

Magdalene Gathering

August 28, 2022



OPENING DIALOGUE

SOLO: Peace Be With You.

UNISON: Acquire My Peace Within You

SOLO: Where are you from?

UNISON: We come from the place where Light is produced from itself.

SOLO: Are you willing to spread your Light and your peace?

UNISON: We are eager to spread them
They spread just as love spreads
We will step forward
And spread love.

WELCOME

Let's take a few moments to silence our minds,
calm our bodies and open our hearts.

In the beginning, people prayed to the Creatress of Life, the Mistress of Heaven.
At the very dawn of religion, God was a woman.

When God Was a Woman
Merlin Stone

The overwhelming consensus was that if Jesus had known erotic love, he could not possibly have also been the full embodiment of divine love. It would somehow disqualify him as the divine redeemer.

After nearly two millennia of reinforcement, the assumptions have become so much of the landscape of Christianity that they appear to be part of the seamless structure of revealed truth. But, in fact, *assumptions* are what they really are – not the core tenets of the faith, not anything that Jesus himself taught, but superimpositions of a male, celibate priestly theology ... written, shaped, formulated, and handed down almost exclusively by celibates talking to other celibates.

...the highly charged premise that *in addition* to all those other roles to which Mary Magdalene can lay just claim – apostle, visionary, healer – that there is one remaining to her, which may just be the most important of them all: soul mate.

[what in a healthy culture] would surely seem to be the obvious possibility: that they were faithful beloveds, whose lives were joined together in a fully enfolded human love which was a source of strength and nurturance for both of them.

The Meaning of Mary Magdalene: Discovering the Woman at the Heart of Christianity

Cynthia Bourgeault

Miriam of Magdala first had to become truly woman, in all the sexual dimensions of her femininity, accepting and integrating her masculine nature as well before realizing her status as speaker and knower (a status that many refuse to recognize). It was only after all this long and patient work to become fully human that she, too, could truly join her Master as Anthropos, in a humanity complete and open to the divine, transparent, like he who was “more than Being: a Gift of the Good.”

The Gospel of Mary, like the Gospels of John and Philip, remind us that Yeshua was capable of intimacy with a woman. This intimacy was not merely of the flesh; it was also emotional, intellectual, and spiritual. What is at stake here is total salvation, the liberation of a human being in his or her entirety, by imbuing all the dimensions of this being with consciousness and love. By invoking the realism of Yeshua’s humanity in its sexual dimension, the Gospel of Mary in no way detracts from his spiritual and divine nature, the dimension of pneuma.*

The Sacred Embrace of Jesus and Mary

Jean-Yves Leloup

(* pneuma – Ancient Greek for breath; vital spirit or soul)



A Reading from the Gospel of Mary

Peter turned to her and said: "Sister, we know that the Savior greatly loved you above all other women, so tell us what you remember of his words that we ourselves do not know or perhaps have never heard."

Mary replied: "I will tell you, then, as much as I know of what may be hidden or unknown to you." And she began to express these things to them: "I saw the Master in a vision and I said to him, 'Lord, I see you now as vision,' and he answered me, 'You are blessed, Mary, since the sight of me does not disturb you. For where the heart is, there is the treasure.'"

The Luminous Gospels, "The Gospel of Mary Magdalene"

Cynthia Bourgeault

An invitation:

Reflection and Discussion

Announcements

Prayer Requests

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 feelings of light?


UNISON: Yes, indeed we must speak the feeling, we must act the peace

SOLO: Let us practice the feeling.

UNISON: Let us practice the peace
Let us dance the feeling
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

The background features a light beige gradient with soft, watercolor-style washes in shades of yellow and orange. Scattered throughout are various autumn leaves in vibrant colors including red, orange, and yellow. Some leaves are detailed with visible veins, while others are more stylized. The overall aesthetic is warm and seasonal.

Our next Magdalene Gathering
will be September 25, 2022
2:00 pm CDT