

# Magdalen Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, December 10, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

*The Magdalen Community is a connective community seeking conversation and dialogue with other spiritualities and religious traditions. This Community takes its inspiration from The Gospel of Mary, where Jesus encourages the assembled community to find the divine nature within.*

**Opening Music** - *The Magdalene Mystique: Songs from Within,*  
c Anita Kruse, 2006

## Opening Meditation

*Forty-Eight from the Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu*

*In the pursuit of learning, every day something is acquired. In the pursuit of Tao, every day something is dropped.*

*Less and less is done*

*Until non-action is achieved.*

*When nothing is done, nothing is left undone.*

*The world is ruled by letting things take their course. It cannot be ruled by interfering.*

## Readings and Call to Conversation

*A Reading from Chung Tai Koans The Teaching Stories of Grand Master Wei Chueh*

*Unmoving Mind*

*At the Ling Chuan Monastery during a staff meeting, the Grand Master harshly pointed out that the monks' chanting was unacceptable. He called on the chef monk, "Tell me what the reason is: Is it because you didn't cook enough food so that everyone had to chant with an empty stomach?"*

*Obediently, the chef monk stood up with his palms together and said "Yes, Grand Master."*

*As the meeting continued, the Grand Master learned that construction was behind schedule. He called on the chef monk again, "Did you forget to prepare snacks for the monks who were working hard at*

the construction site? Is that why we are behind schedule?" The chef monk replied respectfully, "Yes, Grand Master."

Throughout the meeting the chef monk repeatedly stood up in response to the Grand Master's severe questioning, each time calmly answering only with "Yes, Grand Master."

### ***A Reading from Joseph Campbell and The Power of Myth with Bill Moyers***

*Campbell: Let me tell you one story here of a samurai warrior, a Japanese warrior, who had the duty to avenge the murder of his overlord. And he actually, after some time, found and cornered the man who had murdered his overlord. And he was about to deal with him with his samurai sword when this man in the corner in the passion of terror spat in his face. And the samurai sheathed the sword and walked away. Why did he do that?*

*Moyers: Why?*

*Campbell: Because he was made angry, and if he had killed that man then, it would have been a personal act, another kind of act, not the one he had come to do.*

### ***A Reading from The Way of Zen by Alan W. Watts***

*Lieh Tzu's account of his training under his master Lao Shang:*

*After I had served him for the space of three years, my mind did not venture to reflect on right and wrong, my lips did not venture to speak of profit and loss. Then, for the first time, my master bestowed one glance upon me - and that was all. At the end of five years a change had taken place; my mind was reflecting on right and wrong, and my lips were speaking of profit and loss. Then, for the first time, my master relaxed his countenance and smiled. At the end of seven years, there was another change. I let my mind reflect on what it would, but it no longer occupied itself with right and wrong. I let my lips utter whatsoever they pleased, but they no longer spoke of profit and loss. Then, at last, my master led me in to sit on the mat beside him. At the end of nine years, my mind gave free reign to its reflections, my mouth free passage to its speech. Of right and wrong, profit and loss, I had no knowledge, either as touching myself or others...Internal and external were blended into unity. After that, there was no distinction between eye and ear, ear and nose, nose and mouth; all were the same. My mind was frozen, my body in dissolution, my flesh and bones all melted together. I was wholly unconscious of what my body was resting on, or what was under my feet. I was borne this way and that on the wind, like dry chaff or leaves falling from a tree. In fact, I knew not whether the wind was riding on me or I on the wind.*

### *A Reading from Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, 19-22*

*For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts; for all is vanity. All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down to the earth? So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should enjoy his work, for that is his lot; who can bring him to see what will be after him?*

### *A Reading from the Gospel of Mary Magdalene*

*When the soul had brought the third Power to naught, it went upward and saw the fourth Power. It had seven forms. The first form is darkness; the second is desire; the third is ignorance; the fourth is zeal for death; the fifth is the realm of the flesh; the sixth is the foolish wisdom of the flesh; the seventh is the wisdom of the wrathful person. These are the seven Powers of Wrath.*

*They interrogated the soul, 'Where are you coming from, human-killer, and where are you going, space-conqueror?'*

*The soul replied, saying, 'What binds me has been slain, and what surrounds me has been destroyed, and my desire has been brought to an end, and ignorance has died. In a [wor]ld, I was set loose from a world [an]d in a type, from a type which is above, and (from) the chain of forgetfulness which exists in time. From this hour on, for the time of the due season of the aeon, I will receive rest i[n] silence.'*

[http://www.maryofmagdala.com/GMary\\_Text/gmary\\_text.html](http://www.maryofmagdala.com/GMary_Text/gmary_text.html)

### **Closing Music - The Magdalene Mystique: Songs from Within, c Anita Kruse, 2006**

*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.*