

MARY MAGDALENE GATHERING

JULY 28, 2024



Presented for the Magdalene Community Houston, Texas

The background is a dense, colorful collage of stylized human figures. The figures are rendered in a flat, graphic style with various colors including red, blue, green, yellow, black, and white. Some figures have long hair, some wear headscarves or headwraps, and some have large hoop earrings. The overall composition is a diverse and inclusive representation of a crowd. The text 'SHOWING UP FOR MARY' is centered over the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

SHOWING UP FOR MARY

OPENING DIALOGUE

Solo: Women at the tomb, weeping for the dead. He is not here. He has risen as he said.

All: We shall be your witnesses all through the earth.

Solo: Magdalene at the tomb. Whom do you seek? Her eyes were opened when she heard him speak.

All: We shall be your witnesses all through the earth.

Solo: Women, leave your tombs. Roll the stones aside. Do not despair though so many dreams have died.

All: We shall be your witnesses all through the earth.

OPENING PRAYER

**Mary Magdalene,
Breathe your spirit into mine
Mingle our hearts together
Share with me the joys and sorrows
Of your great compassion
Guide me, Shape me, Heal Me
That I might give my voice
To your spirit in this world,
In this body, in this lifetime.
May it be so.**

Prayer from Opening of The Feast of Mary Magdalene

Given by the Gospel of Mary Study Group July 22, 2024

“We show up
for Mary,
for the
myrrh bearers,
and for
ourselves.”





And she began to say the following words to them. "I," she said, "I saw the Lord in a vision and I said to him, 'Lord, I saw you today in a vision.'

He answered and said to me, 'Blessed are you, since you did not waver at the sight of me.'

The Gospel of Mary

Feast Day of Mary Magdalene

On June 10, 2016, the Vatican announced that Pope Francis elevated the July 22nd observance of Mary Magdalene from a memorial to a liturgical feast.



“Showing up”

Showing up is how we present ourselves to the world.

Truly “showing up” coalesces our motivation, attention, behavior and choices

Truly “showing up” is bringing together two things: a solid understanding of who we are and forethought into the activity.

These **women** were Mary, also called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out; Joanna, whose husband Chusa was Herod's administrator; Susanna; and many other women. They provided financial support for Jesus and his disciples.

Luke 8 2-3

Mary showed up
for the mission.



“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene.”

John 19:25

Mary
showed up
for Jesus



Mary showed up at the tomb

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

Mary showed up for the disciples

“Then Mary stood up, greeted them all, and said to her brothers and sisters: 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 to be fully human. When Mary said this, she turned their hearts to the Good, and they began to discuss the words of the Savior.”

The Gospel of Mary



Mary showed up
for what mattered
in life.

We can do no less.

“One of Mark’s overarching themes is that virtually no one during the ministry of Jesus could understand who he was. His family didn’t understand who he was. His family didn’t understand. His townspeople didn’t understand. The leaders of his own people didn’t understand. Not even the disciples understood in Mark – especially not the disciples! For Mark, only outsiders have an inkling of who Jesus was: the unnamed woman who anointed him, the centurion at the cross. Who understands at the end? Not the family of Jesus! Not the disciples! It’s a group of previously unknown women...the woman at the tomb.”

Bart D. Ehrman - Wikipedia

The Cottage

Mary Magdalene is sittin' right there, next to ye!

Maybe that's how she is. Always sitting there, right next to us. But we don't pay much attention. Maybe that was true for Jesus and the disciples, too. Perhaps they didn't notice her nearly as much as they should have. But she's always there—the first (if Libbie's thesis is correct) to confess the truth about who Jesus was, serving him, anointing him, witnessing his brutal death, the first to proclaim new life. Maybe she's always there, doing all these things and more, accompanying us on the journey, as companion and comforter, as witness and truth-teller, preaching good news even when everyone is stuck in the grave.

Mary Magdalene shows up.

And, once you notice, she just keeps on showing up. Trust me on this.

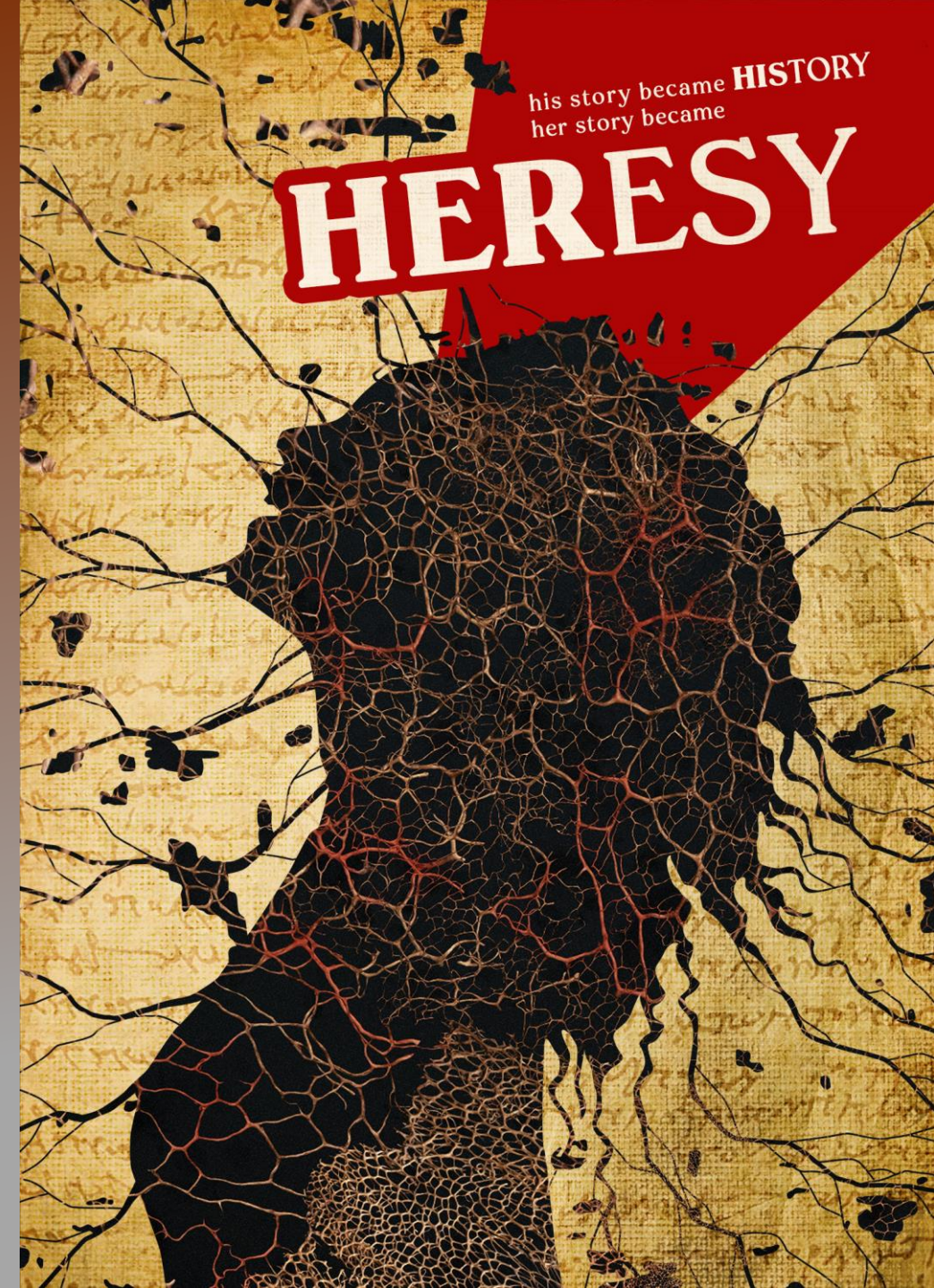
That's when I began to wonder: Why now? Why show up in the midst of all this chaos and confusion—when people want to talk about stuff like Christian nationalism and threats to democracy and the stress that is consuming us regarding the human future? Why now? Haven't we got enough to think about without worrying if the Bible messed up Mary Magdalene?

What's Mary Magdalene got to do with it?

*(part of the souls ascent and Mary's vision)

Only then my Master told me, when you have rejected the Deceiver, can you pass through the hardest gate of all, to obtain the fifth bough and the fruit of clarity and truth. Only then will you know the clarity and truth of your soul, and knowing yourself for the first time, and understanding that you are a Child of the Living Spirit. And as my soul moved upward, I realized I could no longer hear the voice of the world, as all had become silence.

Gospel of the Beloved Companion 42:10



The Witness

His story became History. Her story became Heresy. The sacred and profane collide in a new performance by interdisciplinary artist Jo Blake, inspired by the Gospel of Mary Magdalene.

Reflections:

What happened to Mary's Vision?

When have we Showed Up?

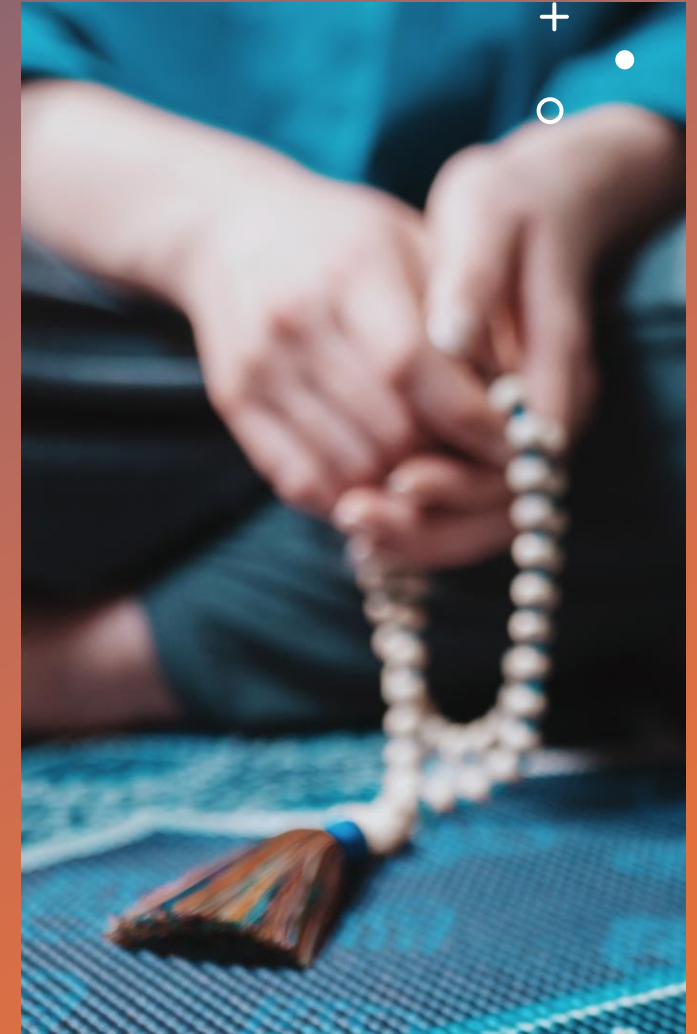


Prayers
Announcements

Requests

“Peace be with you. Receive my peace for yourselves. Take heed lest anyone lead you astray with the words, ‘Lo, here!’ or ‘Lo, there!’ For the Son of Man is within you.

Gospel of Mary



CLOSING DIALOGUE

SOLO: Women, leave your tombs. Roll the stones aside.

ALL: We shall be your witnesses all though the earth



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For more information:

Ourmarymagdalene.com

