

Magdalen Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, June 4, 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

" ' I left the world with the aid of another world; a design was erased, by virtue of a higher design.
Henceforth I travel toward Repose, where time rests in the Eternity of time; I go now into Silence.' "

Having said all this, Mary became silent, for it was in silence that the Teacher spoke to her.

From the Gospel of Mary Magdalene

Opening Dialog

Solo: In creation was the fire.

Unison: **The fire?**

Solo: Yes, the fire.

Unison: **The fireball that in a second broke into multiplicity?**

Solo: Yes, the fire that contains everything.

The fiery circle of creation that envelops us.

The wind-tossed flame that awakens everything to life.

The fiery power that kindles every spark of life.

Unison: **The life aflame beyond the beauty of the meadows**

The light at night that leads us through the desert.

Solo: The fire of life, whole and entire

All life has roots in the fire.

Unison: **But don't look over here**

Solo: And don't look over there.

Unison: **Look within. The fire of true Humanity is within us.**

Solo: *Let us warm our hearts within. Be still.
Kindle the light within*

Unison: *Yes, I feel the warmth of the fire.*

Solo: *Will you let the unconsuming fire burn in you?
Will you let the fire sing to you?
Will you let the fire dance with you?*

Unison: *Yes, I will dance in the fire
For the fire dances in me and I am not afraid.*

Unison: *I will sing in the fire
For the fire sings in me.
I will pray in the fire.
And the fire prays in me.*

Opening Prayer - De Spiritu Sancto, Hildegard of Bingen

*Holy Spirit, making life alive,
moving in all things, root of all created being,
cleansing the cosmos of every impurity, effacing guilt,
anointing wounds,*

*You are lustrous and praiseworthy life,
You awaken and re-awaken everything that is.*

Readings and Call to conversation

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

A Reading from She Who Prays -- Fire and Spirit, St. Ephrem the Syrian's Hymns of Praise

*Lo, fire and Spirit in the womb of her who brought you forth.
Lo, fire and Spirit in the river in which you were baptized,
fire and Spirit in our baptism,
fire and the Holy Spirit in the bread and cup.*

A Reading from She Who Prays -- Spirit

I honor you, Brother Eagle, chief of the Winged Ones, gliding high among the Thunder Beings above me. I send a voice of humble respect to you, awed by your presence in my life this day, connecting me with the Great Spirit and helping me see from your vast perspective. Little as I am, I honor your call to follow Great spirit in my life, to soar above the mundane anxieties, burdens, confusions, and pains of my everyday life. Thank you for calling me to fly with you and with Great Spirit, as a co-creator or our adventure together circling around Mother Earth. Thank you for helping me, even with my broken wings, to fly in a straight path toward Great Spirit's healing medicine. I have spoken.

Closing Dialogue

Solo: Will you let the fire sing to you?

Unison: Will you dance with fire?

Solo: When the fire calls, will you go?

Unison: Go where and to whom?

Will it ask much?

Solo: It will ask much

Unison: Will it ask about our care of creation?

Will it ask about war and rumors of war?

Solo: It will ask about giving up swords for plowshares

Unison: Will it ask about violence, my violence?

Will it ask me to love?

Solo: Will it ask me to forgive?

Unison: Will it ask me to be socially just?

Solo:

Yes, and more.

Are you ready for the fire?

Unison:

I am ready.

I stand close to the fire.

I stand in the fire.

I stand in the breath.

I let the wind blow clear through me

I stand in the water.

The water and the fire and the breath bless me.

I stand in the earth, in the whole, in the circle.

I am the earth.

Here I am, Living Fire, Blowing wind,

Flowing water, Greening earth.

Standing in the Fire. Send me.



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