

MARQUAND READER

Volume 11, Issue 6: Week of September 29, 2013

The newsletter of Marquand Chapel, Yale Divinity School

THIS WEEK IN MARQUAND

Services begin at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!

Monday:	Nine Billion Names of God
Tuesday:	A service of the Word. Preacher: Rev'd Ian Oliver, Pastor of the University Church and Senior Associate Chaplain for Protestant Life
Wednesday:	Sung Morning Prayer – Beyond all Praising
Thursday:	A service of the Word. Preacher: Rev'd Dr James Forbes
Friday:	Community Eucharist: Honoring the world-wide Church. Presider: Rev'd Christa Swenson. Reflection: Mark Miller. With Marquand Chapel Choir and Marquand Gospel & Inspirational Ensemble.

Monday: Nine Billion Names for God

We are often challenged to think about our approach to diversity. Liturgical language can offer one means of exploring diversity by reflecting on the fact that the God of many names is the God in whose image we are made. We know God by many names and images... Creator, Guide, Mother, Elohim, Lord, Servant, Wisdom, HaShem, Protector, Brother, and many more. We know God within us, are made in God's image, and experience God in many different ways. On Monday, we will pause to ponder the diversity of God's image, in which we are made, listen to scripture and poetry, and sing together as we put names to God-imagery and our images of ourselves.

Tuesday: A Service of the Word - "Dispatches from the front lines"

The Reverend Ian Oliver is Pastor of the University Church and Senior Associate Chaplain for Protestant Life. Raised in Southern Baptist and United Methodist churches in Texas, he was ordained by the United Church of Christ in 1990. He came to Yale in 2008, and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the New Haven Association of the UCC, as Advisor to UCC/DOC students at Yale Divinity School, and AS instructor in Homiletics at YDS.

Wednesday: Sung Morning Prayer

O God Beyond All Praising – a setting by Colin Britt

This week we will sing again this popular Sung Morning Prayer setting by former Director of Music, Colin Britt. It includes a 9th century chant, "Veni creator spiritus", Isaiah Jones' gospel setting of "Fill My Cup," John Bell and Graham Maule's delightful arrangement of the Caribbean "Halle, Halle, Halle," and the Sacred Harp tune, "Christians, We Have Met to Worship." This service also features a Russian Lord's Prayer setting, by Nikolai Kedrov, Sr., and a psalm setting from the Siberian province of Tuva. The title for this cycle comes from the Michael Perry text set to the hymn tune *Thaxted*, by Gustav Holst, a melody familiar to many from the Jupiter movement of Holst's "The Planets" (Opus 32).

PBS Recording

This Wednesday the service will be recorded by a team from PBS, who are at YDS making a program featuring poet and ISM Faculty member Christian Wiman. A few minutes of the service will be included in the program, to give a flavor of the range of work at YDS and the ISM. **If you want to attend, but do not want to appear on camera, the rows nearest the doors will be off-camera.**

Thursday: A Service of the Word

The Reverend Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr., preaching

The Rev'd Dr. James Forbes is Senior Minister Emeritus at Riverside Church, an interdenominational, interracial, international church in New York City. Dr. Forbes works with the Healing of the Nations Foundation. Throughout his career, he has earned numerous degrees, honors, and awards, including the Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award from The Interfaith Alliance in 2004. In a 1996 issue of

ordained in the American Baptist Churches and the Original United Holy Church of America.

Friday: Community Eucharist: Honoring the world-wide Church.

Presider: Rev'd Christa Swenson, Reflection: Mark Miller

With music by Marquand Chapel Choir, and Marquand Gospel & Inspirational Ensemble.

Join us as we celebrate communion in the knowledge that we approach God's table as one body in Christ, no matter what our background. We are all welcome to God's table, joining with people across the globe and across time in this sacred meal. World Communion Sunday (first Sunday in October) is a specific Sunday set aside to bring into focus and celebrate the ecumenical, catholic church universal, recognizing our unity with Christians of all places and all times, regardless of our differences.

Food for thought

An extract from "[Naming God](#)", by Maggi Dawn

"...If you are entirely unused to hearing God addressed as mother, it will sound strange the first few times. Or, if you have resolved never to name God with male pronouns, then it may appear retrograde to hear them included. But the invitation to expansive language is a call to stretch the imagination towards God... Naming God in ways that are unfamiliar or uncomfortable pulls us out of our comfort zones, and thus we are enabled to catch a glimpse of the God who is "other", a mystery that is beyond human telling...

Expansive language, then, delivers the freedom to play with language creatively, to encompass grammatical elegance and poetic beauty, to include unedited ancient language that underlines the historicity and enduring quality of faith. Expanding rather than eliminating vocabulary results in a liturgical language that is more broadly inclusive of those who come to worship. Rather than adjusting our language to remove all offence, then, let us stretch our imaginations: use the names that others use, listen to the various narratives encompassed within this community, and try out the names that emerge from them. Each of us may encounter names that are unfamiliar, curious, or even a little disturbing. But as Desmond Tutu famously said, we are a "rainbow people of God"; our language needs to reflect that diversity, rather than the dullness of neutralization.

Rather than make our capacity for naming God smaller, then, perhaps it would be better to explore the breadth of the ways God has been named; to reflect on the refusal to articulate *any* name for God as a way of acknowledging holiness and mystery. We might rediscover, from the scriptures, and from two thousand years of Christian theology, some of the many names of God: helper, Lord, servant and friend; compassionate father, a mother who breastfeeds her children and knits, a tigress, a mother hen, a shepherd, a rock and a tower, a shield and defence, a landowner, a housekeeper, a baker of bread, a mighty ruler and a powerless infant, the light that lightens the world, and the darkness that is above all light; the God who is both love and wisdom, and at the same time the God whose name, however close we try to get to it, will always elude us.

Let's take all these names and more besides, let's roll them around in our mouths, and taste and see whether they are, in fact, good; and let us feel our way towards articulating our worship in a way that is both inclusive and respectful of one another as it is honoring and worshipful of the God whose name, as St Paul says, is above all names."

Marquand Chapel Team 2013-14

Maggi Dawn	Dean of Chapel	Katie McNeal, Porsha Williams, Joe Brewer, Randall Spaulding	Chapel Ministers
Christa Swenson	Liturgical Coordinator	Tripp Kennedy, Wesley Hall, Patrick Kreeger	Organ Scholars
Mark Miller	Director, Marquand Gospel & Inspirational Ensemble	Knox Sutterfield	Student Director, Marquand Chapel Choir
Brett Terry	Interim Director of Chapel Music		