

Marquand Reader

Volume 2, Issue 18: February 13-19, 2005

Reflections on Being a Chapel Minister

As spring break draws nigh and you begin to think about a supervised ministry for next year, we invite you to consider being a chapel minister for Marquand! Below are reflections from past and current chapel ministers about their experiences working for the chapel program. If you have any questions about being a chapel minister, please feel free to contact any of these past and current chapel ministers.

Callista Brown (Chapel Minister 2003-2004, callista.brown@yale.edu)

I think being a Chapel Minister is one of the best internship options available during our years at YDS. I loved it! I loved working with a team of people from various religious traditions. The sharing of ideas and our team collaboration was invigorating. I especially loved helping to create ecumenical liturgies, from writing prayers to brainstorming seasonal services, and seeing how fragments of a service are carefully chosen, combined and brought to life by the community each day. I gained confidence in leading worship and helping others to do so as well. I gained knowledge of a huge base of ecumenical worship resources. I was honored to be part of a team that invites the YDS community into worship each day.

Ian Doescher (Chapel Minister 2002-2003, Chapel Assistant 2003-2005, ian.doescher@yale.edu)

Since the beginning of my time at YDS—three and a half years ago—the chapel program fed me with a deep spirituality and sense of community that I had never experienced before. My second year, I wanted to give something back to the Marquand worshipping community, so I decided to try and be a chapel minister myself. Thus began one of the most challenging, most rewarding experiences of my life. From the opening days of BTFO, nervously trying to figure out how a 30-minute service works, through the first pew moves, the Advent and Easter services, all the way to the final, emotional service of the year, being a chapel minister was sweet and difficult joy. Of course, the biggest testament to my enjoyment of working with the chapel program is that, two and a half years after my first days as a chapel minister, I am still on the team!

Melanie Ross (Chapel Minister 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, melanie.ross@yale.edu)

Chapel ministry has been one of the best parts of my time at YDS. Worshipping ecumenically is both great challenge and great joy—I have learned skills through my internship that I couldn't have gained anywhere else. As a liturgical studies concentrate, one of the things I have appreciated most about chapel ministry is that it has given me to opportunity to put theoretical knowledge into action: I have learned to think about services not only in terms of their logistical details, but also in terms of theology. Working with different faculty, student groups, and graduating seniors has given me a chance to think about different worship forms and resources from a variety of denominational perspectives. And of course the best part of this job is the people you get to work closely with (I say this without any coercion!). My best learning has come as a result of the hours spent with Siobhan, Patrick, fellow chapel ministers, and musicians.

Emily Scott (Chapel Minister 2004-2005, emily.scott@yale.edu)

Chapel ministry has taught me the responsibility involved in crafting liturgy. Each service I work on, I am reminded of the risks involved in entering into worship with one another, especially in the context of ecumenical worship. I write prayers for others to pray, pick music for others to sing, present theologies for others to accept or reject. I am aware that liturgy has the power to heal and teach, as well as the power to hurt and damage. This year, I have learned to commit myself to the responsibility of liturgy to the best of my ability, knowing that when I make mistakes, the gathered community has enough trust in me to forgive and learn. Working with liturgy in the context of Marquand has been a deeply fulfilling and rewarding experience, providing an ever-fresh learning experience for me.

Tyler Stevenson (Chapel Minister 2002-2003, tyler.stevenson@yale.edu)

I wanted to be a chapel minister because I loved our community worship together. In some ways it's a sacrifice, because the ministers take responsibility for the liturgical needs of the entire community. But all in all I found it to be a simply wonderful exercise of going to the deepest expression of our community life together—the worship of God—and wrestling with that for a whole year. In the process I got to work with wonderfully talented liturgists, musicians, preachers, and worship leaders, and gained a unique sensibility about the sheer breadth of people and practices that make up YDS's life.

Natalie Wigg (Chapel Minister 2003-2004, natalie.wigg@yale.edu)

The thing I loved most about being a Chapel Minister was the opportunity to help people worship God in ways they had never tried before... whether that meant through focusing a whole service on the fellowship time that usually happens after church (but where we actually share our stories of faith with each other), or ushering people from low or high church backgrounds into each others' traditions. I loved the breadth of experience—I learned how to write cutting edge, creative liturgies, and I also learned how to breathe new life into ancient traditions and worship practices. It was a unique type of ministry—one I think would probably be impossible to duplicate. I've never had such a deeply ecumenical experience where I could learn about the beauty and insight of various doctrines from different traditions, while trying to honour and worship in traditions that were not my own. I think the experience of being a Chapel Minister has helped me immensely not only in my future ministry projects, but also in my worship of God. The extent to which I was stretched in Marquand now enables me to worship God in so many different contexts, and I think this is probably what I am most grateful for.

The Season of Lent

This past Wednesday during reading week was Ash Wednesday, which means that we have moved into the season of Lent in the time since we last worshiped together in Marquand. Lent itself is the beginning of the Easter season, a period of forty days—beginning Ash Wednesday until the Saturday before Easter Sunday, but not counting the Sundays in between—intended to recall the forty days of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Scripturally, the time of Lent begins when Jesus sets his eyes toward Jerusalem (see Luke 9:51), through his entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) and his crucifixion (Good Friday), until Lent ends on the day of Jesus' resurrection (Easter).

Historically, Lent began as a fast on the Saturday prior to Easter, which was joined to a tradition of fasting on Good Friday, and eventually became a fast of forty days before Easter. There may even have been a time when the fast began immediately after the feast of the Epiphany (January 6). There is evidence of a week-long fast before Easter by the 3rd century CE, and of a forty day fast by the 4th century (“perhaps given impetus by the Council of Nicea in 325”). The imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday came from Mozarabic and Gallican traditions, where it first became a popular penitential practice for the beginning of Lent.

Lent is not only a season of penitence, but also of personal introspection and anticipation of the passion of Jesus Christ. Lent has been described as a journey from “preparation (recognition of brokenness) to practice (the wilderness experience) to conversion (literally: turning around).” Liturgically, this Lenten journey is symbolized in many ways: the word “alleluia”—generally an expression of great joy—is neither said nor sung during Lent, which allows a great, anticipated “alleluia” to burst forth on Easter morning, representing the miracle of Christ’s resurrection.

We invite you into a time of worship and meditation this Lenten season, which will take us through the first week after spring break.

Reminder About Wednesday Eucharist

This is a reminder that for the next three weeks (the weeks of February 14-18, 21-25, and February 28-March 4), we will be experimenting with having our community Eucharist service on Wednesday, and sung morning prayer on Friday. This trial is intended as one possible solution to the fact that many faculty are unable to join us on Fridays for Eucharist, and we would like to have them with us as we celebrate communion together! No final decision has been made about the change, and if a change were to be implemented, it would not take place until next year. Again, the dates that will be affected are as follows:

Wednesday, February 16: community Eucharist	Friday, February 18: sung morning prayer
Wednesday, February 23: community Eucharist	Friday, February 25: sung morning prayer
Wednesday, March 2: community Eucharist	Friday, March 4: sung morning prayer

Difficult Texts Series This Week

Please join us this week for the fourth installment of the Marquand Chapel Difficult Texts Series. This week, Professor John Hare—a late and wonderful addition to the Difficult Texts Series—will preach on 2 Corinthians 5:14, Paul’s somewhat confusing teaching about the meaning of Jesus’ death.

A Look Ahead: The Next Two Weeks’ Services

Please join us over the next two weeks for the following services at 10:30 a.m.:

Monday, February 14: Dr. Phyllis Tribble will preach a sermon entitled “Striving After the Wind.”

Tuesday, February 15: the fourth Difficult Texts Series service will feature Professor John Hare preaching on 2 Corinthians 5:14.

Wednesday, February 16: conflict resolution specialist Nance Guilmartin will preach and Professor Barbara Blodgett will preside at our weekly Eucharist, held for a trial period on Wednesday.

All who gather for worship are welcome at the communion table in Marquand Chapel.

Thursday, February 17: graduating student Linda Tyson will offer the homily.

Friday, February 18: the service of sung morning prayer prepared by Kimberly Dunn and Michael Smith continues.

Monday, February 21: the chapel team presents a service in memory of Malcolm X.

Tuesday, February 22: come prepared to walk a labyrinth of pews in Marquand!

Wednesday, February 23: the Reverend Maryetta Anschutz will preach and preside at our weekly Eucharist, in the Episcopal tradition.

All who gather for worship are welcome at the communion table in Marquand Chapel.

Thursday, February 24: Letty Russell will lead a service in honor of World AIDS Africa day.

Friday, February 25: the service of sung morning prayer prepared by Kimberly Dunn and Michael Smith continues.

The *Marquand Reader* is written by Siobhán Garrigan and Ian Doescher.