

# MARY MAGDALENE GATHERING

## January 28, 2024



Presented by the Magdalene Community Houston, Texas

# Look for the Light

SPREADING THE LIGHT

# OPENING DIALOGUE

SOLO: Peace be with you

UNISON: Acquire my peace within you

SOLO: Where are you from?

UNISON: I come from the place where light is produced from itself

SOLO: Where are you going?

UNISON: I go to a place of all knowing

SOLO: Why do you go there?

UNISON: I am a seeker

# A New Year

Time to pause

Reflect

Plan anew

Dream

## What we know about Mary Magdalene

- She was a historical figure.
- She was not a prostitute.
- She is mentioned in every canonical gospel.
- She was a figure mentioned 12 Times by name, more than any other apostle.

**The portrayal of Mary Magdalene as a prostitute began in 591, when Pope Gregory I during his homily on Easter conflated Mary Magdalene, who was introduced in Luke 8:2, with Mary of Bethany and the unnamed "sinful woman" who anointed Jesus's feet in Luke 7:36–50.**

There is no specific date for her canonization because she was recognized as a saint prior to the establishment of formal procedures, in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

**In the late 16th and 17th centuries, the description "penitent" was added to the indication of her name on her feast day, July 22.**

The Eastern Orthodox Church has never identified Mary Magdalene with Mary of Bethany or the "sinful woman" who anoints Jesus in Luke 7:36–50<sup>[251]</sup> and has always taught that Mary was a virtuous woman her entire life, even before her conversion. They have never celebrated her as a penitent.

**In 1969, Pope Paul VI removed the identification of Mary with the ‘sinful woman.’**

**2016, Pope Francis raised the level of liturgical memory on July 22 from memorial to feast, and for her to be referred to as the "Apostle of the Apostles" bringing her to the status of all Apostles and moving her day to one to be celebrated in the same manner as any ‘feast’ or Holy day.**

# What else contributed to the myth of her being a prostitute?



# The Gospel of Mary

The Gospel of Mary was discovered in 1896, known as the Berlin Codex, written in Coptic

Two other fragments of the Gospel of Mary have been discovered since, both written in Greek (Papyrus Oxyrhynchus L 3525 and Papyrus Rylands 463). P.Oxy.L 3525" was in fact found by Grenfell and Hunt some time between 1897 and 1906

The Coptic translation was published in 1955 by Walter Till.

The two Greek fragments were published in 1938 and 1983 respectively



# What brought her to modern times?

Translations of the Gospel studied scholastically starting in the 1960's.

Holy Blood, Holy Grail 1982

Margaret Starbird: The Woman with the Alabaster Jar 1993

Karen King: The Gospel of Mary of Magdala; Jesus and the first woman apostle 2002

The DaVinci Code 2006

[Karen King](#) considers the work to provide an intriguing glimpse into a kind of Christianity lost for almost fifteen hundred years...

- it presents a radical interpretation of Jesus' teachings as a path to inner spiritual knowledge;
- it exposes the erroneous view that Mary of Magdala was a prostitute for what it is – a piece of theological fiction;
- it presents the most straightforward and convincing argument in any early Christian writing for the legitimacy of women's leadership;
- it offers a sharp critique of illegitimate power and a utopian vision of spiritual perfection;
- it challenges our rather romantic views about the harmony and unanimity of the first Christians; and
- **it asks us to rethink the basis for church authority.** [\[23\]](#)



# Where does that bring us...what does all this mean to today?

In our Community, most of us have said she was a luminal being, someone who stood between the old and the new.

Someone who brought us to new understanding.

Someone who was the light for us.

***If ever there was a time when we needed to look for the light, it is now.***

# Anointing of Jesus



## Becoming The Christ

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

When the disciples saw this, they were indignant, “Why this waste? This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare my body for burial.

Truly, I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” Matthew 26:6-11

similar story in..... Mark 14:3-9    Luke 7:37    John 12:3

**In fact, a clue about the importance of this little ritual can be found in Jesus' title of "Christ"—or, in Greek, Christos, which means the "*anointed one*". There is only one anointing mentioned in the New Testament—*and it is performed by a woman.***

Lynn Picknett, author of *Mary Magdalene*



# The Child of Humanity Exists Within You

The Blessed One...said..."Beware that no one lead you astray saying, "Look over here!" Or "Look over there!" For the Child of Humanity is within you..."

Gospel of Mary

# At the Crucifixion

Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. Matthew 27:46

similar story in ..... Mark 15:40 John 19:25-27 Luke

# The Empty Tomb/The Commission

John 20:1) On the first day of the week, early in the morning, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed.

16) “Mary!” said Jesus. She turned around, and exclaimed in Hebrew; “Rabboni!” (which is to say, “Teacher”) “Do not touch me.” Jesus said; “for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers, and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and their Father, my God and their God.” Mary of Magdala went and told the disciples that she had seen the Master, and that he had said this to her.

similar story in ..... Matthew 28:1-11    Mark 16:1-8    Luke 24:1-11

Then Mary stood up. She greeted them all and said to her brothers and sisters.

***“Do not weep and be pained, nor doubt, for all his grace will be with you and shelter you.***

***But rather let us praise his greatness, for he has prepared us and made us Humans.”***

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

Gospel of Mary 12

“ Be in harmony....’

If you are out of balance, take inspiration from manifestations of our true nature.

Those who have ears, let them hear.”

After saying this, The Blessed One greeted them all, saying:

“Peace be with you—may my Peace arise and be fulfilled within you!”

Gospel of Mary







# REFLECTIONS

# Magdalene Community 2024 Aspirations

- What goal resonated with you?
- What do you want to add?
- What is our next step?

**PRAYERS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**





Blessing (in unison)

I salute the light within your eyes  
where the whole universe  
dwells.

For when you are at the center  
within you  
and I am at that place within  
me,  
we shall be one.

Chief Crazy Horse  
Oglala Sioux

# CLOSING DIALOGUE

SOLO: Peace be to you

UNISON: Acquire my Peace within you





# **THE NEXT MAGDALENE GATHERING**

**February 25, 2024**