

MAGDALEN COMMUNITY AT ROTHKO CHAPEL

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 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.**

Solo: Today is a celebration of the circulatory nature of life. We meditate on circles, cycles, creation and re-creation. Let us take time today to reflect on the cyclical nature of our own lives.

OPENING PRAYER

Solo: This is a prayer by Nancy Wood from the book Prayers for Healing.

Solo: You shall ask what good are dead leaves

Unison: **And I will tell you they nurture the earth.**

Solo: You shall ask what reason is there for winter

Unison: **And I will tell you to bring about new leaves.**

Solo: You shall ask why are the leaves so green

Unison: **And I will tell you because they are rich with life.**

Solo: You shall ask why must summer end

Unison: **And I will tell you so that the leaves can die.**

Unison: **Creator God, maker of all things and all people, grant that we may listen to the rhythms and cycles of our own lives so that we may tune into the natural flow of the universe. Let us notice the cycle of the seasons and welcome each one as a necessary part of new life. Thank you for creation and re-creation. Amen.**

READINGS

*A Reading from The Gospel of Mary, as translated in The Gospel of Mary Magdalene by
Jean-Yves Leloup.*

"What is matter? Will it last forever?" The teacher answered: "All that is born, all that is created, all the elements of nature are interwoven and united with each other. All that is composed shall be decomposed; everything returns to its roots; matter returns to the origins of matter. Those who have ears, let them hear."

A quote by Joseph Campbell from the book Circle of Compassion:

The labyrinth is thoroughly known. We have only to follow the thread of the hero path, and where we had thought to find an abomination, we shall find a god. And where we had thought to slay another, we shall slay ourselves. Where we had thought to travel outward, we will come to the center of our own existence. And where we had thought to be alone, we will be with all the world.

A Reading from Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu.

Do you think you can take over the universe and improve it?

I do not believe it can be done.

The universe is sacred.

You cannot improve it.

If you try to change it, you will ruin it.

If you try to hold it, you will lose it.

So sometimes things are ahead and sometimes they are behind;

Sometimes breathing is hard, sometimes it comes easily;

Sometimes there is strength and sometimes weakness;

Sometimes one is up and sometimes down.

Therefore the sage avoids extremes, excesses, and complacency.

A Reading from The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran

And an astronomer said, Master, what of Time?

And he answered:

You would measure time the measureless and the immeasurable.

You would adjust your conduct and even direct the course of your spirit according to hours and seasons.

Of time you would make a stream upon whose bank you would sit and watch its flowing.

Yet the timeless in you is aware of life's timelessness,

And knows that yesterday is but today's memory and tomorrow is today's dream.

And that which sings and contemplates in you is still dwelling within the bounds of that first moment which scattered the stars into space.

Who among you does not feel that his power to love is boundless?

And yet who does not feel that very love, though boundless, encompassed within the entire of his being, and moving not from love thought, nor from love deeds to other love deeds?

And is not time even as love is, divided and spaceless?

But if in your thought you must measure time into seasons, let each season encircle all the other seasons,

And let today embrace the past with remembrance and the future with longing.

CALL TO CREATION AND CONVERSATION

The mandala calls us to circle within to reach our inner selves. The word "mandala" is from the classical Indian language of Sanskrit. Loosely translated to mean "circle," a mandala is far more than a simple shape. It represents wholeness, and can be seen as a model for the organizational structure of life itself--a cosmic diagram that reminds us of our relation to the infinite, the world that extends both beyond and within our bodies and minds. Describing both material and non-material realities, the mandala appears in all aspects of life: the celestial circles we call earth, sun, and moon, as well as conceptual circles of friends, family, and community. You are invited to take pencils and color one while we listen to music.

CREATION MUSIC

"Every Night When the Song Goes Down" by Traveler (local Houston band)

"The Circle Game" by Joan Baez

"Turn! Turn! Turn!" by Pete Seeger

CLOSING DIALOGUE

Solo: Help us to find serenity as we circle within.

Unison: Help us to find serenity as we circle without.

Solo: Help us understand that we are all connected through the cycles of life.

Unison: Life has its own rhythm and flow and, if we are still, we can tune in to it.

Solo: God help us to listen.

Unison: Let us give thanks to God for creation and re-creation.



For more information about the Magdalen Community, please contact Bridgitt Ayers, <bdickey@rice.edu>. Please include "Magdalen Community" in the subject line.