

Magdalen Community at Rothko Chapel

Sunday, November 26, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

The Magdalen Community is a connective community seeking conversation and dialogue with other spiritualities and religious traditions. This Community takes its inspiration from The Gospel of Mary, where Jesus encourages the assembled community to find the divine nature within.

Call to Silence and Opening Meditation

A Reading from The Thunder, Perfect Mind (trans. George W. MacRae)

I was sent forth from the power,

*and I have come to those who reflect upon me,
and I have been found among those who seek after me.*

*Look upon me, you who reflect upon me,
and you hearers, hear me.*

You who are waiting for me, take me to yourselves.

And do not banish me from your sight.

And do not make your voice hate me, nor your hearing.

Do not be ignorant of me anywhere or any time. Be on your guard!

Do not be ignorant of me.

Hear me in gentleness, and learn of me in roughness.

I am she who cries out,

and I am cast forth upon the face of the earth.

I prepare the bread and my mind within.

I am the knowledge of my name.

I am the one who cries out,

and I listen.

You honor me [...] and you whisper against me.

You who are vanquished, judge them (who vanquish you)

before they give judgment against you,
because the judge and partiality exist in you.
If you are condemned by this one, who will acquit you?
Or, if you are acquitted by him, who will be able to detain you?
For what is inside of you is what is outside of you,
and the one who fashions you on the outside
is the one who shaped the inside of you.
And what you see outside of you, you see inside of you;
it is visible and it is your garment.
Hear me, you hearers
and learn of my words, you who know me.
I am the hearing that is attainable to everything;
I am the speech that cannot be grasped.
I am the name of the sound
and the sound of the name.

(from The Gnostic Society Library, <http://www.gnosis.org/naghamm/thunder.html>)

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 Call to Conversation

A Reading from Psalm 139 (vs. 11–15; NRSV)

*If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

*For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

A Reading from The Gospel of the Egyptians (Translated by Alexander Bohlig and Frederik Wisse)

This great name of yours is upon me, O self-begotten Perfect one, who is not outside me. I see you, O you who are visible to everyone. For who will be able to comprehend you in another tongue? Now that I have known you, I have mixed myself with the immutable. I have armed myself with an armor of light; I have become light! For the Mother was at that place because of the splendid beauty of grace. Therefore, I have stretched out my hands while they were folded. I was shaped in the circle of the riches of the light which is in my bosom, which gives shape to the many begotten ones in the light into which no complaint reaches. I shall declare your glory truly, for I have comprehended you, . . . O God of silence! I honor you completely. You are my place of rest, . . . the formless one who exists in the formless ones, who exists raising up the man in whom you will purify me into your life, according to your imperishable name. Therefore, the incense of life is in me.

(from The Gnostic Society Library, <http://www.gnosis.org/naghamm/gosegypt.html>)

A Reading from The Gospel of Mary Magdalen (trans. Karen King)

When the Blessed One had said these things, he greeted them all. "Peace be with you!" he said.
"Acquire my peace within yourselves!

"Be on your guard so that no one deceives you by saying, 'Look over here!' or 'Look over there!' For the child of true Humanity exists within you. Follow it! Those who search for it will find it.

from *The Gospel of Mary of Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman Apostle*
http://www.maryofmagdala.com/GMary_Text/gmary_text.html

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.

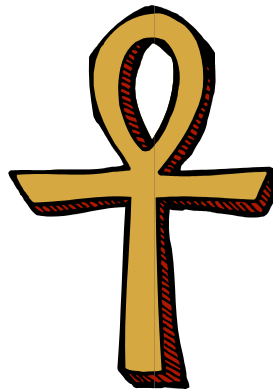
*Solo: Then let us practice the feeling.
Let us practice the action of peace.*

*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.

*As an expression of appreciation to The Rothko Chapel for use of this sacred space,
your love offering in the box marked "Magdalen Community"
will be gratefully received.*



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