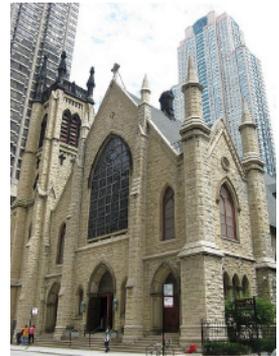




# Sharing Sacred Spaces



Chicago  
October 2011 - May 2012



## Sharing Sacred Spaces

This fall, religious and spiritual communities are coming together in partnership with the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions (CPWR) to visit one another's Sacred Spaces, a program designed to engage religious diversity and widen participation in interreligious activity across the Chicago metropolitan area.

**Overview:** Beginning in October 2011 and continuing through May 2012, eight places of worship and practice in downtown Chicago will open their doors to extend hospitality to visitors from the general public. Through these visits to spaces where people pray, worship, engage in religious practices and celebrate life's events, visitors will be invited to listen, learn and connect with one another. This is more than a tour; it is an experience. Each community will have members available to talk about their tradition during the Sharing Sacred Spaces events. Visiting a variety of Sacred Spaces in this way is designed to deepen understanding of one another and lay groundwork for building a greater sense of community together.

At the end of the project, those who have visited and those who have hosted will gather in celebration of this time shared together. We will invite each community to consider, from their own tradition, what it would mean to be in solidarity with one another. Each participating community will be invited to sign a solidarity pledge. The pledge is intended to build bridges and strengthen bonds across traditions when a community is faced with religiously-motivated defamation or hatred. Standing in support of one another may bring these communities closer together as they move into the future.



Ms. Suzanne Morgan is the Sacred Space Ambassador. She joined CPWR in the spring of 2011. Ms. Morgan, a retired architect with expertise in liturgical design, consults and gives presentations on religious architecture. She believes that a space becomes sacred through the meaning it has for its community. Sharing that meaning can reduce social tension and cultural misunderstanding and build bridges of trust and hope.

It is envisioned that the Sharing Sacred Spaces initiative in Chicago will become a model program for other cities. Engagement with sacred spaces can be used as a vehicle to inspire individuals to build more diverse and vibrant communities.

## Why attend?

- Meet your neighbors
- Consider new points of view from different traditions and practices
- Learn about the history and underlying principles of other traditions
- Become aware of community service and outreach programs other traditions are engaged in
- Build relationships with others and find common ground
- Refresh and deepen your convictions as you come to know about other traditions

We look forward to greeting you over the next few months as you visit each Sacred Space.



**Rev. Dirk Ficca**  
Executive Director  
Council for a Parliament of the Worlds' Religions

## **How to participate:**

- *Attend as many of the Sharing Sacred Spaces events as you can*
- *Bring your questions and ask them*
- *Engage the host community in conversation*
- *Be respectful of the sacred spaces*
- *See the etiquette guide at the back of this booklet for guidance*

VISIT DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2-4 PM, 2011

### Midwest Buddhist Temple

435 West Menomonee Street, Chicago, IL 60614  
312-943-7801 [www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org](http://www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org)



#### Unique statement about the community:

“Come as you are”, which means everyone is welcome.

#### What are the origins of Buddhism?

Buddhism started in India over 2,500 years ago and spread through much of Asia. There are many schools of Buddhism in many languages. The Pure Land School of Buddhism became refined in Japan as Shin Buddhism and followed the Japanese immigrants to America.

#### How did this sacred space come to be built here?

The Midwest Buddhist Congregation was formally founded on July 10, 1944, with a simple service on the south side of Chicago. This building was built by architect Hideaki Arao in 1970 with funds donated by the members.

#### What is distinctive about this community?

The Japanese-Americans who had just been released from the U.S. internment camps of World War II came together to find their own awakening to wisdom and compassion, peace and harmony in the cultural, ethnic and religious diversity of Chicago.

#### What kind of outreach are we involved in?

We help with relief efforts in Northern Japan in the aftermath of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster. Fundraising activities include bake sales, book sales and donations by the members and neighborhood community.

**“Buddhism is lifetime homework.”** Socho Koshin Ogui

VISIT DATE: SUNDAY OCTOBER 23, 2-4 PM, 2011

### The Fourth Presbyterian Church

126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611  
312-787-4570 [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)



#### Unique statement about the community:

The church’s 6,200 members make it one of the largest U.S. Presbyterian churches.

#### What are the origins of the Presbyterian faith?

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is a denomination of Protestant Christianity. Protestantism grew out of reforms that were started by Martin Luther in 1520 and were further shaped by John Calvin of Switzerland and John Knox of Scotland.

#### What is the history of this particular church building?

The current neo-Gothic structure, designed by Ralph Adams Cram, was completed in 1914. Howard Van Doren Shaw designed the adjoining parish buildings at the same time. A new addition under construction will house education programs for children and adults, community outreach programs and a 350-seat chapel.

#### What is distinctive about the current community?

Fourth Church is a growing urban congregation with an increasing population of youth and families. It is known for its music and preaching, with three traditional worship services each Sunday morning and a jazz service each Sunday afternoon.

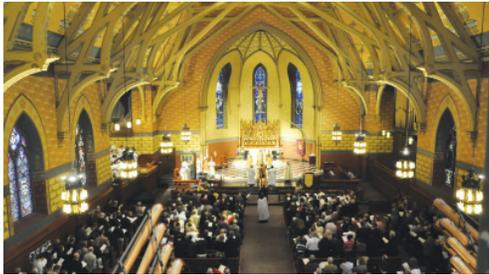
#### What kind of outreach are we involved in?

Fourth Church supports mission projects globally and locally. Its nonprofit community outreach organization, Chicago Lights, provides a variety of services including tutoring for more than 350 students each week, job training, and weekly hot meals and bag lunches.

**“The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”** Numbers 6:26

VISIT DATE: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2-4 PM, 2011

**St. James Episcopal Cathedral**  
65 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611  
312-787-7360 [www.saintjamescathedral.org](http://www.saintjamescathedral.org)



**Unique statement about the community:**

Our worship is grounded in ancient traditions, essential symbols, sacred music and a holy meal. St. James is the oldest continuing Episcopal congregation in Chicago, gathered in 1834.

**What are the origins of the Episcopal Church?**

The Protestant Episcopal Church of America grew out of the Church of England in the colonies after the American Revolution.

**What is the history of this sanctuary?**

In 1871, St. James burned to the ground in the Great Chicago fire. Only the bell tower survived. Architects Clarke and Faulkner rebuilt the structure in its Gothic style. On October 9, 1875, services began in the sanctuary as it exists today. The stenciling and ornate patterns in 26 colors found in the sanctuary replicate the original 100 year-old décor.

**What is distinctive about the current community?**

St. James is both a local parish and the principal church of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. We feed a thinking person's intellect and a praying person's spirit. We respect every person's dignity. We find spiritual connections in liturgy, music and the arts.

**What kind of outreach are we involved in?**

St. James has an engaged social justice team to combat hunger, promote non-violence and support equality. Rush Hour concerts and Cathedral Choir concerts extend our fine music ministry to the general public. We host national art/media exhibits.

***“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”***

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

VISIT DATE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1-3 PM, 2012

**Chicago Sinai Congregation**  
15 West Delaware Place, Chicago, IL 60610  
312-867-7000 [www.chicagosinai.org](http://www.chicagosinai.org)



**Unique statement about the community:**

Chicago Sinai Congregation practices Classical Reform Judaism which was first formed in the 1860's and emphasizes reason, personal autonomy, social justice and humanitarian values.

**What is the origin of the Jewish faith?**

Judaism is among the oldest surviving monotheistic religion in the world, acknowledging the covenant between God and the people of Israel for over 5000 years. There are four major branches within Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstruction.

**What is the history of this place of worship?**

The current building, designed by Dirk Lohan, was completed in 1997. Chicago Sinai had resided in Hyde Park for over 100 years but made the move north to follow the migration of most of its congregants. An unanticipated surge in membership prompted the Congregation to purchase the corner parcel at State & Delaware and build an addition, also designed by Lohan, in 2005.

**What is unique about this community?**

We open our hearts and doors to couples facing the challenges of family and faith; the reconciliation of deep personal love with significant spiritual, religious and cultural difference inherent in interfaith marriage and relationships.

**What kind of outreach are we involved in?**

We have a history of social action and advocacy with three specific areas of interest: education/poverty, environment and healthcare. We volunteer at Jenner School to assist students and teachers. Congregants have taken on a “green” initiative not only for our temple but also for the community.

***“My house shall be a house of prayer for all people.”***

Isaiah 56:7

VISIT DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2-4 PM, 2012

**First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple**

77 West Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602

312-236-4548 [www.chicagotemple.org](http://www.chicagotemple.org)



**Unique statement about the community:**

The church has been on the corner of Clark and Washington streets at the heart of the city since the 1830's.

**What is the history of the United Methodist Church?**

The Methodist movement within the Church of England was started by John and Charles Wesley. After the Revolutionary War, Methodists in America formed their own denomination.

**What is the history of this place of worship?**

The Chicago Temple building has been the home of the First United Methodist Church of Chicago since its completion in 1924. The 568-foot tall building, constructed by Holabird and Roche, is known to be the tallest church in the world. At the top of the steeple is "The Chapel in the Sky", a place for prayer and reflection.

**What is unique about this faith community?**

The sanctuary of the Chicago Temple is open seven days a week from 7AM to 9PM, so people of all faiths and no particular faith find it as a place of refuge. By conducting several worship services during the week, hosting seventeen 12-step groups a week, being a place for seminars, lectures, concerts and classes, the core membership reaches out to embrace the wider community.

**What kind of outreach are we involved in?**

Being located at the center of "The Loop", the congregation does not have to look for work to do. Among all of the possibilities, the members have focused on feeding and clothing people in desperate need, tutoring public school children, hosting a multi-cultural theater, providing a counseling office and a grief support ministry. We commit to advocate in the public domain on behalf of those whom the church serves.

*"Come and see..."* John 1:46

*"open hearts, open minds, open doors"*

VISIT DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2-4 PM, 2012

**Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist**

55 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60604

312-641-0868 [www.christiansciencechicago.org](http://www.christiansciencechicago.org)



**Unique statement about this community:**

Our church's purpose is to commemorate the word and works of Christ Jesus and to reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing.

**What is the origin of the Christian Scientist faith?**

The Church of Christ, Scientist was founded in 1879 by Mary Baker Eddy. It is based on early Christianity and the healing works of Christ Jesus.

**What is the history of this place of worship?**

This community first gathered in 1924. After our community had met in various locations around the city for four decades, architect Harry Weese designed this building, our first permanent home, in 1968.

**What is unique about this faith community?**

One of the most unique features of our church is that we do not have ordained preachers. Instead, two lay readers conduct the Sunday service, reading a sermon comprised of passages from both the Bible and a book by the Church's founder, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. All the Churches of Christ, Scientist throughout the world read the same texts each Sunday.

**What kind of outreach are we involved in?**

We maintain a reading room for spiritual education. We are also involved in weekly religious services at Cook County Jail and Chicago Reed Mental Health Center.

*"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 2:5 (RSV)

VISIT DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2-4 PM, 2012

**Old St. Patrick's Church**  
700 West Adams, Chicago, IL 60661  
312-648-1021 [www.oldstpats.org](http://www.oldstpats.org)



**Unique statement about this community:**

Embracing our *catholic* (meaning universal) identity, we choose to celebrate the goodness of life by creating experiences of hospitality, friendship, prayer and service that welcome all.

**What is the origin of the Roman Catholic faith?**

Our faith is rooted in the person of Jesus Christ, whom Catholics proclaim to be fully human and fully divine. Liturgical traditions (Rites) evolved throughout Church history, based on the culture of particular times, places and people. The *Roman Rite* is the most common rite for Catholic worship in the Western world.

**What is the history of this place of worship?**

Old St. Patrick's Church was built by Irish Immigrants in the Romanesque Revival style and was dedicated on Christmas Day in 1856. It survived the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Today, many consider the interior of the church to be a premier example of Celtic religious artwork.

**What is distinctive about this faith community?**

Trusting that all creation is "charged with the grandeur of God", we encourage each other to engage all dimensions of life through a *sacramental* lens – opening ourselves to the presence of the divine in every encounter.

**What kind of outreach are we involved in?**

In a spirit of kinship with all people, our work ranges from volunteering at local shelters to supporting development efforts in India, Africa and Latin America.

**"The world is charged with the grandeur of God."**  
Gerald Manley Hopkins, S.J.

VISIT DATE: SATURDAY, MAY, 12, 1-3 PM, 2012

**Downtown Islamic Center**  
231 South State Street, Chicago IL 60604  
312-969-9095 [www.dic-chicago.org](http://www.dic-chicago.org)



A display of names and attributes of God in Arabic at the DIC

**Unique statement about the community:**

One can find African Americans, Nigerians, South Asians, Arabs, Bosnians, Albanians, Turks, Latinos and Caucasians worshipping together at the Downtown Islamic Center (DIC).

**What is the origin of the Islamic faith?**

It is a basic Islamic belief that God (the glorified and high) provided guidance to humankind through messengers, starting with Adam (PBUH\*). In its final form God gave the guidance to Muhammad (PBUH\*) in the early 7<sup>th</sup> century.

**What is the history of this place of worship?**

The Downtown Islamic Center (DIC) was established in 1976 with a mission to provide a prayer space for Muslims working in downtown Chicago. Now in our own building in the Loop, the number of worshippers has increased from 100 to 1,000.

**What is distinctive about this community?**

The DIC's diversity is a reflection of Chicago, known as a melting pot of cultures. We serve students, professionals, commuters and several young families as well.

**What kind of outreach are we involved in?**

As a member of CIOGC, DIC serves Muslims and the community at large, collaborating with interfaith and civic partners to address social and community issues.

\*(Peace Be Upon Him)

**"[May God (the glorified and high)] guide us on the straight path."** Quran 1:6

## Schedule of Visits to Sacred Spaces

### **Sunday, October 2nd, 2-4 PM, 2011**

Midwest Buddhist Temple  
435 West Menomonee Street, Chicago, IL 60614  
312-943-7801 [www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org](http://www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org)

### **Sunday, October 23rd, 2-4 PM, 2011**

Fourth Presbyterian Church  
126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611  
312-787-4570 [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)

### **Sunday, November 6th, 2-4 PM, 2011**

St James Episcopal Cathedral  
65 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611  
312-787-4570 [www.saintjamescathedral.org](http://www.saintjamescathedral.org)

### **Sunday, January 29th, 1-3 PM, 2012**

Chicago Sinai Congregation  
15 West Delaware Place, Chicago, IL 60610  
312-867-7000 [www.chicagosinai.org](http://www.chicagosinai.org)

### **Sunday, February 19th, 2-4 PM, 2012**

First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple  
77 West Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602  
312-236-4548 [www.chicagotemple.org](http://www.chicagotemple.org)

### **Sunday, March 18th, 2-4 PM, 2012**

Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist  
55 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601  
312-236-4671 [www.christiansciencechicago.org](http://www.christiansciencechicago.org)

### **Sunday, April 22nd, 2-4 PM, 2012**

Old St. Patrick's Church  
700 West Adams, Chicago, IL 60661  
312-648-1021 [www.oldstpats.org](http://www.oldstpats.org)

### **Saturday, May 12th, 1-3 PM, 2012**

Downtown Islamic Center  
231 S. State Street, Chicago, IL 60604  
312-939-9095 [www.dic-chicago.org](http://www.dic-chicago.org)

## Finding Common Ground

At the end of May, 2012, all the communities will come together to celebrate. Those communities that feel committed will sign a solidarity pledge, which they will all jointly craft, finding common ground in support of one another.

Go to [www.parliamentofreligions.org](http://www.parliamentofreligions.org) and click on "Sacred Space" to find out more.

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Notes

# Etiquette

Although each religious denomination and individual house of worship and practice will have its own rules, there are some general guidelines you can follow to help ensure a pleasant and respectful visit:

- Err on the side of caution and dress modestly.
- If you must bring a cell phone, turn it off.

## **Buddhism**

- Shin Buddhism in America does not have a monastic tradition so the clergy are referred to as Reverend, which defines their relationship to the temple, and Sensei (teacher) to the Sangha (congregation).
- Modest dress is appreciated. No head covering is required.
- You don't have to remove your shoes when you enter the temple which is a more Westernized tradition that started after WWII.
- No hats are allowed in the Hondo (Chapel).
- Most Asians generally find shaking hands awkward and prefer to bow when meeting or saying good-bye.
- Out of respect for the Naijin (Altar), it would be appropriate to bow slightly on entering and leaving the Chapel.
- Buddhist books found in the pews should never be placed on the floor or on your seat. If you must place it next to you, place something underneath it.
- If you must speak while in the main temple, speak quietly out of respect for the sacred space.

## **Christianity**

- Depending on the branch or denomination, the congregational leader may be referred to as Father, Reverend or Pastor.
- Modest dress is appreciated. Avoid shorts and sleeveless tops.

## **Islam**

- The religious leader is called an Imam. He leads prayers, and may also be a community spokesperson for the congregation.
- Remove your shoes before entering the prayer hall.
- Women may choose to wear a head covering to show respect for the faith tradition. Some Mosques will have scarves for you to borrow; check when you arrive.

- Modesty requirements mean that gender relationships may be formal. Don't be surprised if an offer to shake hands does not get a response. In general, when greeting someone of the opposite sex, wait for them to extend their hand or indicate their level of comfort before responding.
- There may be separate entrances for men and women. Most prayer halls will also be separated by gender.
- Avoid walking in front of someone in prayer.
- The traditional greeting is "Assalamu Alaikum" (Peace be upon you). The response is "Wa Alaikum Salaam" (And upon you be Peace).

## **Judaism**

- The religious leader is called a Rabbi. The Rabbi is usually the contact person. There may also be a synagogue president. The song leader is called a cantor.
- Depending on the denomination, the synagogue may be called a temple (Reform Judaism) or shul (Orthodox Judaism).
- If everyone is wearing head coverings, err on the side of wearing one. Men wear yarmulkes, while women wear hats or scarves; more orthodox women may wear wigs. Many synagogues keep extra scarves and yarmulkes on hand for visitors.
- The most important feature of the synagogue is the ark, the cabinet holding the Torah. Do not enter or leave the main sanctuary while the ark is open.
- In many Orthodox shuls, men and women sit in separate areas.
- Modest dress is appreciated.

-based on materials from  
**Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding**



**COUNCIL FOR A  
PARLIAMENT OF THE  
WORLD'S RELIGIONS**

**Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions'  
(CPWR) mission:**

CPWR was founded in Chicago in 1993 to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and to foster their engagement in order to achieve a more just, peaceful and sustainable world.

**Sacred Space Dimension mission:**

The Sacred Space Dimension of CPWR intends to deepen appreciation of the diverse religious and spiritual traditions by focusing on the spaces that are sacred to these communities. The Sacred Space Dimension will serve to build bridges of understanding and broaden interreligious activity around the world.



**Suzanne Morgan**  
Sacred Space  
Ambassador



**Dirk Ficca**  
Executive  
Director

**Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions**

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