

## INVOCATION

--- Rabbi Alfred L. Friedman

May we bow our heads in prayer. Almighty God, Father of all men and all people, the mood and the spirit of this occasion which has brought us together in joy and yet in solemnity is best expressed by one of thy prophets who once asked "have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us?" Why, then do we deal treacherously - man against his brothers. Yea, a world of strife which is a world of treachery. A world which denies brotherhood the value of peace. And so, oh God, we who have gathered here today come in the spirit of dedication, to dedicate not alone an institution of brick and mortar, but above all to dedicate ourselves to the memory of those who have passed the supreme sacrifice on the altars of faith. And to resolve that we shall not forget their memory, that in dedicating this building, we are not thereby being remiss in our continued desire to fulfill the ideals and spirit which motivated their supreme sacrifice. And so in this spirit of education for a living democracy in which all are equal - white and colored, Catholic, Protestant and Jew, officer and private. And it is for us the living to here resolve that we shall inculcate within our lives and within this institution a spirit which shall permeate throughout this campus, throughout this country, throughout this world. A spirit in which we will endeavor to pursue peace, in which, we shall endeavor to understand the faith of one another. And in so doing, we shall bring about that kind of a milieu in which the free and religious spirits of the world shall pursue peace, shall make it a living reality. And thereby, oh God, we shall have been true to the memory of those who have passed on before us.

Amen

## THE OLD COLLEGE CHAPEL

— Harry D. Baker '95

As many gathered here today for the dedication of this beautiful Memorial Chapel will agree, values in life are most apparent through contrasts.

And so, many who remember the Old College Chapel, a rather small box-like room on the first floor of Old College Hall, standing where beautiful Beaumont Tower is now located, were struck, - as was this speaker, - with the great contrast between the very simple plain room that was the Old College Chapel and this beautiful building, so well appointed.

The Old Chapel had very plain, old-fashioned seating, a raised platform in front which contained the pulpit, a small reed organ and a row of chairs in the rear for the faculty with the president's chair in the center. The president presided at exercises each morning before classes, announcing important events and professors spoke briefly of work in their departments. Attendance was voluntary but usually the Chapel was well filled and if controversial affairs arose, there was standing room only.

On Sunday afternoon, religious services were usually held in the Old Chapel with preaching by Lansing ministers and a student choir. Occasionally Dr. R. C. Kedzie, - and what old student doesn't recall distinctly that remarkable man? - occupied the pulpit and, who of his hearers was not deeply impressed by his earnest and vigorous appeal for all that is best in life? After more than half a century, as many old students including this speaker, will attest, Dr. Kedzie's challenging appeals still have their influence!

Of those who heard, who can forget the singing of familiar hymns by preponderantly male voices in that Old Chapel? This speaker never hears the old hymn "How Firm a Foundation," without a mental picture of the Old College Chapel and young men singing lustily that fine old hymn, many of whom have gone on to realize the great value of the firm foundation, of which they sang.

Time forbids but briefest mention of many interesting events in that Old Chapel: of trembling youths delivering their Senior and Junior orations; of Halloween pranks including bringing a calf from the College farm to the Chapel platform and passing all the faculty chairs out the window, - foiled by a professor lying in wait; - of dignitaries from abroad, - but most impressive now to this speaker the many fine young men there brought under good influence that may well have affected their whole lives.

And then there was the old bulletin board in the adjoining hall on which notices were posted and frequently chalked bits of would-be humor: "Hort. Department is working on crossing milk-weed with strawberries to produce strawberries with cream; Professor Cook is about to announce a hybrid of the honey bee and the lightning bug to make honey at night; Chemistry Department is concocting a germicide to prevent rust (not on grain! but) on stovepipes." Gone is the Old College Chapel! Gone the men who made it a place of undying impressions for good!! Gone man, - perhaps most, - of the boys who came there with text and notebooks under their arms, heard the appeals, sang the hymns, - went out to classes and to careers of usefulness - not a few to great distinction!

In closing, this speaker would hail the Old College Chapel as the place of birth and nurture of Idealism for many students of the past. One's mind reverts instinctively to the other simple, even rude, places which saw the beginnings of Idealism: A Palestinian stable which was the birthplace of One whose Ideals changed the world; a Kentucky log cabin, shale-roofed and windowless in which was born one whose Ideals freed an enslaved people and prevented the dissolution of this republic.

May this beautiful New Chapel bring into the lives of those who gather here, the finest, highest, truest and noblest Ideals of the College Chapel of the old days!

"For the things which are seen are Temporal,

but the

Things which are not seen are Eternal."

## PRESENTATION

— Harold H. Gasser '25

My pleasant task today is to present to Michigan State College this Chapel which we are gathered today to dedicate. This beautiful building was made possible through the many generous gifts of the Alumni and friends of Michigan State College and is to be known as Alumni Memorial Chapel. It is the sincere hope of the Alumni that the use of this building will be such as to perpetuate the memory of those young men who left this campus and made the supreme sacrifice in the defense of their country. It is a pleasure to formally present this Memorial Chapel to Michigan State College on behalf of its Alumni.

## ACCEPTANCE OF ALUMNI MEMORIAL CHAPEL

— President John A. Hannah

In these days when so many colleges and universities are being accused of cynicism and secularism, it is comforting to know that when the alumni of Michigan State College selected the form of a memorial to the men of this college who have served in the armed forces of our country, especially those who died in that service, they chose to build on this campus a chapel dedicated to the glory of the God of us all.

In so doing, the alumni made plain that they wanted to make available a place of meditation and worship for students and thus recognize the importance of personal religious experience in the education of every individual. The State Board of Agriculture was happy to accept the generous gift of this beautiful structure. Thereby it subscribed to the philosophy of those who believe sincerely that the spirit as well as the mind must be influenced by any valid learning process.

There may be some who question the propriety of erecting a place for religious worship on the campus of a public university. It would be surprising if the question were not raised, for the problem of how properly to separate church and state has been a troublesome one throughout the history of our nation. The extremists like to point out that there is no reference to a Supreme Being in our Constitution, and upon that fact they base their fallacious argument that God and the worship of God have no rightful place in public affairs.

Those who take that position should read another basic American document — the Declaration of Independence — and note how many times therein the brave men who signed that historic paper invoked the name of God. The preamble to the Constitution says that it was established to accomplish, among other things, the security of the blessings of liberty to Americans. But for a definition of liberty as the founders understood it, we must turn back to the Declaration, which plainly says that liberty is one of the unalienable rights with which all men are endowed, not by law, and not by other men, but by their Creator.

It is well to remember that the Bill of Rights did not ban religion, but the establishment of a state religion. The intention, in part, was to guard against excesses of clerical authority, but there was also the positive determinations to preserve for all Americans the freedom of choice as to their religious beliefs. The Alumni who planned and built this chapel were motivated by the same philosophy, Here they have erected a chapel in which all creeds may worship, to which the believers of all faiths may come to meditate and pray.

Yes, a chapel has a place on this campus if it serves no other purpose than to be a constant reminder to young people studying here that the good life is not made up of material things alone. Surely all the pretensions of higher education that its goals are to push back the frontiers of knowledge and to conquer ignorance would be but mockeries if a college taught a man to utilize his abilities for selfish purpose alone, or how to acquire riches or fame more

swiftly, and left him with the most abysmal blindness of all, which is to ignore the eternal truth that we all are children of God.

Edwin Markham wrote much on the theme of man's relations to man,

There is a destiny that makes us brothers;

None goes his way alone.

Those words might well be carved into the doorway of this Memorial Chapel, for I know the alumni who have built it had strongly in mind their intention to promote the cause of universal peace by making young people increasingly aware of the realities of human brotherhood. Indeed, the rooms on the ground floor of this building will be used by students who have come from other lands to study on our campus as a place to meet and exchange ideas and enjoy the kind of fellowship which ignores the differences of color and culture. In the classroom and laboratories they learn that nationalities and religions are of no consequence in the realm of the intellect; here within these walls they may enlarge upon that fundamental discovery to accept the fact that in the realm of the spirit too men are much alike, with similar hopes and ambitions and fears and essential reverence for their Creator, by whatever name they may call him. The departed among those in whose honor this chapel was raised would rest in peace, I am sure, if they knew that in giving their lives they had advanced, even if by only a little, the cause in which they fought. And however that cause may have been or may be described, surely they died to preserve and defend a way of life that was precious to them, the essentials of which were freedom and dignity for



every individual. It is good to think that they would approve, did they know that the College they loved was here rededicating itself to the same ideals of freedom and dignity for men of all faiths and creeds. Through devotion to such ideals alone can come the revolution in the minds of men essential to the ending for all time of the madness which is war. We must believe that had they been spared the necessity for the final sacrifice, they would have returned, as sons before and as so many of their comrades did return, determined to fight as bravely in the cause of peace as they fought for preservation amid the horror of war. We must believe that they would have accepted the challenge expressed by Henry Newbolt in his poem

Clifton Chapel: -- in these words:

To count the life of battle good,  
And dear the land that gave you birth;  
And dearer yet the brotherhood  
That binds the brave of all the earth.

It is in that spirit that this College, and its sister institutions throughout the land, have accepted students from nations which were our deadly enemies only a few short years ago, even soldiers and airmen who may have been the cause of the deaths of some of those whose names are listed in this chapel. They have been welcomed in the belief that America must share the best of what she knows of science, and technology, and the arts, and the humanities if other nations are to share our ambition to rid the world of hunger and disease and ignorance, out of which wars develop. We are putting our trust in young people of promise, in the hope that they in turn

will achieve positions of leadership and influence in their homelands, and help to turn their own peoples in the direction of peace and plenty by helping to eliminate prejudice, bigotry, and blind ignorance.

This building will help in no small measure to advance that cause on our own campus. Those who have the administration of Michigan State College as their responsibility are grateful to the alumni and other friends who have made possible this fine and new facility with which to work towards the ideals in which we all believe. Those ideals, as I understand them, are the strengthening of the spiritual values of education at Michigan State College, and the strengthening of the bonds of brotherhood under a good God. In the name of the State Board of Agriculture, the students, faculty, and alumni, I accept this generous gift, and for them I pledge the maintenance and operation of the Alumni Memorial Chapel in strictest keeping with the ideals which are the true foundations of this project. I know that it will stand for years as a symbol of our determination that they shall not have lived or died in vain.

Finally, I venture to suggest that we accept as a guiding principle in the operation of the Memorial Chapel, and how in all our daily lives, the admonition of the poet Wordsworth:

God for His service needeth not proud work of human skill;  
They please Him best who labour most in peace to do His will.

## DEDICATORY PRAYER

— The Reverend C. Brandt Tefft

O Almighty God, Supreme Architect of the Universe, blessed by thy Name that thou hast put it into the hearts of many people to build this house to thy honor and worship. We here set aside in thy Name this place from all profane and worldly uses and dedicate it to thy honor and glory and to the memory of the children of Michigan State College who gave their lives in the service of their country. Behold, O God, the Heavens and Heaven of Heavens cannot contain Thee, how much less this house which we have builded. Yet have thou respect unto our supplications and to the prayer which we make before Thee today, that thine eyes may be opened to this place night and day, that thou mayest hearken to the prayers which thy servants shall make toward this place, and hear Thou in Heaven Thy dwelling place. And grant, O God, thy favor everlastingly to this place, that all who enter here shall do so in reverence and godly fear and make use of this house to the honor of thy Holy Name.

Amen

## BENEDICTION

— Reverend Father Jerome MacEachin

Let us pray. In memory of those to whom this edifice is dedicated, I ask you in a spirit of reverence and prayer to stand for the benediction. Oh God, divine protector of all who place their trust in thee, accept this humble homage of our love and of our faith. Deign to look with benign favor upon the ceremony of dedication. Consecrate this act for the noble purpose of preserving and extending the spiritual foundations of the American way of life. Deep in our faith in the American creed as stated in the historic document by the founders of the American democracy. "We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal." Keep us ever mindful of the admonition of the Father of our country, of all the dispositions and habits which lead to a political prosperity - Religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain with that man who claimed the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness. These firmest props of the duties of man and citizens, and the acceptance of this edifice in the name of God and in memory of valiant men who have died that our spiritual inheritance might be transmitted to all succeeding generations. Keep us always mindful that unless the Lord buildeth the house, they labor in vain who build it. Throughout the years that are to come, may all students who pass through the portals of this edifice and those who walk within it's shadows be inspired by the light of religious truth and strengthened in the understanding that those people who are not governed by God will be ruled by tyrants. And when the ravages of time shall turn to dust, this building that we today dedicate, and when we take our turn in the final judgment of men and nations, may it

be known that this work of today will have been an instrument of divine providence in teaching students, scholars and instructors to be servants of the holy will in extending to all men and all nations thy children and our brothers the same peace, freedom and security which thou has so abundantly blessed our land throughout the centuries. This we ask in the name of God the Father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit.

Amen