

Marquand Chapel

A Short Introduction

Worship takes place in Marquand Chapel at 10.30 a.m. every weekday when classes are in session. There are also a few additional services for special occasions. Our aim is to create an ecumenical, welcoming environment where Christian worship can take place, including many different worship genres and styles. We also include in our program some occasional events where the culture of Christian worship can come into conversation with other faiths.

Marquand worship follows a weekly pattern. Monday through Thursday worship lasts 30 minutes. Every Thursday is "Sung Morning Prayer" – a service unique to Marquand in which we sing almost the entire service. The musical setting is changed every second or third week, and through the course of the year we sing through the music of many different traditions. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday include preaching services and other services of Word and prayer. On Fridays our service lasts from 10.30-11.15, and is a Eucharist, Holy Communion or Lord's Supper, sometimes celebrated in the tradition of a specific denomination, and other weeks in a unique, non-denominational style. Once or twice a semester we build an entire week's worship around a theme, often to coincide with larger national or community events.

Worship and learning

There are two complementary aspects to the vision for Marquand Chapel. Our primary purpose is to gather members of the community together to worship God. Our secondary purpose is to learn about worship, through participating, planning and leading. Worship is always a learning experience, but more deliberately so in a Divinity School, where not only do we learn about ourselves, the community and God within worship, but also have the chance to make connections between worship and what we are learning in the classroom.

Our hope is that many students will deepen their understanding of worship by taking part in Marquand. Planning a service may be an opportunity to explore the breadth of your own denominational tradition, and to discover the surprising variety of expression one single denomination has in cities, States, or countries other than your own. Equally, attending or contributing to services in other denominational styles offers the chance to experience an entirely different worship culture than your own; getting past the initial barrier of being out of your comfort zone can be tremendously enriching, and it is often the case that YDS students find their own tradition is informed through this ecumenical experience. But a further aspect of worship design is in play in Marquand: the fact that we live in an increasingly post-Christian environment, and in learning to be worship leaders we need to be equipped to operate outside traditional denominational structures. This is why we often talk about 'worship design' rather than 'by the book'. We encourage each person to bring what they know, but also to step into unfamiliar territory, in order to develop the liturgical literacy and pastoral sensitivity necessary to lead community worship.

In planning worship, we always ask worship designers to think about making worship accessible, without being patronizing. The purpose is always to create a real act of worship, not a seminar presentation, so this is sometimes a challenging task. Where possible worship traditions or liturgies should – like works of art – be allowed to speak for themselves, and not be over-interpreted. Sometimes, however, it is necessary to offer just enough explanation to invite others into what are, for them, unfamiliar habits of worship. In working together we try to find a balance between explaining, and simply diving in and experiencing different forms of worship.

We recognize that there are some aspects of worship that cannot be adapted for ecumenical worship, due to the liturgical constraints imposed by some denominations. When this is the case, we encourage groups to find some alternative aspect of their tradition that can legitimately become part of ecumenical worship.

As you come to Marquand, come with an open heart and mind, come willing to listen and to learn, and come often. Chapel is different every day and the only way to be a part of such a diverse community's worship program is to worship together, often and over time. It is worth bearing in mind that the richness and depth of life-changing worship and community building only comes to those who are willing to step outside their comfort zone; it is only possible to encounter God, and to build community, if we are willing to be made uncomfortable by encountering new things, and willing to make mistakes in the effort to do something worthwhile. So while we hope and intend that Marquand services will often be both inspiring and comforting, we also know they can be challenging, surprising and even startling on occasion.

Organization of Marquand Chapel

The Marquand program is directed by the Dean of Chapel, who is assisted by a team of staff and students. A team of student Chapel Ministers is appointed each year to work under the supervision of the Dean of Chapel. Three organ scholars and two student choir directors are also appointed each year. The Dean of Chapel consults regularly with the Marquand Advisory Committee, which numbers three faculty, one senior staff member, and two students, and is chaired by Professor Peter Hawkins. Everything can be discussed here, from the broad direction of Marquand worship to specific concerns that may be raised during the year, and the Dean of Chapel regularly takes the advice of the committee when complex and important decisions arise. The Committee also oversees the selection of student preachers.

It is the aim of the whole Chapel team to include and collaborate with a large number of contributors from among the Faculty, staff and students of YDS to plan and lead worship during the year, as well as inviting alumni/ae and other visitors to expand our experience and learning. Various YDS student groups, both denominational and affiliation, are invited from time to time to lead a service; we also invite individuals or small groups who volunteer their ideas to collaborate with us in creating services. The Chapel team works with each group to create worship that brings the riches of our multiple traditions and makes them accessible to the wider community. On other occasions services are planned to give more deliberate reflection to our ecumenical mission, focusing on meeting points more than particularities. In addition, from time to time we seek to draw in to Marquand's worship some of the wisdom of neighboring traditions, to share the richness of music and preaching from other perspectives to our mutual benefit. In all this we aim to build a community that rejoices in common ground while also respecting particularity and difference, not expecting anyone to agree with every taste and opinion, but allowing difference to challenge, inform and develop our own convictions.

One of the features of Marquand worship is that, unlike almost every other form of Christian worship, our services are only 30 minutes long, and occur within the working day rather than at the weekend. We do not have the leisure of a Saturday night or Sunday morning, so all the forms of worship we are used to have to be adapted to fit to a tight time slot. Although this may sound constraining, it proves true that "necessity is the mother of invention", and it is educational to discover that 30 minutes can seem timeless and rich, rather than rushed, if the service is conceived and executed well. It is surprising to find just how much you can communicate in a 3-minute reflection, or how prayer is transformed by being sung rather than said. Time seems to

stand still when the community learns to keep silence together, and prayer comes to life when it is expressed in many different ways - extemporaneous one day, scripted the next, sung or walked the day after that.

Marquand is also shaped by the fact that we are an academic community – the makeup of the community is transient, and our timetable and focus is governed to a large extent by the academic year. Each year in Marquand is a little different as the particular makeup of the School, and its pool of talents and interests, shifts from one year to the next. One year, dance might be a particular feature, another it might be drama, or various forms of music. And at all times there are connections to be made between what we learn in the classroom or the library, and how we express our worship in Chapel. Throughout the course of each year Marquand’s worship is planned around the life of the community – so we design our worship program to coincide with issues raised by conferences, themes of the year and other events such as visiting lecturers or artists.

Marquand also aims to give due attention to our situation in the wider community of Yale and of New Haven, reminding ourselves not to become too insulated in the concerns of our working day, but to allow our worship to reflect our whole lives.

In all of this, then, we aim to discover a core of worship that draws the richness and variety of the many Christian traditions represented on the Quad, not merely rotating through different traditions, but drawing on the characteristics of each to create a unique expression of ecumenical worship within the ongoing life of this learning community.

Practical considerations

The hour for Chapel and coffee hour is set aside by the school as a non-work hour—no classes or meetings are scheduled during that time, and the intent is for us to switch off from classes for an hour and focus on community and worship. We encourage everyone to avoid talking about work-related issues in Chapel, or on your way to or from a service, and instead give attention to worship and to one another.

As you arrive, please leave coats and book bags in the narthex (and not on the seats in chapel), but do bring valuables in with you and place them under your own seat.

As an act of hospitality, please move right into the space and refrain from sitting in the seats closest to the door—if these are filled, there is no place for late-comers, parents with baby-buggies or less able-bodied people to sit. Please move into the center of the rows of seats (for the same reasons).

And please note – if you chat in the narthex while the service is underway in the chapel, you can be heard inside!

Marquand Communications

The Dean of Chapel is available to chat about Chapel at coffee hour, informally at lunchtime in the refectory, or in her study (in the Sacristy at S202) where there are appointment times beside the door. Make an appointment if you want to discuss any issue concerning Marquand. Comments and suggestions are always welcome, and we deliberately keep some space in the Chapel diary for creating services around new ideas. Please don’t be shy! Come and ask questions, make suggestions, give feedback, and get involved in the ongoing development of Marquand Worship.

Marquand Reader

Every week, the chapel team publishes *The Marquand Reader*, with information about services planned for the coming week, news of forthcoming dates, and short essays to provoke further thought on our community worship. The Reader is sent via email subscription list, and paper copies are available on the Chapel noticeboard. If you would like to write something for the reader, please contact the Dean of Chapel.

In addition, "This Week in Chapel" posters are placed around the Quad each week, and posted on the ISM website to inform the community about forthcoming services and events. We also post occasional messages through DivMail, and through the email subscription list.

Facebook

Follow Marquand Chapel on [Facebook](#) for regular updates.

Webpage on the ISM website

The full Marquand Guidelines, This Week In Chapel, and Marquand Reader articles appear on the ISM website:

<http://www.yale.edu/ism/marquand/>

Volunteering to serve in Marquand

Singers are invited to volunteer for the Marquand Chapel Choir, directed this year by Matthew Cramer, or the Marquand Gospel and Inspirational Ensemble, led by Mark Miller. Look out for notices for first meetings of these choirs, or ask our Director of Chapel Music (Interim), Mrs Sara O'Bryan. She is also the contact for musicians who would like to volunteer to play. If you have written, or would like to write, music that would work in Marquand, please contact the Director of Chapel Music.

We also draw on the gifts of writers and composers wherever possible. If you would like to write an article on some aspect of worship for the Marquand Reader, or write prayers or other liturgical material, please contact the [Dean of Chapel](#).

There is an enormous amount of practical work that goes on behind the scenes in Marquand. In addition to speaking and public roles, we need people regularly to wash the linens, tidy the sacristy, bake the bread, and set-up and clean-up the chapel. For special services, there are all kinds of decorating and preparation tasks to be done. If you would like to volunteer to help in any of these ways, please sign up on the noticeboard, or contact a member of the Chapel team.

Other activities in Marquand

Marquand Chapel is also used regularly for services and prayer by Berkeley Divinity School, the Institute of Sacred Music, and several denominational groups within YDS. There is also limited availability of the Chapel for other events and services – please see the full Marquand Guidelines for further information on bookings and permissions. Whenever the Chapel is vacant, it may be used by anyone for personal prayer.