

Magdalen Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, August 20, 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

Opening Greeting

Solo: Peace Be With You.

Unison: Acquire My Peace within you.

Opening Dialogue

Solo: Where are you from?

Unison: We have come from the place where light is produced from itself.

Solo: Where is that place?

Unison: It's a mystery.

Solo: But can you say you image the light?

Unison: Yes, indeed. We carry the light within.

Solo: And the peace?

Unison: Yes, also the peace.

Solo: How do you know of such light and such peace?

Unison: The sign is the feeling.

The sign is the movement from within.

The sign is the passion for the well-being of all.

Solo: What are your other signs?

*Unison: Our recognitions of injustice and hatred and oppression
throughout the globe, of power struggles and violence
that seem unending.*

Solo: Can we turn those around?

Unison: We must seek to do so.

Solo: Are you willing to spread your light and your peace?

Unison: We are eager to spread them.

They spread just as love spreads.

Solo: *The kingdom spreads out on the earth, just as love spreads.*

Unison: *But some people are not aware of it.*

Solo: *Yet you are aware.*

Unison: *Yes, indeed.*

We are aware of the light and the movement and the peace.

And we cannot stand back.

We will step forward.

*We will overcome the violence, the domination, the hatred,
and spread love.*

Readings and Call to conversation

A Reading from The Web of Indian Life by Sister Nivedita (Margaret E. Noble), 1904; from the Introduction by Rabindranath Tagore, 1917

One can never do justice from a mere sense of duty to those for whom one lacks respect. And human beings, as we are, justice is not the chief thing that we claim from our rulers. We need sympathy as well, in order to feel that we have human relationship with them and thus retain as much of our self-respect as may be possible.

A Reading from The Babylonian Talmud translated by Michael L. Rodkinson

JUSTICE.

The principle of justice in the moral sense is expressed in the following rules: "Thy neighbor's property must be as sacred to thee as thine own." "Thy neighbor's honor must be as dear to thee as thine own." Hereto belongs also the golden rule of Hillel: "Whatever would be hateful to thee, do not to thy neighbor."

A Reading from The Holy Qur'an, Sūra 4: Nisāa, or The Women

135. O ye who believe! stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for God can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest ye swerve, and if ye distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily God is well-acquainted with all that ye do.

A Reading from Civil Disobedience, by Henry David Thoreau, 1849

After all, the practical reason why, when the power is once in the hands of the people, a majority are permitted, and for a long period continue, to rule is not because they are most likely to be in the right,

nor because this seems fairest to the minority, but because they are physically the strongest. But a government in which the majority rule in all cases cannot be based on justice, even as far as men understand it.

A Reading from *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, translation by Jean-Yves Leloup

Having said all this, Mary became silent, for it was in silence that the Teacher spoke to her. Then Andrew began to speak, and said to his brothers: "Tell me, what do you think of these things she has been telling us? As for me, I do not believe that the Teacher would speak like this. These ideas are too different from those we have known." And Peter added: "How is it possible that the Teacher talked in this manner with a woman about secrets of which we ourselves are ignorant? Must we change our customs, and listen to this woman? Did he really choose her, and prefer her to us? Then Mary wept, and answered him: "My brother Peter, what can you be thinking? Do you believe that this is just my own imagination, that I invented this vision? Or do you believe that I would lie about our Teacher?"

Closing Dialogue

Solo: *Are you aware of the light and the peace within you?*

Unison: *We have the feeling and the movement,
The passion for the well-being of all.*

Solo: *Light spreads, just as love spreads.
Are you willing to speak your feeling of light?*

Unison: *Yes, indeed, we must speak the feeling.
We must act the peace.*

Solo: *Let us move together
In the light and the peace.*

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

*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.