

# Magdalene Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, July 2, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

## Call to Silence and Opening Meditation

## Opening Music and Body Prayer

*Abwoon, composed and performed by Darrell Hicks*

## Opening Dialog

Solo: *Abwoon d'bwashmaya*

Unison: *Abwoon d'bwashmaya*

Solo: *O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos,*

Unison: *Focus your light within us - make it useful:*

Solo: *Create your reign of unity now -*

Unison: *Your one desire then acts with ours,  
as in all light, so in all forms.*

Solo: *Grant what we need each day in bread and insight.*

Unison: *Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,  
as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt.*

Solo: *Don't let surface things delude us,*

Unison: *But free us from what holds us back.*

Solo: *From you is born all ruling will,  
the power and the life to do,  
the song that beautifies all,  
from age to age it renews.*

Unison: *Truly - power to these statements -  
may they be the ground from which all my  
actions grow: Amen.*

*The Lord's Prayer (One Possible New Translation from the Aramaic),  
Prayers of the Cosmos, Neil Douglas-Klotz*

## Readings and Call to Conversation

### *A reading from Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus, Textual Notes*

According to the mystical science of sounds and letters, common to both Aramaic and Hebrew, the word *abwoon* points beyond our changing concepts of “male” and “female” to a cosmic birthing process. At this level of interpretation, *abwoon* may be said to have four parts to its sound-meaning:

*A*: the Absolute, the Only Being, the pure Oneness and Unity, source of all power and stability (echoing to the ancient sacred sound *AL* and the Aramaic word for God, *Alaha*, literally, “the Oneness”).

*bw*: a birthing, a creation, a flow of blessing, as if from the “interior” of this Oneness to us.

*oo*: the breath or spirit that carries this flow, echoing the sound of breathing and including all forces we now call magnetism, wind, electricity, and more. This sound is linked to the Aramaic phrase *rukha d'qoodsha*, which was later translated as “Holy Spirit.”

*n*: the vibration of this creative breath from Oneness as it touches and interpenetrates form. There must be a substance that this force touches, moves, and changes. This sound echoes the earth, and the body here vibrates as we intone the whole name slowly: *Ah-bw-oo-n*.

### *A reading from Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus, Body Prayers*

In the first line of Jesus' prayer, we remember our origins – not in guilt or imperfection, but in blessing and unity, in both vibration and stillness. For the divine breath (*rukha*) touches even the absence of what we can measure as “light” or “sound.”

Intone the sound *Ah-bw-oo-n* slowly, finding a pitch that resonates the most in your body. Take some time to find this “note” – it is your own heritage from *Abwoon*: the tone at which you vibrate most is part of your “name,” in the Aramaic meaning of the word. Feel the vibration of the sound. Where do you feel it in your body? As the sound enters the silence, let yourself follow it there. Begin to feel all the movements within the body – heartbeat, breathing, peristalsis – that go on without our attention. Feel these movements as internal prayers that point to the gift and responsibility of co-creation with God.

## Body Prayer

*Abwoon*, composed and performed by Darrell Hicks

## *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 Music**

*Shalom*, composed and performed by Darrell Hicks

## **Closing Dialog**

*Solo:*            *Blessed be the Divine Teachers.*

*Unison:*        *The Blessed Ones of Perfect Peace.*

*Solo:*            *How do we acquire that Perfect Peace?*

*Unison:*        *Look within!*

*Solo:*            *Not over here.*

*Unison:*        *Not over there,  
But within.*

*Solo:*            *Peace be with you.*

*Unison:*        *Acquire my peace within you.*

*Solo:*            *My Peace I leave with you.*

*Unison:*        *My Peace I give to you.*

*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.*