

Magdalen Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, March 12, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

The Magdalen Community is a connective community seeking conversation and dialogue with other spiritualities and religious traditions.

Opening Music

I sat down under his shadow

Edward Bairstow (1874—1946)

I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

Song of Solomon 2:3,4

Call to Silence and Opening Meditation

Opening Greeting

Solo: Peace Be With You.

Unison: Acquire My Peace within you.

Opening Dialogue

Solo: Where are you from?

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

Solo: 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.*

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

Unison: 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.*

Readings and Meditation

A Reading from Rumi

*"I am only the house of your beloved,
not the beloved herself:
true love is for the treasure,
not for the coffer that contains it."
The real beloved is that one who is unique,
who is your beginning and your end.
When you find that one,
you'll no longer expect anything else:*

*that is both the manifest and the mystery.
That one is the lord of states of feeling,
dependent on none;
month and year are slaves to that moon.
When he bids the "state,"
it does His bidding;
when that one wills, bodies become spirit.*

A Reading from The Gospel of Mary Magdalen

Peter said to Mary, "Sister, we know that the Savior loved you more than all other women. Tell us the words of the Savior that you remember, the things which you know that we don't because we haven't heard them."

Mary responded, "I will teach you about what is hidden from you." And she began to speak these words to them.

She said, "I saw the Lord in a vision and I said to him, 'Lord, I saw you today in a vision.' He answered me, 'How wonderful you are for not wavering at seeing me! For where the mind is, there is the treasure.'

Hymn to Love from the Buddhist Sutta-Nipata

May creatures all abound

*in weal and peace; may all
be blessed with peace always;
all creatures weak or strong,
all creatures great and small;*

*creatures unseen or seen,
dwelling afar or near,
born or awaiting birth,
---may all be blessed with peace!*

*Let none cajole or flout
his fellow anywhere;
let none wish others harm
in dudgeon or in hate.*

*Just as with her own life
a mother shields from hurt
her own, her only, child,---
let all-embracing thoughts for all that lives be
thine,*

*---an all embracing love
for all the universe
in all its heights and depths
and breadth, unstinted love,
unmarred by hate within,
not rousing enmity.*

*So, as you stand or walk,
or sit, or lie, reflect
with all your might on this;
---'tis deemed 'a state divine.'*

A Reading from Hadewijch of Brabant

Love has subjugated me:

*To me this is no surprise,
For she is strong and I am weak.
She makes me
Unfree of myself,
Continually against my will.*

*She does with me what she wishes;
Nothing of myself remains to me;
Formerly I was rich,
Now I am poor: everything is lost in love.*

A Reading from Rumi

*If the beloved is everywhere,
the lover is a veil,*

*but when living itself becomes
the Friend, lovers disappear.*

Call to Conversation

Closing Music

I sat down under his shadow

Edward Bairstow (1874—1946)

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.
Let us practice the action of peace.*

*Unison: Let us dance the feeling.
Let us dance the peace.
Let us dance from the light.*

*Solo: Let us move together
In the light and the peace.*

Unison: Let us go forth in the power of the Spirit.

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