Marquand Chapel: A Short Introduction

Welcome to Marquand Chapel for the academic year 2013-14. These brief notes offer some background information and some of the guiding principles for planning and participating in worship in Marquand. Full Marquand Guidelines appear on the Marquand (ISM) page of the Website, and include orientation sheets for planning a service in Chapel, and some articles that address issues that are frequently raised concerning worship – what it means to be ecumenical, how do we express diversity, how we choose the language of worship, how to balance faithfulness to tradition with the need to reinterpret worship in the context of today’s world. Some of those articles will also be reproduced in the weekly Marquand Reader during the year.

Participating in worship

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 ecumenical Christian worship in which the voices of many traditions are heard but no single denomination or worship style dominates, and where all are made welcome, regardless of faith or creed.

Marquand worship follows a weekly pattern. Monday through Thursday worship lasts 30 minutes. Every Wednesday 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 Thursday 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 with an ecumenical setting. Once or twice a semester we build an entire week’s worship around a theme, often to coincide with a community event such as an All-School Conference.

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 each student will deepen their understanding of their own worship or liturgical tradition by taking part in planning and leadership of a service. Planning a denominational service is an opportunity to discover the breadth of your own tradition, and find out the variety of expression one denomination has in different parts of the country, or the world. Equally, attending services planned by another denomination 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. We encourage everyone to participate both within and outside their own traditions, in order to develop the liturgical literacy and pastoral sensitivity necessary to lead community worship.

One of the ways we achieve this is by inviting worship leaders to dig deeply into their own worship traditions, while at the same time working to make their own traditions and styles accessible to others. 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. So 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. Central to the team are the (Interim) Director of Chapel Music and the Liturgical Coordinator, and some part-time staff also contribute to the musical and worship life of Marquand. Four Divinity students serve as “Chapel Ministers” each year, either as internship or a work-study placements. Three organ scholars and two student choir directors are also appointed each year.

The Chapel team aims 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 denominational and constituency groups 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 your 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 – don’t chat in the narthex if the service is underway in the chapel—you can be heard inside!

**Marquand Communications**

The Dean of Chapel regularly makes herself available at lunch to chat about Chapel, at coffee hour, at specially organized lunch or evening events, or informally in the refectory. She keeps an open door to her study in S214, or you can email for 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 The Marquand Reader is distributed by the Liturgical Assistant. It contains information about the liturgies and services planned for the coming week, news of forthcoming dates, and short essays to provoke further thought on our community worship. It is published in paper copy and sent via DaleMail. If you would like to write something for it, please contact the Dean of Chapel.

In addition, “This Week in Chapel” posters are placed around the Quad each week, sent by DaleMail, and posted on the ISM website to inform the community about forthcoming services and events. We also post occasional messages on DaleMail.

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.

Suggestions Box
There is a suggestions box on the Chapel noticeboard, just outside the Chapel. Please feel free to drop a note there with any suggestions for services, music, organization, communications or anything else.

Surveys
We recently sent out a survey asking for feedback on Marquand, which proved extremely valuable. We intend to do the same again at some point during this year.

Volunteering to serve in Marquand
Singers are invited to volunteer for the Marquand Chapel Choir, directed this year by Knox Sutterfield, or the Marquand Gospel and Inspirational Ensemble, led by Mark Miller. Look out for notices for first meetings of these choirs, or ask our Interim Director of Chapel Music (and Liturgical Assistant, Brett Terry).

Brett Terry is also the contact for musicians who would like to volunteer to play. He will be compiling a list of musicians during BTFO, and you can join in any time after that simply by contacting him.

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, please contact the Dean of Chapel. If you have written, or would like to write, music that would work in Marquand, please contact the Interim Director of Chapel Music.

There is an enormous amount of practical work that goes on behind the scenes to make worship happen 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. And 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 our Liturgical Coordinator, Christa Swenson.

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 limited availability of the Chapel for other events and services. Information on bookings and permissions is found here. Whenever the Chapel is vacant, it may be used by anyone for personal prayer.

Marquand Chapel Team 2013-2014

Dean of Chapel
Maggi Dawn
Marquand Gospel and Inspirational Ensemble
Mark Miller
Liturgical Coordinator
Christa Swenson
Interim Director of Chapel Music and Liturgical Assistant
Brett Terry
Chapel Ministers
Joe Brewer
Katie McNeal
Randall Spaulding
Porsha Williams
Marquand Chapel Choir, Student Director
Knox Sutterfield