



*Story Chapel*

## *Funerals and Memorial Services*

At a funeral service, the body is present in a casket, usually having been embalmed. At a memorial service, the body is not present but an urn with the cremated remains may be. Mount Auburn has two beautiful and historic chapels available for either kind of service. Nestled among mature trees and beautiful gardens, these buildings add stately grace and elegance to our landscape as well as to the many services we conduct annually. Each chapel has its own distinctive character.

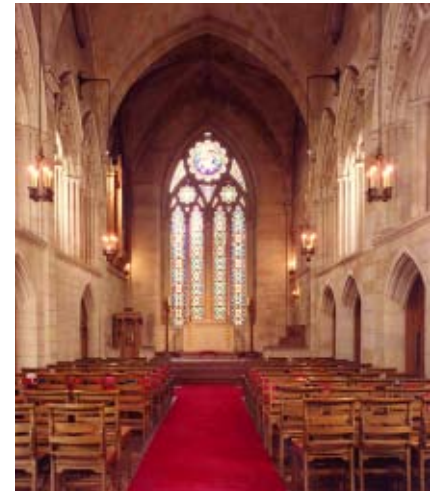




*Story Chapel, interior, ©Richard Cheek*



*Bigelow Chapel, ©Richard Cheek*



*Bigelow Chapel, interior*

## Story Chapel

Story Chapel was designed by the noted Boston architect Willard T. Sears, who also designed Fenway Court, Isabella Stewart Gardner's home and museum. Constructed from 1896 to 1898, the Chapel is named for Mount Auburn's first president, Associate U.S. Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story. It stands just inside the Cemetery's Mount Auburn Street entrance. Resembling a 15th-century English parish church, the Chapel is built of reddish-brown sandstone. Its large chancel window of figurative stained glass was created by Earl E. Sanborn of Boston, while its colorful nave windows were made by Wilbur Burnham. Its interior – complete with intricate Gothic detailing, carved wooden ceilings, a 19th-century Arts and Crafts-style pulpit and pews and a 1926 Hook & Hastings organ – is a dignified yet warm and inviting space.

Story Chapel is used for funeral and memorial services, concerts, lectures and other public programs. The Cemetery's annual candle lighting service is held here each December. The Chapel's side aisle houses a Visitors Center with exhibits explaining the history of the Cemetery, describing its varied landscape and serving as an orientation to the Cemetery. The Chapel is air-conditioned and can comfortably seat 150 people. It has a handicapped-accessible entrance and bathroom.

## Bigelow Chapel

Bigelow Chapel, the Cemetery's first building, was constructed in the 1840s and rebuilt in the 1850s of Quincy granite. It is named for its designer and Mount Auburn founder Dr. Jacob Bigelow. Sited on the rise overlooking Asa Gray Garden, the Chapel provides a focal point in Mount Auburn's landscape. During the 19th century, the revival of various historical styles was the dominant force in American architectural design, and Bigelow Chapel represents the Gothic Revival style, with fourteen decorative pinnacles rising above its roofs. The two large stained glass windows were imported from Edinburgh, Scotland in 1845 and are significant examples of early Victorian stained glass.

The Chapel's intimate interior can comfortably seat 75 people on wooden chairs, and it has an organ, a small kitchenette and a handicapped-accessible bathroom. Adjacent to the crematory, Bigelow Chapel is often used for memorial services immediately following a cremation and can also be used for elegant seated luncheons, teas, cocktail receptions or dinners after a funeral or memorial service in Story Chapel. Just outside the Chapel is the lovely and spacious Victorian-inspired Bigelow Chapel Lawn, the site of our annual Service of Commemoration, that can be used as a private gathering place before or after services. The Lawn can accommodate a tent for outside gatherings.