

Magdalen Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, August 27, 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

First we wrap ourselves in silence

In emptiness and nothingness

In no-thing-ness

We let go of the things of this world that press in on us, that call us.

We sink more deeply into ourselves in our rooted-ness

In our radicality--as rooted in the Good and the Just, in the Beautiful and in the Love

We remain still in this space of silence.

We wrap ourselves in the canvas of purple and dark hues that we see before us

In the comfort of the true humanity and divinity that resides within each of us.

No matter the way we look, or our differences,

*our age or the color of our skin, the gender we embody, the nationality or religious tradition out of
which we live.*

We are together here in community as true human beings

And in the dark we await for the light.

We await to see.

We await for the silence to break into speech.

Mary Magdalene ventured boldly to the tomb while it was still dark

She awaited for the light of angels and the prophetic seeing and speaking.

We follow her example.

Meditation from Rav Abraham Isaac Ha-Kohen Kook, orot Ha-Kodesh

If you want, O creature of flesh and blood,

Contemplate the light of God's presence

throughout all creation.
Contemplate the ecstasy of spiritual existence
and how it suffuses every dimension of life . . .
Meditate on the wonders of creation and the
divine life within them.
Know it as reality within which you live.
Know yourself and know your world.
Know the meditations of your own heart
and of every sentient being.
Locate the source of life deep within you,
high above you, and all around you-
The wondrous splendor of life within which you dwell.

Readings and Call to conversation

A Reading from Abdu'l-Baba, head of the Baha'i Faith before World War I

“I charge you all that each one of you concentrate all the thoughts of your heart on love and unity. When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love. Thoughts of war bring destruction to all harmony, well-being, restfulness and content.”

A Reading from the letter to the Galatians

“As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

A Reading from The Gospel of Mary Magdalene

“We should clothe ourselves with the perfect Human, acquire it for ourselves as he commanded us, and announce the good news, not laying down any other rule or law that differs from what the Savior said.”

Closing Prayers

O Divine Spirit of God, move us into perfect freedom. Save us from the entrapments of the world, its rivalries and hostilities, its cruelties and violence that sow discord and not harmony. Replace our judgments with compassion, our silence with speaking, our weeping with joy. Help us not to be deceived

by the illusions of privilege that we carry. Teach us to eschew violence in any form. Transform us into true humanness that we may be a force for good and reconciliation and unity in the world. Amen

May there be peace in the world, where we join together, young and old, rich and poor, male and female, Semitic and European, Eastern and Western, black and white, gay and straight, and joined together may we open our hearts with love seeking understanding of the truths of the sacred traditions--the truths of the Christian scriptures, canonical and extracanonial, the truths of the Hebrew scriptures, the truths of the Qu'ran, and of native peoples, and the truths of the sacred books and spiritualities of the East. Amen

*As an expression of appreciation to The Rothko Chapel for use of this sacred space,
your love offering in the box marked "Magdalen Community"
will be gratefully received.*



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