

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.

Opening Music

Guided Meditation

Solo: If had not been for Mary Magdalene, there would be no Easter.

Silence

Solo: It was she who witnessed the last hour of Jesus, life.

Unison: Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. John 19:25

Solo: It was her feet that walked behind the body to the place of burial.

Unison: So Joseph (of Arimathea) bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid. Mark 15:46-47

Solo: It was her hands that carried the scented ointments to prepare the body in death.

Unison: When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Mark 16:1

Solo: It was her eyes that first saw the empty tomb.

Unison: Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. John 20:1

Solo: It was through her tears that she saw the messengers
Unison: Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. John 20:10-12

Solo: It was her ears that heard the first words of the Risen One.
Unison: "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"
John 20:15

Solo: It was her voice that pleaded.
Unison: "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." John 20:14

Solo: It was her name first spoken by the Risen One
Unison: Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni! (which means Teacher). " John 20:16

Solo: It was from her heart that she reached for the Beloved.
Unison: Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" John 20:17

Solo: It was to her a precious assignment was given.
Unison: Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:18

Solo: It was because of Mary Magdalene, because of her love and courage. that today we have the story of Easter.

A Reading from THE VISION OF HOLINESS - Holy Week, from the Course In Miracles

This week begins with palms and ends with lilies, the white and holy sign the Son of God is innocent. Let no dark sign of crucifixion intervene between the journey and its purpose; between the acceptance of the truth and its expression. This week we celebrate life, not death. And we honor the perfect purity of the Son of God, and not his sins. Offer your brother the gift of lilies, not the crown of thorns; the gift of love and not the "gift"

of fear. You stand beside your brother, thorns in one hand and lilies in the other, uncertain which to give. Join now with me and throw away the thorns, offering the lilies to replace them. This Easter I would have the gift of your forgiveness offered by you to me, and returned by me to you. We cannot be united in crucifixion and in death. Nor can the resurrection be complete till your forgiveness rests on Christ, along with mine.

If you see glimpses of the face of Christ behind the veil, looking between the snow white petals of the lilies you have received and given as your gift, you will behold your brother's face and recognize it. I was a stranger and you took me in, not knowing who I was. Yet for your gift of lilies you will know. In your forgiveness of this stranger, alien to you and yet your ancient Friend, lies his release and your redemption with him. The time of Easter is a time of joy, and not of mourning. Look on your risen Friend, and celebrate his holiness along with me. For Easter is the time of your salvation, along with mine.*

**Salvation: the Atonement, or undoing of the separation; we are "saved" from our belief in the reality of sin and guilt through the change of mind that forgiveness and the miracle bring about*

Dialogue

A Reading from The Gospel of Mary

Peter said to Mary, "Sister, we know that the Savior loved you more than other women. Tell us the words of the Savior which you have in mind since you know them; and we do not, nor have we heard of them." Mary said, "The Lord answered and said to me, 'Blessed are you, since you did not waver at the sight of me.'"

Closing

Solo: *Peace be With you.*

Unison: *Acquire my Peace.*

