



The Magdalene Community

Gathering
February 26, 2023

Let us take a few moments to go
within and open our hearts

“..All I want to say to you is ‘You are the Beloved’, and all I hope is that you can hear these words as spoken to you with all the tenderness and force that love can hold. My only desire is to make these words reverberate in every corner of your being --- ‘You are the Beloved.’” —Henri J. M Nouwen *Life of the Beloved*

OPENING DIALOGUE

- Solo: Peace be with you
- Unison: Acquire my Peace within you.
- Solo: Where are you from?
- Unison: We have come from the place where love is produced from itself
- Solo: Where is that place?
- Unison: It's a mystery
- Solo: But can you say you image the love?
- Unison: Yes, indeed. We carry the light within.
- Solo: And the peace?
- Unison: Yes, also the peace
- Solo: How do you know of such love 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: Are you willing to spread your love and your peace?
- Unison: We are eager to spread them. They spread 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.



How will we
speak our
truth from
our hearts?

Do any of these 'rules' resonate with you?

(from: *Being Nice is Lethal: Disciplining and Subverting Southern*

Femininity in Contemporary Southern Popular Culture . Kaitlyn Vogt. Master's Thesis Univ. of Miss. 2015. Pg 22

Be nice to everyone. It does not matter how tacky or vulgar you think they are, it is your duty to be the better person.

Especially be nice to your elders. They have lived long enough to be rude; you have not.

Do not acknowledge another person's faux pas. If you must, encode it in a sweet missive. Everyone will know what you are doing, but you'll still sound nice.

....

Be humble. Nobody likes to hear bragging. If you are desperate for a compliment, purposefully lower your guest's expectation

Always mind your manners



- A heart at peace gives life to the body.
Proverbs 14:30
- Today, and all the days of my life, grant me the strength to examine my heart. May I be faithful, God to your gift of truth in me. - Beverly Lanzetta
- Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.—Psalm 51:11
- The greatest thing you can do in this life is to cultivate and exercise compassion. Life is about learning how to flow with your basic goodness. It's about entering the heart and making it the fount of your being.—Robert Lax

Self-care is a Divine Responsibility.—Anonymous

- **It is a lack of love for ourselves that inhibits our compassion toward others. If we make friends with ourselves, then there is no obstacle to opening our hearts and minds to others. --Anonymous**
- ***Cultivate mercy toward yourself: compassion toward others will follow.*-- Ezra Bayda – *The Essential Reminders***
- **Our task must be to free ourselves...by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.— Albert Einstein**
- **We begin to find that to the degree there is bravery in ourselves—the willingness to look, to point directly at our own hearts—and to the degree there is kindness toward ourselves, there is confidence that we can actually forget ourselves and open to the world.--Pema Chodron**

At the Heart of Compassion is love for Self:



- Our cultural default setting is “meet your own needs first”; yet you can’t meet your needs until you “love” yourself. You can’t “love” yourself as long as you keep judging or isolating yourself. So, paradoxically, “self-improvement” is always about improving your relationship with “us”.
- “People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered.”
 - Love them anyway.
- If you do good, people will accuse you of ulterior motives.
 - Do good anyway.
- The kindness you show today will be forgotten tomorrow.
 - Be kind anyway.
- A compassionate life is not only more fulfilling, it’s the prescription for joy.”
- From *Compassion for Life*, M. I. Barasch

THE GOSPEL OF THE BELOVED COMPANION

32: 2, 4-5

- ...Miryam, the Beloved Companion, took a jar of oil... and poured it upon the head of Yeshua and anointed him. And the house was full of the sweet fragrance of the ointment.
- And seeing what she had done the disciples therefore grumbled against her amongst themselves.
- But hearing this, Yeshua said to them, “Leave her be. She has anointed me for what I am come to do, and done what she is appointed to do. Only from the truth I tell you, whenever they speak of me, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.

continued

- You do not know or understand what she has done. I tell you this. When all have abandoned me, only she shall stand beside me like a tower. A tower on a high hill and fortified cannot fall, nor can it be hidden.
- From this day forth she shall be known as Migdalah, for she shall be as a tower to my flock and the time will soon come when her tower shall stand alone by mine.”





What's in a name?

“Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to re-shape the world
around
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in
me?”

“Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my
name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In
your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.”

Excerpt from the hymn: “Will You Come and Follow Me?”



Mary Magdalene

- Myrrhbearer
- Apostola Apostolarum
- The Woman Who Understood Completely

Wall painting fragment showing the New Testament story recorded in Mark 16:1 where Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome come to the tomb of Christ at dawn after the Sabbath. Each woman carries a torch in her right hand and a small offering bowl (of spices?) in her left hand. [Wall painting from Christian house church - Dura Europos, 2nd century colonia in Roman Syria.]

A Reading from The Gospel of Mary

The disciples were in sorrow, shedding many tears, and saying: “How are we to go among the unbelievers and announce the gospel 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 upon us to become fully human [Anthropos].”

Thus Mary turned their hearts toward the Good, and they began to discuss the meaning of the Teacher’s words.

- (Betty Adam, *The Magdalene Mystique*, Appendix B,
- Jean-Yves Leloup translation, pp 134-145)

An Invitation Reflection and Discussion

How do we promote self
compassion to grow our hearts
and thus speak our truth?

How do our life experiences
--shape our ability to have self-
compassion and love
-affect our ability to tell our
stories and to be heard?





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 feeling of light?
- Unison: Yes, indeed, we must speak the feeling. We must act the
peace.
- Solo: Let us move together In the light and the peace.
- Unison: Let us go forth in the power of the Spirit.



**OUR NEXT GATHERING WILL BE
SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023
2 PM CST**