

Magdalen Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, May 28, 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

Returning Home, Tu Weiming

*Your vital energy is returning to the Source
Like the flowing stream returning to ocean.*

*Heaven is our father, Earth is our Mother,
All people are our brothers and sisters,
And all things are our companions.*

*In this gentle, peaceful journey,
You are forming one body with heaven and earth.
Entrust yourself in the transforming and nourishing care of the Cosmos.
Listen to the voice of love in the silence.
You have heard the Way;
Return Home in Peace.*

Opening Prayer - *from She Who Prays: A Woman's Interfaith Prayer Book, Jane Jenson and Patricia Harris-Watkins*

Loving God, we remember all those who have experienced armed conflict, whether in the military or as civilians. Most especially we lift up those whose living conditions are so desperate they see fighting as the only way to a better life. We ask for dramatic changes for those who feel so hopeless. We lift up those who have been injured in war, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually. We also ask for healing for the families of those who were killed and for the injured and their families. We remember the damage done to the ecosystems during times of war, and ask for healing for Mother Earth and Father Sky. For we pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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 Call to conversation

A Reading from Matthew 5:4

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

A Reading from "The Beatitudes," Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus, Neil Douglas-Klotz

Blessed are those in emotional turmoil: they shall be united inside by love.

Healthy are those weak and overextended for their purpose; they shall feel their inner flow of strength return.

Healed are those who weep for their frustrated desire; they shall see the face of fulfillment in a new form.

Aligned with the One are the mourners; they shall be comforted.

Tuned to the Source are those feeling deeply confused by life; they shall be returned from their wandering.

A Reading from Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

A Reading from "The Beatitudes," Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus, Neil Douglas-Klotz

Blessed are those who plant peace each season; they shall be named the children of God.

Healthy are those who strike the note that unites; they shall be remembered as rays of the One Unity.

Aligned with the One are those who prepare the ground for all tranquil gatherings; they shall become fountains of Livingness.

Integrated are those who joyfully knit themselves together within; they shall be stamped with the seal of Cosmic Identity.

Healed are those who bear the fruit of sympathy and safety for all; they shall hasten the coming of God's new creation.

A Reading from The Gospel of Mary Magdalene, translation by Jean-Yves Leloup

The disciples were in sorrow, shedding many tears, and saying: "How are we to go among the unbelievers and announce the gospel of the Kingdom of the Son of Man? They did not spare his life, so why should they spare ours?" Then Mary arose, embraced them all, and began to speak to her brothers: "Do not remain in sorrow and doubt, for his Grace will guide you and comfort you. Instead, let us praise his greatness, for he has prepared us for this. He is calling us to become fully human." Thus Mary turned their hearts toward the Good, and they began to discuss the meaning of the Teacher's words.

Closing Dialogue

Solo: *Peace be with you.*

Unison: ***Acquire my peace within you.***

Solo: *My Peace I leave with you.*

Unison: ***My Peace I give to you.***

Solo: *Let not your hearts be troubled.*

Unison: ***Neither let them be afraid.***

Solo: *God shelters you.*

Unison: ***And prepares us as true human beings.***

Solo: *Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.*

Unison: ***Thanks be to God.***



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