

= Princeton University Chapel =

The Princeton University Chapel is located on that university 's main campus in Princeton , New Jersey , United States . It replaces an older chapel that burned down in 1920 . Designed in 1921 by Ralph Adams Cram in his signature Collegiate Gothic style , it was built by the university between 1924 and 1928 at a cost of \$ 2 @. @ 3 million . Martin Luther King , Jr . , delivered a sermon there in 1960 . The chapel was rededicated in an interfaith ceremony in 2002 following a major two @- @ year restoration .

Its size and design evoke a small cathedral of the English Middle Ages . The only university chapel of its size at the time it was built was King 's College Chapel at the University of Cambridge . The foundation is poured concrete , and the superstructure is sandstone and limestone . The main sanctuary consists of a narthex , a gallery , a nave , two transepts joined by a crossing , and an elevated choir . The chapel 's extensive iconography consists of stained glass , stonemasonry , and wood carvings . Among the stained glass are four " great windows " , one facing each cardinal direction , and four " Christian epic " windows in the walls of the choir . The iconography was planned by Albert M. Friend , a faculty member in Princeton 's Department of Art and Archaeology , with the goal of portraying , in one scholar 's words , a " synthesis between Christian faith and modern thought . "

The chapel seats almost 2 @, @ 000 people . A nondenominational chapel , it hosts weekly ecumenical Christian services and daily Catholic Masses . It also hosts several annual special events , such as baccalaureate services and commencements .

= = History = =

Princeton University built the chapel to replace the Marquand Chapel , which stood between where the present chapel and McCosh Hall stand until it burned to the ground in 1920 . The location for the new chapel was chosen for two reasons : symbolically , the new chapel would rise from the ashes of the old one , and practically , it would locate the new chapel centrally as the campus expanded eastward .

Ralph Adams Cram , the university 's supervising architect , designed and oversaw construction of the new chapel . Cram sought to build a crown jewel for the Collegiate Gothic motif he had championed on the Princeton campus . The university 's president , John Grier Hibben , also had a stake in the project : student hostility toward Princeton 's brand of mainline Presbyterianism was on the rise . An ordained minister , Hibben hoped the new chapel 's majesty would inspire students to attend services of their own volition . Cram , a convert to High Church Episcopalianism from Unitarianism , also lent support to this aim .

Cram designed the chapel with the assistance of Alexander Hoyle , a member of his firm . Albert M. Friend , a faculty member in Princeton 's Department of Art and Archaeology , played a central role in planning the iconography . It was built by Matthews Construction Company , which worked on several projects on Princeton 's campus . Among those who contributed to the design of stained glass windows were Charles Connick , Henry Lee Willet (of the studio that would become Willet Hauser) , and Philadelphia @- @ based stained glass artist Nicola d 'Ascenzo .

The plans for the new chapel were made public in 1921 . Hibben called replacing the Marquand Chapel " an immediate necessity " ; nonetheless , the project encountered financial problems early on . The insurance money from the Marquand Chapel was insufficient , and fundraising for the chapel competed with an ongoing general capital campaign for the university . Ground was ultimately broken during Princeton 's commencement ceremonies in June 1924 , and in the following year Cram and Hibben laid the cornerstone . The construction received considerable media attention , as it promised to be the largest university chapel in the United States and the second largest in the world after King 's College Chapel , Cambridge . The construction cost about \$ 2 @. @ 3 million and was completed in 1928 . Hibben led the dedication ceremony on May 31 of that year , in an elaborate ceremony covered by TIME .

On March 13 , 1960 , less than six weeks after the first of the Greensboro sit @- @ ins , Martin

Luther King , Jr . , delivered a sermon at the chapel . In the sermon he called for universal brotherhood and a life of spiritual richness . A plaque on the interior south wall of the chapel 's nave commemorates the occasion .

The chapel underwent a two @-@ year , \$ 10 million restoration between 2000 and 2002 . Despite the complexity of the work , the chapel remained open throughout the restoration . The project earned a New Jersey Historic Preservation Award in 2002 , and the stone work won the 2004 Tucker Award for Renovation and Restoration from Stone World magazine . At the time , two experts working on the stained glass restoration called it the largest such project that had ever been undertaken in the United States ; too large for a single studio , it was divided among studios in Massachusetts , Pennsylvania , and New York .

Following the restoration , the chapel was rededicated in an interfaith ceremony in which people belonging to Buddhism , Christianity , Islam , and Judaism gave prayers . Leading the ceremony , then @-@ Dean of Religious Life Thomas Breidenthal said , " This edifice is unmistakably Christian , [but] this chapel is meant to belong to all of us . "

= = Description = =

The chapel 's Collegiate Gothic design evokes an English church of the Middle Ages , although several aspects of it , including the vault and its supports , recall French churches . The chapel is cruciform and is built on the scale of a large parish church or a small cathedral . The only precedent for a university chapel of this size was King 's College Chapel , and only a small part of that chapel was used regularly . Stillwell cites Exeter Cathedral and the Octagon tower of Ely Cathedral as precedents for the architectural detail , but notes that the Princeton chapel 's detail nonetheless differs significantly from these .

The foundation is made of poured concrete . When the chapel was built , the rest of the structure above the grade level was masonry , and the only metal reinforcement was some structural steel in the framing of the roof . During the 2000 @-@ 02 restoration , some pinnacles were reset with stainless steel anchors . The arches of the crossing were designed to support the addition of a central tower , but this option has not been exercised : in Bush and Kemeny 's words , " Cram felt that Princeton already had enough towers . "

= = = Exterior = = =

The chapel is approximately the size of a small medieval English cathedral . Measured on the exterior , it is 277 feet (84 m) long , 76 feet (23 m) wide at its transepts , and 121 feet (37 m) high . The exterior is constructed largely from Pennsylvania sandstone , with Indiana limestone used for the trim .

On the western end of the chapel is the narthex , which has entrances on the north , west , and south walls . An additional door on the chapel 's north side opens onto the Hibben Garden , named in recognition of John Grier Hibben 's role in the chapel 's construction and dedication . The garden of evergreens was designed by H. Russell Butler , Jr . On the chapel 's south side are an additional door at ground level to the east and an exterior pulpit , designed after one at Magdalen College , Oxford , and named Bright Pulpit , in honor of John Bright . The chapel is connected on its eastern side to Dickinson Hall by the Rothschild arch , symbolizing a connection between religion and scholarship . Cram resigned as Princeton 's supervising architect over the inclusion of the arch , which he disliked ; nonetheless , he participated in the chapel 's 1928 dedication ceremony . Nearby is the Mather Sundial , a replica of the Turnbull Sundial in the courtyard of Corpus Christi College , Oxford . A statue of a pelican , a religious symbol associated with Corpus Christi , sits atop the sundial , which was presented to Princeton in 1907 by William Mather , then the governor of Victoria University of Manchester .

Each of the three narthex entrances sits below a tympanum . These 3 tympana were designed and sculpted by John Angel . The tympanum above the main , west entrance depicts Jesus as described in the Book of Revelation , together with the four beasts and other relevant iconography . It

resembles the tympanum of the Royal Portal of Chartres Cathedral . Beneath the figure of Christ is Princeton University 's shield , illustrating the university 's motto , Dei sub numine viget (" Under the power of God she flourishes ") . The tympana above the north and south entrances depict the Annunciation and the Baptism of Christ , respectively .

The exterior iconography includes two notable whimsical elements . A downspout on the east wall features a relief of a bulldog head ; a decades @-@ old myth relates that Cram placed it there to recognize Yale University , whose mascot is the bulldog . (Cram was not a Yale alumnus and in fact did not attend college , so it is unclear what interest he might have had promoting Yale .) A sculptor who worked on the chapel during its construction placed small carvings of his face and Cram 's at the bottoms of crockets flanking the main entrance ; Cram is identifiable by his glasses .

= = = Interior = = =

Measured in the interior , the chapel is 249 feet (76 m) long , 93 @.@ 5 feet (28 m) wide at its transepts , and 78 @.@ 5 feet (24 m) high at the crossing . Most of the interior is limestone , but the aisles and the central area of the choir are Aquia Creek sandstone . Sound @-@ absorbing tile is mounted on parts of the wall and vault . Running west to east , the main sanctuary consists of a narthex , a gallery , a nave , two transepts joined by a crossing , and an elevated choir ; it seats almost 2 @, @ 000 . The building 's southeast corner houses a vestry .

Inscribed on the narthex wall facing the nave is " A Prayer for Princeton " , which as of 2008 was still used in services at the chapel . Another inscription , from Psalm 100 , refers to Westminster Choir College , which holds its commencement ceremonies in the chapel . Two staircases on the east and west of the narthex lead to an upper gallery , which looks out upon the nave .

Three doorways lead from the narthex into the nave , which is 74 feet (23 m) high and named for Hibben . It is divided into three vertical levels : an arcade at ground level , a triforium beneath the roofs of the aisles , and a clerestory . The configuration and its proportions are typical of English churches , but the nave 's vaulted ceiling and the colonnettes supporting it recall French churches . The gallery above the narthex is at the level of the triforium . The aisles are narrower than in medieval churches and are used for passage rather than seating . The south aisle features five window bays , while the north has four ; where the easternmost bay would be is the entrance to a side chapel called the Blessed Sacrament Chapel . The pews in the nave are constructed from wood originally intended for Civil War gun carriages ; over 100 carvers spent more than a year producing the intricate carvings .

The northern transept is named for Henry Gurdon Marquand , the benefactor of the Marquand Chapel , which burned to the ground in 1920 and which the present chapel was built to replace . An American flag flown by the USS Princeton hangs from the transept 's north wall . The southern transept is named for Chester Alwyn Braman , the first donor to the University Chapel Fund . A staircase leads from the Braman Transept to the Bright Pulpit .

The choir , named Milbank Choir for Elizabeth Milbank Anderson is elevated by several steps . An altar stands at the far east end . The altar and the choir stalls were built and carved by Irving and Casson , A. H. Davenport Company , in Sherwood Forest oak ; Cram speculated that the wood may have dated from the time of Robin Hood . According to Stillwell , the woodwork " represents an outstanding example of American craftsmanship . "

An oak made pulpit stands in front of the choir facing the nave . It originated in the north of France , probably in the mid @-@ 1500s . Its French Renaissance style suggests that it was made during the reign of Henry II . The lectern is also oak and dates from the 1600s . It had been used in a church near Avranches , France , for 200 years . A private individual purchased it shortly before the confiscation of church property during the French Revolution . It changed hands several times before Hibben obtained it for the chapel .

The chapel 's organ has 7 @, @ 897 pipes in 135 ranks and 109 stops . It was designed by Ernest M. Skinner and installed in 1928 . Skinner invented the contra fagotto stop for the Princeton chapel organ in response to a request by Princeton 's director of music . In 1990 the organ was dismantled and shipped to England for a major restoration by Mander Organs . Thomas Trotter gave the re

@-@ opening recital on the restored organ in 1992 .

= = = Iconography = = =

The chapel 's iconography consists of over 10 @,@ 000 square feet (930 m2) of stained glass as well as stonework and wood carvings . Albert M. Friend , a faculty member in Princeton 's Department of Art and Archaeology and an expert on medieval art , was the primary planner of the iconography , with the support and assistance of Hibben , Cram , and others . A devout Christian , Friend shared Hibben 's goal of persuading Princeton students to choose lives of Christian observance and sought with the chapel 's iconography , in Milliner 's words , " to carefully dismantle materialist objections to Christian faith and to articulate Princeton 's synthesis between Christian faith and modern thought . " Kessler calls the stained glass " a summa of the heritage of Christianity up to the early twentieth century . "

The stained glass windows of the nave 's north and south aisles represent one aspect of this synthesis . The north windows depict Biblical figures and scenes , while the south windows contain images associated with human knowledge . The lower of these , at the triforium level , depict the teachings of Christ , while the six upper windows at the clerestory level depict influential figures in Philosophy , Theology , Chivalry , Poetry , Law , and Science , as read from east to west . The Science window faces a window due to Willet on the north wall with scenes from Genesis , symbolizing harmony between the Christian story of the Creation and the modern means of understanding it .

Four large stained glass windows are found in the main sanctuary .

The Great East Window , " The Love of Christ " : Milbank Choir . Due to Charles Connick , it is richly decorated with scenes from the life of Christ , culminating with an image of the Crucifixion of Jesus in the great rose . The process of selecting the scenes for this window was contentious , pitting the preferences of the conservative Presbyterian Hibben and his colleagues against those of the Milbank family , the window 's donors and liberal Episcopalians . The final compromise paired the Works of Mercy with Gospel scenes complementing each of them .

The Great West Window , " The Second Coming of Christ " : the gallery . Due to Nicola d 'Ascenzo of Philadelphia , this window epitomizes Friend 's iconographical argument . To students who would complain of the burdens of religion in daily life , the window answers with John 10 : 10 : " I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly . "

The Great North Window , " Christ the Martyr " : Marquand Transept . A verse from Mark 13 : 13 , " He who shall endure to the end shall be saved " , is carved below the window , declaring the theme . The lower part of the window shows historical Christians noted for their perseverance .

The Great South Window , " Christ the Teacher " : Braman Transept . Here again the theme is declared by a Gospel verse , this time John 8 : 32 , " And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free . " Noted Christian writers and teachers are depicted at the bottom with the seven liberal arts .

The doorway to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel on the north wall of the nave is topped by carvings of shields representing three Christian religious centers , Jerusalem , Rome , and Canterbury , and flanked by carvings representing the seven virtues and corresponding seven vices . The other door leaving the Blessed Sacrament Chapel is topped by carvings of shields representing three medieval universities , Oxford , Paris , and Salamanca , and flanked by carvings representing the seven liberal arts (the Trivium and the Quadrivium) and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit .

Large stained glass windows due to Connick in the walls of the choir retell four " Christian epics " : the Divine Comedy and Le Morte d 'Arthur on the north wall and Paradise Lost and Pilgrim 's Progress on the south wall . Milliner notes that images of historical and legendary people carved into the choir 's woodwork " reflect the intended seating during a Chapel ceremony " . Images of figures connected to music are carved into the front (west) , where the choir would sit , and images of scholars are carved into the back (east) , where faculty would sit . Behind the altar are carved images of eight religious figures : four Catholic saints to the north , and four leaders of Protestantism to the south . The epic windows reinforce the idea of a " Catholic north " and a " Protestant south " :

Catholics wrote the north epics and Protestants the south epics . In an ecumenical touch , the north and south are symbolically united by " The Love of Christ " in the Great East Window .

Stained glass windows telling the story of the Book of Job are set into the walls of the staircases between the narthex and the gallery . Friend was known for delivering popular lectures on Job , and Milliner speculates that Friend had these windows included to address the problem of evil . Connick designed the windows in consultation with Friend , but they were made by others after the former 's death .

The chapel 's iconography pays tribute in places to the other Abrahamic religions . Abraham himself is depicted in a stained glass window on the north side of the nave , together with a Star of David , a Christian cross , and a star and crescent . Other windows show Baruch Spinoza and Muhammad ibn Zakariya al @-@ Razi ; both images were planned before the chapel was built .

In several places the chapel 's iconography includes images of figures associated with Princeton University :

Jonathan Edwards , Princeton 's third president : in the Theology window in the nave 's south wall and again among the Protestant leaders carved into the woodwork in the choir behind the altar .

Joseph Henry , a professor and Trustee of Princeton : in the Science window in the nave 's south wall .

James Madison , a 1771 graduate of Princeton and its first graduate student : in the Law window in the nave 's south wall .

Adlai Stevenson II , a 1922 graduate of Princeton : in a dedicated stained glass window near the vestry .

John Witherspoon , Princeton 's sixth president : in the Great South Window , among the Christian teachers .

= = Current use = =

The chapel operates within university 's Office of Religious Life . It is overseen by the Dean of the Chapel . The current Dean of the Chapel is Alison Boden , who is also Dean of Religious Life at Princeton .

The Office of Religious Life calls the chapel " the home of regular religious services for many of the university 's faith groups , including the 264 @-@ year @-@ old ecumenical Christian worshipping community [...] that founded Princeton in 1746 . " Though the university was once closely associated with the Presbyterian Church , it has never been affiliated with any religious denomination . In keeping with this tradition , the chapel hosts ecumenical Christian services each Sunday . Catholic Mass is celebrated daily , Reconciliation is offered several days a week , and there is Eucharistic Adoration twice weekly .

The chapel also hosts several annual special events .

Opening Exercises : The ceremony marking the beginning of the university 's academic year has been held in the chapel since 1929 .

Service of Remembrance : On Alumni Day , the chapel hosts a service remembering members of the Princeton University community who died during the preceding calendar year .

Westminster Choir College : The nearby conservatory holds many major performances and ceremonies each year in the chapel . These events include the annual Evening of Readings and Carols in December and the Westminster commencement ceremonies in May .

Baccalaureate : Princeton University 's graduating senior class attends an interfaith baccalaureate service in the chapel on the Sunday prior to Commencement .

The Princeton University Chapel Choir rehearses , provides music for the weekly service , and performs occasional concerts in the chapel .

= = Relative size = =

The Office of Religious Life calls the chapel the third @-@ largest university chapel in the world . According to Milliner , Princeton 's is the second @-@ tallest by height of the nave at the crossing ;

the tallest is King 's College Chapel at the University of Cambridge . The belltower of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame , the tower of the Duke University Chapel , the tower of the University of Chicago 's Rockefeller Chapel , and the campanile of Valparaiso University 's Chapel of the Resurrection are all taller than Princeton 's chapel , which does not have a tower or other appendages .