

MAGDALEN COMMUNITY AT ROTHKO CHAPEL

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 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 we observe the Celtic earth festival of the Spring Equinox, which is a celebration of balance and the rebirth of nature. Since the time of the Winter Solstice, the days have grown longer until night and day are of equal length. The earth has begun its annual greening. Bulbs planted deep in the darkness of winter now burst into bloom. The Equinox is a time to reflect on the balanced flow of energy in which we all participate.

OPENING PRAYER

In this prayer, we honor nature and God's presence in all creation.

Solo: For the beauty of the earth,

Unison: **God of all, we praise you.**

Solo: For the mystery of creation,

Unison: **We God of all, we praise you.**

Solo: For the wonders of the universe,

Unison: **God of all, we praise you.**

Solo: For the energy within all things,

Unison: **God of all, we praise you.**

Solo: For all who work the land,

Unison: **Creator, hear us.**

Solo: For all who care for our planet,

Unison: **Creator, hear us.**

Solo: For all involved in conservation,

Unison: **Creator, hear us.**

Solo: For all who improve our environment,

Unison: **Creator, hear us.**

Solo: Let us pray.

Unison: Creator God, maker of all things and all people, grant that we may find a unity in you, that we may be joined together in a bond of peace, that we may share, with justice, the rich treasures of the world, that no one may be in hunger or oppressed, and that none of your creation may be spoiled or misused. Amen.

READINGS

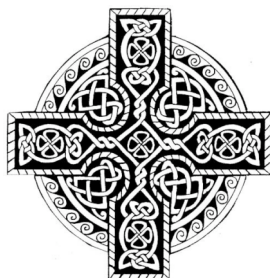
A Reading from The Gospel of Mary, as translated in The Gospel of Mary Magdalene by Jean-Yves Leloup.

[Jesus is speaking.]

Attachment to matter
gives rise to passion against nature.
Thus trouble arises in the whole body;
this is why I tell you:
“Be in harmony ...”
If you are out of balance,
take inspiration from manifestations
of your true nature.
Those who have ears,
let them hear.

A Reading from Sacred Celebrations, by Glennie Kindred

The Spring Equinox. Day and night are of equal length all over the world. In the Northern Hemisphere, we celebrate it as the first day of Spring. The days are getting longer and warmer now, and the nights shorter. This is the festival of balance: the balance of light and dark, the balance of the Sun's active energy in the day and the Moon's receptive energy at night, the balance of the inner world and the outer world, the balance of the conscious Fire energy with the forces of the watery unconscious. Here at the Equinox we can look at and work toward this balance within ourselves. This will bring change and healing as we move forward into new understanding and new actions.



CALL TO TEACHING – SYMBOLS OF THE EQUINOX

Solo: The Celts understood that the physical, mental and spiritual levels are so interlocked and perfectly balanced that whatever is done on one level will inevitably affect the other two. Our minds affect our spirits, our health, and what we attract into our lives.

The Celts expressed their devotion to the idea of balance with various artistic symbols, including double and triple problems, the Celtic cross, the egg, and even St. Patrick's shamrock.

CALL TO CREATION AND CONVERSATION

Today, we honor the egg, a Celtic symbol of nature's rebirth. The egg is potential life, full of promise. As we enter into conversation, you are invited to hang an egg on the egg tree made of pussy willows, themselves a symbol of burgeoning life.

CLOSING MUSIC – "MORNING HAS BROKEN." TRADITIONAL GAELIC MELODY. LYRICS BY ELEANOR FARJEON.

CLOSING DIALOGUE

Solo: Flame-dancing Spirit, come sweep us off our feet and dance us through our days.

Unison: Surprise us with your rhythms; dare us to try new steps, explore new patterns and new partnerships.

Solo: Release us from old routines to swing in abandoned joy and fearful adventure.

Unison: And in the intervals, rest us in your still center.

Solo: Let us go in peace, in harmony with God, nature, ourselves and each other.

Unison: Praise be God our Creator.



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