

Magdalen Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, May 7, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

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

Musicians - Anita Kruse, Vocal/Piano; Sandy Stewart, Piano; Sydney Strahan, Dancer

Opening Music

Opening Reading

A Reading from the Daily Om (www.dailyom.com)

Fluid Like A River

Living Like Water

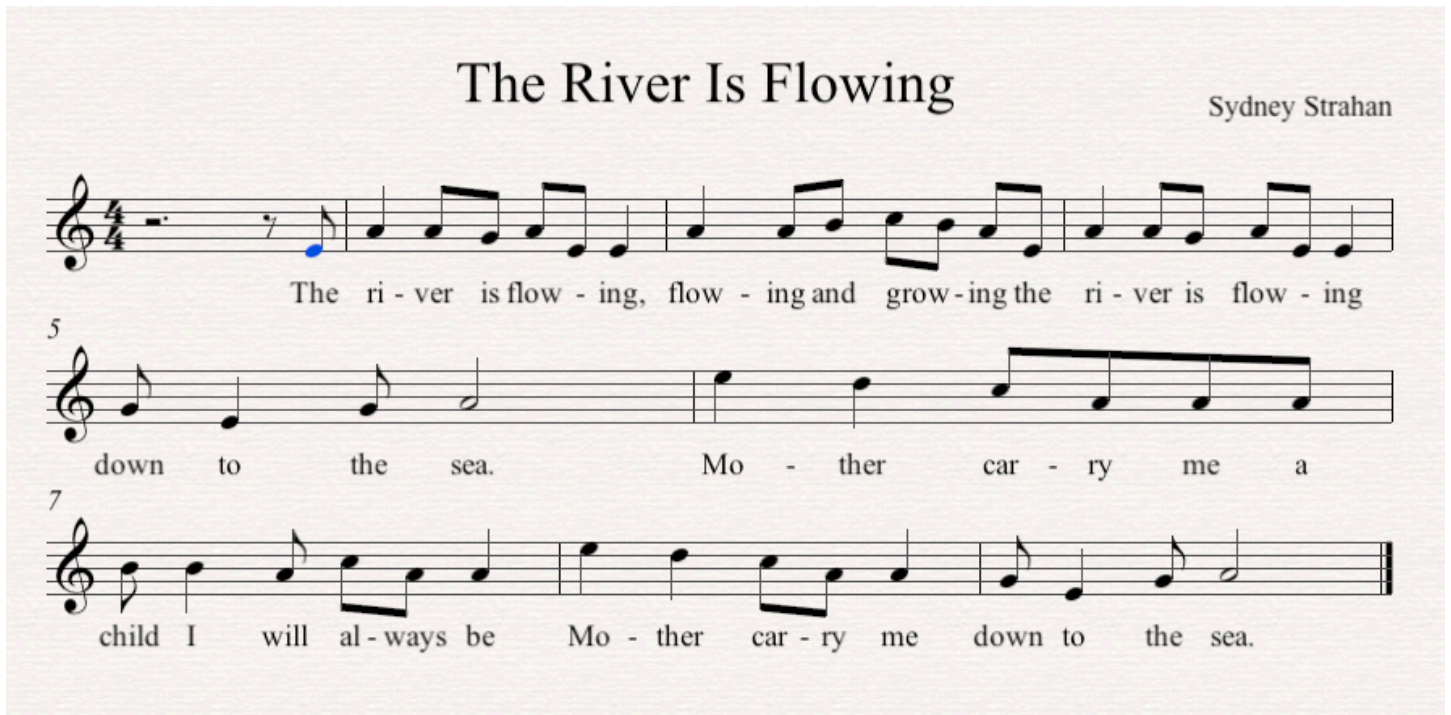
The journey of water as it flows upon the earth can be a mirror of our own paths through life. Water begins its residence on earth as it falls from the sky or melts from ice and streams down a mountain into a tributary or stream. In the same way, we come into the world and begin our lives on earth. Like a river that flows within the confines of its banks, we are born with certain defining characteristics that govern our identity. We are born in a specific time and place, within a specific family, and with certain gifts and challenges. Within these parameters, we move through life, encountering many twists, turns, and obstacles along the way just as a river flows.

Water is a great teacher that shows us how to move through the world with grace, ease, determination, and humility. When a river breaks at a waterfall, it gains energy and moves on, as we encounter our own waterfalls, we may fall hard but we always keep moving on. Water can inspire us to not become rigid with fear or cling to what's familiar. Water is brave and does not waste time clinging to its past, but flows onward without looking back. At the same time, when there is a hole to be filled, water does not run away from it in fear of the dark; instead, water humbly and bravely fills the empty space. In the same way, we can face the dark moments of our life rather than run away from them.

Eventually, a river will empty into the sea. Water does not hold back from joining with a larger body, nor does it fear a loss of identity or control. It gracefully and humbly tumbles into the vastness by contributing its energy and merging without resistance. Each time we move beyond our individual egos to become part of something bigger, we can try our best to follow the lead of the river.

The River is Flowing

The River Is Flowing Sydney Strahan



The ri - ver is flow - ing, flow - ing and grow - ing the ri - ver is flow - ing
5 down to the sea. Mo - ther car - ry me a
7 child I will al - ways be Mo - ther car - ry me down to the sea.

Readings and Call to Conversation

A Reading from Siddhartha by Herman Hesse

When Siddhartha awoke, the pale river glimmered through the door of the hut, and in the forest, deep and melodious, sounded the dark hooting of an owl.

With the coming of the day, Siddhartha asked his host the ferryman to take him to the other side of the river. The ferryman took him across the river on his bamboo raft. The sun shone ruddy on the broad waters in the morning light.

"That's a beautiful river," Siddhartha said to his companion. "Yes," said the ferryman, "a very beautiful river. I love it more than anything. I have often listened to it speak, often look it in the eye, and I have always learned from it. One can learn a lot from a river..."

"I will stay by this river, Siddhartha thought. Tenderly he gazed into the translucent greenness of the flowing water, at the crystalline lines of the mysterious designs it made.. How he loved this river, how it charmed him, how grateful he was to it! In his heart he heard the voice speaking, the newly awakened voice, and it said to him "Love this river! Stay by it! Learn from it!" Oh yes, he wanted to learn from it, to listen to it. Whoever could understand this river and its mysteries, it seemed to him, would also understand many other things, many mysteries, all mysteries."

A reading from Acts 16:11- 15

Setting sail therefore from Tro'as, we made a direct voyage to Sam'othrace, and the following day to Ne-ap'olis, and from there to Philip'pi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedo'nia, and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days; and on the sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyati'ra, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to give heed to what was said by Paul. And when she was baptized, with her household, she besought us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

A Reading of three quotations:

"No matter how long the river, the river will reach the sea." (from "The Blizzard" by Eugene Fitch Ware, 1841-1911)

God is in the world creating continually in us and around us. (Alfred Whitehead)

"Going back to the origin is called peace; It means reversion to destiny.

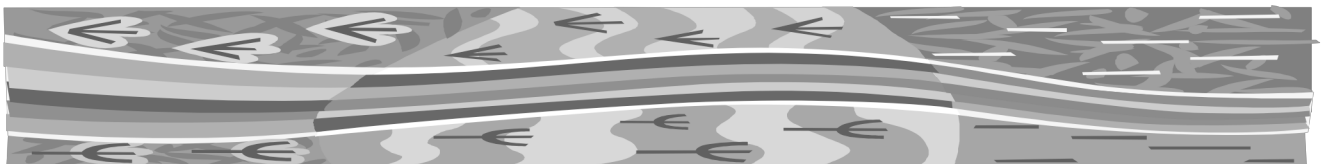
Reversion to destiny is called eternity

[One] who knows eternity is called enlightened..." (from Tao Te Ching, XV)

A reading from the Gospel of Mary (Magdalene)

Jesus said "This is why the Good has come into your midst. It acts together with the elements of your nature so as to reunite it with its roots.

Closing Music



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