the world with the aid of another world;
a design was erased,
by virtue of a higher design.
Henceforth I travel toward Repose,
where time rests in the Eternity of Time;
I go now into Silence.
Having said all this, Mary became silent,
for it was in silence that the Teacher spoke to her.*

Commentary by Jean-Yves Leloup p153

The world of the soul is freed by its opening to the nous-pneuma (rational spirit), revealing another world. To change worlds is to change worldviews. The eyes of the flesh and the eyes of the spirit do not see the same reality.

. . . it is by virtue of her discovery of the imaginal through the awakening of her nous that Miriam is able to move from the material to the spiritual. The imaginal is that in-between zone where spirits become embodied and bodies become spiritualized. It is where the visions of a homogeneous reality (whether a material or a spiritual one)

gives way to a vision of multidimensional realms, a hierarchy ranging from the densest to the most subtle realities.

Call to Conversation

Closing Dialogue

Solo: *Peace be with you.*

Unison: *Acquire my peace within you.*

Solo: *My Peace I leave with you.*

Unison: *My Peace I give to you.*

Solo: *Let not your hearts be troubled.*

Unison: *Neither let them be afraid.*

Solo: *God shelters you.*

Unison: *And prepares us as true human beings.*

Solo: *Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.*

Unison: *Thanks be to God.*



For more information about the Magdalen Community, please contact Bridgitt Ayers, <bdickey@rice.edu>. Please include "Magdalen Community" in the subject line.