

THE MARQUAND READER

September 22 – September 26, 2008

This Week at Marquand

Monday: *A Service of Word and Worship*
with Professor Nora Tubbs Tisdale, Professor of Homiletics, preaching.

Tuesday: *Lazarus Rising*
led by Yale Black Seminarians.

Wednesday: *Sung Morning Prayer*
led by Patrick Evans, Director of Chapel Music.

Thursday: *God Sets the Table*
led by the Marquand Chapel Team.

Friday: *Community Eucharist*
with Barbara Blodgett, Director of Supervised Ministries, preaching and presiding.



A Brief Scriptural Exhortation to Hospitality

Emily Scott Bloemker, Marquand Chapel Minister

Friends:

As always, we welcome you into the Marquand Community! In fact, perhaps you have felt so welcomed that you are now able to put this radical sense of hospitality to work in your own seating choices: please consider the following when entering chapel services each day:

1. **Please move towards the center of your section:** Dale Peterson has tripped over me twice trying to find a seat; the last time it happened, he called me a *skandalon* and assigned me 'The Verse' of Mt20:1-16 and 1Cor8:9. To my surprise, Dale was right - Jesus and Paul specifically forbid us from tripping people! So, to avoid the wrath of Dale, please move towards the center so that others might gracefully have a seat.
2. **Please consider sitting on the far side of the chapel:** Jesus asks us to go the extra mile for our neighbors (Mt5:41), but we are only asking for twenty feet! If you have come before 10:30, please consider taking a seat on the far side of the chapel, away from the doors. This leaves plenty of space for those who have gotten out late from class, or who are running behind.

Although sitting right next to someone (or sitting in a new section) might make you uncomfortable, we are all in a position to extend hospitality through these simple choices.

Lazarus Rising: A Series of Miracles

Niechelle Guidry

The biblical text has long been a cornerstone of Black American religious life. Its characters and stories have not only been archetypal, but they have brought clarity and counsel in the long processes of healing and meaning making. For example, the story of David and Goliath has encouraged many to take seemingly ridiculous action in the face of great odds, while the story of the Exodus continually reminds us that God is ever on the side of the other and the oppressed. The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego remind us that we serve an "on-time" God, and many of the Psalms have become prayers when adequate words have forsaken our minds and our mouths. And, for his miracles, justice, love, and his conquering of death and oppression, Jesus Christ has been hailed by the generations as "a Burden Bearer", a "Way out of no Way", and the Friend who sticks closer than a brother or sister.

This week, the Yale Black Seminarians will begin a series of chapel services that celebrate and commemorate the miracles of Jesus Christ, beginning with the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead. With this series, we hope to memorialize the culture and legacy of miracles in our history as a people. In a narrative that has been wrought with injustice and pain, these stories have sustained many with the hope that regardless of temporal circumstances, our God is able to miraculously assist and rescue us. Moreover, because many have survived on modern day miracles, these stories have reminded and inspired us to have great expectations of God, and to look for the miraculous from God. With this series, it is our hope that we, and the YDS community, begin to shiver with excitement and expectation for the miraculous in our everyday life, and are reminded that our God is yet able to leave us speechless.



New Sung Morning Prayer – “Traditional Texts in Global and Contemporary Settings”

Patrick Evans, Director of Chapel Music

On Wednesday, September 24, we will begin a new cycle of Sung Morning Prayer. This version – “Traditional Texts in Global and Contemporary Settings” – is well known to returning students. Many have remarked that this setting- in which we sing *O Worship the King* in an Indonesian mode, *Love Divine* in Mark Miller’s jazz-inspired setting, and Isaac Watts’ beloved *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* in a six-part South African *Senzenina* setting – helps them to hear familiar words in new ways – to gain new inspiration and insight from texts that are so well known that they sometimes might slip into rote repetition with the tunes many have known from childhood. It is not our intention to replace those familiar tunes forever, but to sing in wonder at these words reinterpreted.

We sing Bobby McFerrin’s chanted setting of *Psalm 23* (dedicated to his mother, his own paraphrase of the psalm text uses feminine pronouns for God.) Christian Tamaela, whose *We Wait for New Heavens* we now know by heart, offers a Javanese tune for the Lord’s prayer. But in my mind, the part of this SMP setting that best exemplifies our ecumenical

life together in Marquand is Calvin Hampton's gorgeous setting of "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy."

In my first year here, one of our chapel organists, an Episco-Baptist from Alabama, recommended this setting from the 1982 Episcopal hymnal. Most folks in chapel didn't know it, including most of the Episcopalians (perhaps because the same text is set to a much easier-to-play tune on a nearby page). So we all learned it together – the three verses in the 1982 hymnal, as well as an additional verse from the original Frederick Faber text: "But we make God's love too narrow with false limits of our own, and we magnify God's strictness with a zeal Love cannot own." Because we repeat the same sung morning prayer setting for at least four weeks, this hymn had time to sink into people's hearts, to become the theology deepest within. By the end of the cycle, most folks – Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, UCC, Catholic, Pentecostal – could hear the haunting introductory melody and sing by heart the three Episcopalian verses, plus the "extra" *very* traditional verse in a decidedly "new song." Most folks don't think of this as an Episcopal hymn any more, but a hymn we all know and love. (And the Lutherans have picked it up in their new 2007 hymnal!)

In daily ecumenical worship in Marquand chapel, we are re-telling, re-living, and re-singing the story of redemption as we rehearse both for the work we are to do in the world, and for that great day when all voices will be resurrected and raised in the praise of God. We need you to raise your voice with us in that rehearsal – please join us!



A Reflection on the Millennium Development Goals

Mike Kinman, YDS / BDS M.Div. 1996, Executive Director of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation

"It's the end of the world as we know it ... and I feel fine." – R.E.M.

This week, just down the road in New York City, a wonderful convergence is taking place. Leaders of nations, corporations, civil society, religious organizations, and others are coming together to measure progress and chart a future course for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

By now, I hope you've heard of the MDGs. They're eight goals, agreed to by almost every nation on earth, that are about healing the deepest material brokenness in the world today. Things like raising 1.2 billion people out of the poverty of living on less than \$1 a day. Like a billion people who don't have it. Like

empowering women and sending more than 100 million children to school who aren't there right now not because they don't want to but because they can't.

This convergence is possible because as diverse as those groups are, the MDGs give us a common language for affirming our common purpose. That the world as we know it ... a world where a child dies every three seconds from preventable, treatable causes ... will come to an end and a better world will emerge in its place.

As Christians, neither this mission nor this language is new to us. Our call to seek and serve Christ in communities of extreme poverty repeatedly jumps out of scripture at us. But that call goes beyond handing out a sandwich or mosquito net. As Christians, we bear the message that this new world does necessarily involve the end of the current one --- and that is something to embrace and not fear.

Because the truth is the good work of the Millennium Development Goals – work which itself is only the beginning of the quest to make poverty history – will never be accomplished unless our nation in particular is called to conversion. A conversion that recognizes that a nation that has 5% of the world’s population yet accounts for 30% of the world’s consumption is not only economically and environmentally unsustainable but morally and spiritually unsustainable as well.

Like any radical change, the call to this one will be met with fear. But we follow a Christ who stands in the middle of great chaos and says “be not afraid.” We follow a Christ who assures us that the “former things passing away” is not a bad thing but necessary so that we can rejoice in the cry “Behold, I have made all things new.”

It is not a song sung just by Episcopalians or Roman Catholics or Lutherans or Methodists, but by all Christians. And not just Christians, either, but people of many faiths throughout the world. People of faith who look at the world and believe that God dreams for something more. People of faith who believe that we need not fear the change that must come if global healing is to follow.

People of faith who aren’t afraid to announce that it is the end of the world as we know it. And we feel fine.

Interested in Reading Scripture in Chapel (and Elsewhere?)

Marquand Chapel is sponsoring a Scripture Reading Workshop, which we'll offer four times this semester. In this session, you'll learn some principles, tips, and techniques for reading scripture in worship. You'll receive feedback and refine your own style of reading, taking into consideration your faith tradition, experience, and theology.

Workshops will be held in Marquand Chapel at these times:

Tuesday, September 23: 12:00-1:20 p.m.

Friday, October 3: 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 21: 12:00-1:20 p.m.

Wednesday, October 29: 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Please sign up on the bulletin board outside of Marquand Chapel. And sign up soon--class size is limited to 8 people to leave plenty of time for discussion and feedback. Feel free to bring your lunch to the sessions that meet then.

The workshops are taught by Shannon Rye Wall, M.Div. '08; MFA in Acting from NYU. She is the Associate Minister at the First Congregational Church in Darien, CT.

If you have questions, please contact Shannon at srwall@optonline.net or Christa Swenson at christa.swenson@yale.edu.

MARQUAND CHAPEL TEAM

Chapel Ministers: [Jennifer Miller](#), [Sean Lanigan](#), [Meredith Coleman-Tobias](#), [Emily Bloemker](#)

Organists: [Ahreum Han](#), [Josiah Armes](#), [Timothy Weisman](#)

Marquand Chapel Choir Directors: [Jonathan Richter](#)

Gospel Choir Director: [Mark Miller](#)

Chapel Administrative Assistant: [James Aveni](#)

Liturgical Coordinator: [Christa Swenson](#)

Director of Chapel Music: [Professor Patrick Evans](#)

Acting Dean of Chapel: [Professor Gordon Lathrop](#)

Dean of Chapel (*on sabbatical 2008-09*): [Professor Siobhán Garrigan](#)
