

# MAGDALEN COMMUNITY AT ROTHKO CHAPEL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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

*Today we celebrate the Autumn Equinox, the moment when the light of day is equal to the dark of night, and balance is created between them. It is a time to reflect on the harvest and be thankful, as well as a time for meditation and introspection. In this place of dark and light, let us move within and find our own sense of balance.*

## OPENING PRAYER

Solo: *Creator Of The Universe,*

Unison: *we praise you for this day, which marks the midpoint between the shortest and the longest days of the year. We celebrate the workings of the Earth and its place in the solar system. We recall the traditions of harvest festivals to thank you for providing food for the winter. Help us depend on you for our sustenance and enable us to live in harmony with the earth and all creation. For we pray in the name of the Life-Giver. Amen.*

*From She Who Prays, Jane Richardson Jensen & Patricia Harris-Watkins*

## READINGS

*A Reading from Thirty-one Poems by Rainer Maria Rilke, "Autumn Day"*

*The leaves are falling, falling as from far  
Withering gardens in the distant heavens;  
They are falling with a gesture of nay-saying.*

*And in the nights the heavy earth is swaying  
To loneliness from serried star on star.*

*We are all falling. This hand falls no less.  
Nor yet this other. Falling all enfoldeth.*

*Yet is there One who all this falling holdeth  
In His strong hands' unending gentleness.*

### ***A Reading from William Blake, "To Autumn"***

O Autumn. Laden with fruit, and stained  
With the blood of the grape, pass not, but sit  
Beneath my shady roof, there thou may'st rest,  
And tune thy jolly voice to my fresh pipe;  
And all the daughters of the year shall dance,  
Sing now the lusty song of fruits and flowers.

### ***A Reading from Prayers of the Cosmos, Neil Douglas-Klotz***

Then, feel at the peak of everything and be extremely moved, for your natural abundance, already in the cosmos, has multiplied all around you (...):

Do everything extreme, including letting your ego disappear, for this is the secret of claiming your expanded home in the universe.

Drink a drop—or drench yourself. No matter where you turn you will find the Name inscribed in light: it's all the One Creation.

### ***A Reading from Psalms 100 (KJV)***

1. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
2. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
3. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
4. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
5. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

### ***A Reading from The Gospel of Mary Magdalene (Leloup translation)***

'Be in harmony...' If you are out of balance, take inspiration from manifestations of your true nature. Those who have ears, let them hear.

**CALL TO CONVERSATION**

## CLOSING DIALOGUE

*Solo: Show us the light of your countenance, O God.*

*Unison: Let us go forth into the world in love and peace,  
giving thanks to God for all creation.*

*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, <[bdickey@rice.edu](mailto:bdickey@rice.edu)>.*

