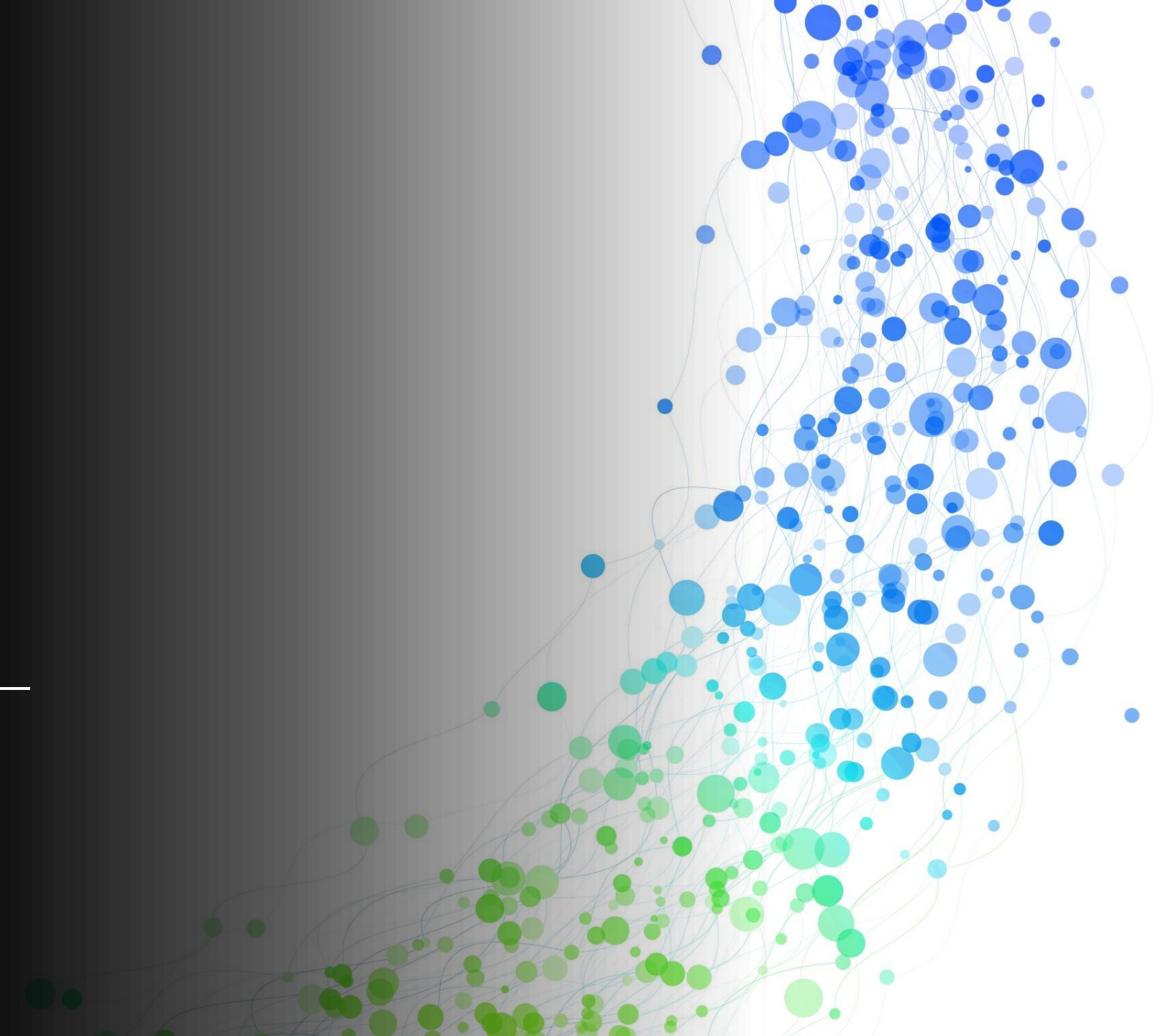




Mary Magdalene Community Gathering

Sunday

May 28, 2023





Welcome

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



OPENING DIALOGUE

SOLO: Peace Be With You.

UNISON: **Acquire My Peace Within You**

SOLO: Where do we find your peace?

UNISON: **Beware that no one lead you astray saying Lo here or Lo there!
For the Son of Man is within you.**

SOLO: Follow after Him!

UNISON: **Those who seek Him will find Him.**

SOLO: He who has a mind to understand, let him understand

UNISON: **He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**

On Peace

Gospel of Mary Chapter 4:33

33) When the Blessed One had said this, He greeted them all, saying, Peace be with you. Receive my peace unto yourselves.

John 14:27

27) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Belief or Faith



How do we know there Was a Jesus?

"jesus"
occurs 983 times in 942 verses in the KJV.

Belief or Faith?

Belief

Something that is accepted, considered to be true, or held
as an opinion

Faith

Faith involves reliance and trust, and it endures in the face of doubts, whereas belief is simply something we take to be true.

“I can have faith in things or people without a corresponding belief, and I can believe things that I don't have faith in.”

Non-biblical references

The first non-Christian writer to talk about Jesus was the Jewish historian **Flavius Josephus** (born Yosef ben Matityahu), who lived around AD 47-100. He referred to Christ in his history of Judaism “*Jewish Antiquities*” part description/part questioned.

Tacitus talk of group called Chrestians, said they were a class hated for their abominations. **The Annals**, by Roman historian and senator Tacitus is a history of the Roman Empire from the reign of Tiberius to that of Nero, the years AD 14-68.

Pliny the Younger, who was also governor in Asia Minor, wrote letters to Emperor Trajan around AD 112 described Christian worship of Jesus. [Epistles 10.96](#).

Why do we believe there was a Mary Magdalene?

Her Gospel excluded.

The Gospel of Mary is an early Christian text deemed unorthodox by the men who shaped the nascent Catholic church, was excluded from the canon, and was subsequently erased from the history of Christianity along with most narratives that demonstrated women's contributions to the early Christian movement.

A Jewish Noblewoman?

- **Her real name was not Mary, but the Hebrew “Miriam,”** one of the most common female names in first century Jewish society. Magdalene was not her family name, but the place where she lived: Magdala, a fishing village on the western shores of the Sea of Galilee. The name means “tower” (*migdal*) in Hebrew, a reference to a prominent monument in the town. The idea that Mary was a prostitute forgiven by Jesus is pure legend, developed centuries after Christ.
- **In fact, Mary was likely a respected member of the Jewish upper class.** The fishing industry had made Magdala rich, and Mary probably belonged to this aristocracy. The Bible says she was one of several wealthy women who used her wealth to “provide for [Jesus’s ministry] out of their own resources” (Luke 8:3).
- https://lp.israelbiblicalstudies.com/lp_iibs_biblical_hebrew_mary_magdalene-en.html

What do we know about the disciples?

“Fear” not unusual for the male disciples...

And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? Mark 4:40

And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. Matthew 17:6

It's the part of the Easter story that tells us: for three days, most of the disciples sought shelter together in someone's home.

John's Gospel describes it this way: “The disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear.”

Gospel of Mary

Chapter 4

36) Those who seek Him will find Him.

37) Go then and preach the gospel of the Kingdom.

38) Do not lay down any rules beyond what I appointed you, and do not give a law like the lawgiver lest you be constrained by it.

39) When He said this He departed.

Chapter 5

1) But they were grieved. They wept greatly, saying, How shall we go to the Gentiles and preach the gospel of the Kingdom of the Son of Man? If they did not spare Him, how will they spare us?

One again, a reminder of who He was

Then Mary stood up, greeted them all, and said to her brethren:

- *"Do not weep and do not grieve nor be irresolute, for His grace will be entirely with you and will protect you. But rather let us praise His greatness, for He has prepared us and made us fully human."*

When Mary said this, she turned their hearts to the Good, and they began to discuss the words of the Teacher.

• REFLECTIONS



- Announcements
- Prayers

Belief

But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and ***belief of the truth***:

2Th 2:13

The word Belief mentioned once in the KJV.

Faith

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

- Hebrews 11:1

The word Faith occurs 247 times in 231 verses in the KJV.

CLOSING

SOLO: Are you no longer afraid?

UNISON: We have acquired the Peace.

SOLO: What is that? A Belief? A Faith?

UNISON: No, it is neither, it is a knowing.

SOLO: What is that Knowing?

UNISON: It is the Peace that passed all understanding?

SOLO: Let us move together in that Knowing and Peace.

UNISON: She who hath ears, let her hear.

**OUR NEXT GATHERING WILL BE
ON
Sunday June 25, 2023**