

# Magdalen Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, December 3, 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.*

**Musicians: Anita Kruse, Jennifer Keeney, David Munday**

## Opening Mantra - Anita Kruse, piano and vocal

Love Is Here

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The musical score is written on a grand staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of two lines of music. The first line contains six measures: 'Love' (quarter note), 'is' (quarter note), 'here' (half note), 'Love' (quarter note), 'is' (quarter note), and 'here' (half note). The second line starts with a measure rest labeled '5', followed by six measures: 'Love' (quarter note), 'is' (quarter note), 'here' (half note), 'Love' (quarter note), 'is Here' (quarter note), and 'Here' (half note). The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## Opening Meditation

*With love you cannot bargain  
There, the choice is not yours.  
Love is a mirror, it reflects  
only your essence,  
if you have the courage  
to look in its face.*

*From Rumi, Hidden Music, translated by Azima Melita Kolin & Maryam Mafi, 59.*

## Revelations from the Blessed One from The Gospel of Mary :

(read together )

*“Peace be with you!*

*Acquire my peace within yourselves!*

*Be on your guard so that no one deceives you by saying,  
‘Look over here!’ or ‘Look over there!’ For the child of  
true humanity exists within you.*

*Follow it! Those who search for it will find it.”*

(translation by Karen King, in *The Gospel of Mary of Magdala* and cited in *The Magdalene Mystique*, 138)

## Readings and Call to Conversation

### *A Reading from Philippians 4: 4-9*

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.  
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.  
Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer  
and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made  
known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all  
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in  
Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is  
honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is  
pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence  
and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.  
Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and  
heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.*

### *Readings from Shahmaghsoudi School of Islamic Sufism (<http://shahmaghsoudi.org>)*

#### *Sayr-va-Solouk (The Journey of Truth):*

*The journey to one’s inner realm and the state of one’s soul is called “Sayr-va-Solouk.” The spiritual teacher, known as the Pir, meaning “the light of the path,” guides the seeker through this*

journey of Self-knowledge. The guiding light of the teacher illuminates the seeker's path, and enables him [her] to overcome the obstacles on this journey. The Pir enables the seeker to liberate himself [herself] from the layers of ignorance and misteachings, and leads him from the stage of genuine yearning for love and knowledge to the highest stage of unity and annihilation.

Hazrat Shah Maghsoud Sadegh Angha states, "In the journey of Self-knowledge, truthful words, a pure heart, sincere intention, honest livelihood, firmness of step, and truthful devotion are necessary, so that with God's grace and sincere devotion to the Prophet the delicate divine truths will be inwardly revealed to the salik (seeker) without question or doubt."

The seeker undergoes various stages of purification where the veils of the unknown are lifted. With faith and knowledge, the seeker attests to the Oneness of God and the Unity of Existence. The Sufis have described the states of the heart in respect to the seven heavenly spheres. The Sufi poet Attar, in a richly allegorical poem called "The conference of the Birds," describes the mystical pilgrimage as a quest that begins with the removal of all earthly desires, then progresses through love, knowledge, and a sense of amazement, and ultimately to annihilation, which is uniting with God.

In "The Light of Salvation," Hazrat Shah Maghsoud Sadegh Angha refers to the seven stages of the heart in the following poem:

*In the Kingdom of heart, seven stages there are:  
That the seeker of Truth must go, through them all.  
The first stage is to seek and Yearn,  
With hardship and pain, he may earn.  
Faith is the heart's second stage,  
Its essence is eternal knowledge.  
The third state is that of love,  
Mirror aglow with the light of Love.  
One with existence the seeker becomes,  
The fifth stage is that of Unity,  
Brilliant as the sun the particle will be.  
The sixth state is that of Ecstasy  
Full of Wonder the seeker will be.  
The seventh stage is Annihilation and poverty.  
God will manifest in all to you.  
In eternal peace they heart shall live,  
When the seventh stage, they home is reached.*

## *Closing Music*

*Beautiful Brand New Moment -- c 2006 Anita Kruse/Sandy Stewart*

*The horizon is glowing  
The sunrise is here again  
I'm breathing in this perfect morning  
As my day begins*

*In this beautiful brand new moment  
Let my heart be open  
Let me see beyond my past  
Let my thoughts be clear at last  
In this beautiful brand new moment*

*The clouds are passing by on the wind  
And leave an open sky  
Anything feels possible  
As if my soul could fly*

*In this beautiful brand new moment  
Let my heart be open  
Let me see beyond my past  
Let my thoughts be clear at last  
In this beautiful brand new moment*

*In this beautiful brand new moment  
I'm a child still growing  
I reach out to touch it all  
unafraid that I might fall  
in this beautiful brand new moment*

*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.*