

Magdalen Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, June 18, 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

*If you want, O creature of flesh and blood,
Contemplate the light of God's presence
throughout all creation.*

*Contemplate the ecstasy of spiritual existence
and how it suffuses every dimension of life . . .*

*Meditate on the wonders of creation and the
divine life within them.*

Know it as reality within which you live.

Know yourself and know your world.

*Know the meditations of your own heart
and of every sentient being.*

*Locate the source of life deep within you,
high above you, and all around you-*

The wondrous splendor of life within which you dwell.[ii]

*(Meditation by Rav Abraham Isaac Ha-Kohen Kook, Orot Ha-Kodesh ("The Lights of Holiness"), as
quoted by Lawrence Kushner, The Way into Jewish Mystical Tradition (Woodstock, VT: Jewish
Lights Publishing, 2001), 15-16.)*

Opening Dialog

Solo: Where are you from?

Unison: We have come from the place where light is produced from itself.

One: Where is that place?

Unison: It's a mystery.

Solo: But can you say you image the light?

Unison: Yes, indeed. We carry the light within.

Solo: And the peace?

Unison: Yes, also the peace.

Solo: How do you know of such light and such peace?

Unison: The sign is the feeling.

The sign is the movement from within.

The sign is the passion for the well-being of all.

Solo: What are your other signs?

Unison: Our recognitions of injustice and hatred and oppression throughout the globe, of power struggles and violence that seem unending.

Solo: Can we turn those around?

Unison: We must seek to do so.

Solo: Are you willing to spread your light and your peace?

Unison: We are eager to spread them.

They spread just as love spreads.

The kingdom spreads out on the earth, just as love spreads.

But some people are not aware of it.

Solo: Yet you are aware.

Unison: Yes, indeed.

We are aware of the light and the movement and the peace.

And we cannot stand back.

We will step forward.

We will overcome the violence, the domination, the hatred, and spread love.

Solo: Peace be with you.

Unison: Acquire my peace within you.

Readings and Call to conversation

Three Thoughts from Lawrence Kushner in The Way Into Jewish Mystical Tradition (Woodstock: JEWISHLIGHTS Publishing, 2001), 9, 42-44, 14-16

"It's not that God can be found everywhere, but that everywhere (and everyone) is a manifestation of the Divine. Everything exists within God. . . . We can access the Creator everywhere."

"Eros awakens us to a heightened sensuality toward the world and simultaneously enables us to go beyond our individual selves as we seek the one we love."

"people are ... fundamentally good. They do not need coercion or force to do the right thing; they require only reminding and encouraging." (A summary of the teaching of Rav Abraham Isaac Ha-Kohen Kook (1865-1935) by Kushner)

A Reading from "The Testament of Baal Shem Tov"

It is impossible to glue two pieces of silver to one another without first scraping or scouring the two surfaces--otherwise there would be nothing to which the glue might adhere. . . . In the same way, if there is rust or anything already on the surface of the metals to be joined, then it will be impossible to glue them permanently together. And this is the meaning of the verse Proverbs 2:4: "If you seek it as you do silver." In the same way, one who would cleave to God must also first prepare his soul so that there be no trace of rust or any other barrier that might be in the way. Only then will [s]he, at last, be freed from grabbing onto other distractions and be able to cleave continually to God.

(cited by Kushner in The Way Into Jewish Mystical Tradition, 127.)

A Reading from the Gospel of Mary [Magdalene]

33) *When the Blessed One had said this, He greeted them all, saying, Peace be with you. Receive my peace unto yourselves.*

34) *Beware that no one lead you astray saying Lo here or lo there! For the Son of Man is within you.*

35) *Follow after Him!*

36) *Those who seek Him will find Him.*

37) *Go then and preach the gospel of the Kingdom.*

38) *Do not lay down any rules beyond what I appointed you, and do not give a law like the lawgiver lest you be constrained by it.*

39) *When He said this He departed.*

(Translation from <http://www.gnosis.org/library/marygosp.htm>)

Closing Dialogue

Solo: *Are you aware of the light and the peace within you*

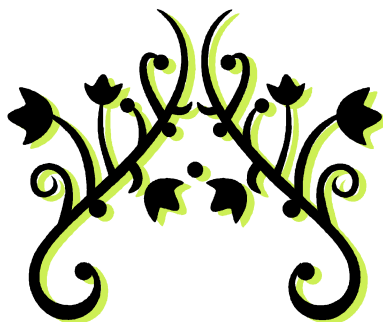
Unison: *We have the feeling and the movement,
The passion for the well-being of all.*

Solo: *Light spreads, just as love spreads.
Are you willing to speak your feeling of light?*

Unison: *Yes, indeed, we must speak the feeling.
We must act the peace.*

Solo: *Then let us practice the feeling.*

Unison: *Let us practice the action of peace.*



*For more information about the Magdalen Community, please contact Bridgitt Ayers,
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