

# MARQUAND READER

Volume 16, Issue 4: Week of September 11, 2016  
The Newsletter of Marquand Chapel at Yale Divinity School

## THIS WEEK IN MARQUAND

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

- Monday Sept 12:** **Prayers for Peace.** After the commemoration of 9/11, we will look forward this morning with, readings, songs, meditations, and prayers from multiple cultures and religious traditions, seeking peace in a diverse world.
- Tuesday Sept 13:** **Preaching Service.** Graduating Student Christian Savage will be preaching: don't miss it!
- Wednesday Sept 14:** **Prayer walking.** Prayer walking is a practice that emerges in a number of different spiritual traditions. This morning you can choose: walk the Labyrinth, or join any one of several small groups, each in a different style, for a prayer walk around the neighborhood.
- Thursday Sept 15:** **Sung Morning Prayer: Begin.** This Sung Morning Prayer cycle has marked the beginning of the new school year. Today, in its final iteration, it also marks the beginning of **National Hispanic Heritage Month.**
- Friday September 16:** **Community Eucharist.** This morning's Communion service will include prayer and song from Hispanic/Latino/a churches, in recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month,

### The Marquand Chapel Team

*Dean of Chapel*

*Director of Chapel Music (Interim)*

*Gospel and Inspirational Ensemble*

*Sacristan*

*Chapel Ministers*

*Archivist*

*Chapel Choir Director*

*Organ Scholars*

The Rev'd Dr Maggi Dawn

Mrs Sara O'Bryan

Mark Miller, Lecturer in Sacred Music

Margaret McGhee

Dax Crocker, Lisa Eleck, Ann Jacob, Jessica Jones, Jason Land, Robert Laughton, Megan McDermott, Kevin McKoy, Jillian Morrison, Evan Parke, Johnson Ramsaur, Liesl Spitz, Susan Wentzy

Andrew Doss

Matthew Cramer

Christopher Keady, Nicholas Quardokus, Gabriel Benton

### The Marquand Advisory Committee

Prof. Peter Hawkins (Chair)

Prof. Janet Ruffing

Prof. Chloe Starr

Assoc. Dean Nicholas Lewis

Emilie Casey (M.Div '16, S.T.M. '17)

Qadry Harris (M.Div 2018)

**National Hispanic Heritage Month** in the United States is the period from September 15 to October 15, when people recognize the contributions of Hispanic and Latino/a Americans to the United States, and celebrate their heritage and culture. During this month our worship will reflect this focus.

## Prayer walking



Prayer walking is a practice with many and varied meanings. For some, a prayer walk can be a kind of pilgrimage; a practice that allows inner contemplation to become embodied. An awareness of your feet on the earth gives prayer a sense of groundedness.

It is well documented that walking stimulates the creative imagination; many writers and poets have practiced walking to break writer's block. The theory behind it is that the rhythm of walking creates the right circumstances for the mind to think more clearly. One of our groups will practice rhythmic walking for prayer.

Some forms of prayer walking are based in the idea that it matters to be present in the place you are praying for. Some of our groups this week will walk around the Quadrangle and pray for the Divinity School and all its partner institutions.

Any of the above forms of prayer can be incorporated into walking the Labyrinth. Our Labyrinth was custom made for Marquand, and we invite you to take off your shoes and feel the ground beneath your feet as you make your own labyrinth pilgrimage.

## The Language of Worship

Last year the Marquand Advisory Committee spent time discussing the language we use in worship. There are many different issues involved in choosing the language of our songs and prayers. Some people are keen to alter or update the language of our hymns and prayers to make them gender-inclusive, and where we can do so legally and ethically, we often do that. Others want to experience the variety of prayer language from different denominations, some of which have moved in "PC" directions, and others have not, each for their own reasons. Sometimes it is suggested to us that we might change a word here or there in a hymn or song to remove an offence (such as calling God "King" or "Father", which some find offensive.) We constantly search for songs that expand our linguistic and musical repertoire, but for legal reasons we are not at liberty simply to re-write songs that are still in copyright without gaining the permission of the song's authors and/or publishers.

This is an area that we continue to pay attention to, but we want to acknowledge that those leading worship are conscious of the range of opinion, and their decisions are not random but fall within the broad range of language choices that we encompass across the whole semester. We encourage anyone interested in this area to discuss it with members of the Chapel Team and the Marquand Advisory Committee.

**Do you have ideas or suggestions for Marquand worship? Talk to the Dean of Chapel, any member of the Chapel team, or the Marquand Advisory Committee.**