

First Spiritual Temple **An Interfaith Church** **of the Spirit**

“My house shall be a house of prayer for all people.” Since its inception on June 28, 1883, the First Spiritual Temple has been a place in which people of all faiths and spiritual persuasions can come together – in prayer, worship, friendship, and study – to embrace a greater appreciation of one universal God Who created us all in His likeness, as Spirit; whose attributes are love and forgiveness. The Temple has also endeavored to help people manifest that appreciation in their daily lives.

Although the First Spiritual Temple emerged from the budding Spiritualist movement of the mid-1800’s, it chose to follow its own pathway as an Interfaith Church of the Spirit.

“God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (JOHN 4:24). Throughout our 130-plus year history, this has been our mantra. True worship and prayer are actions of the Spirit, and Spirit knows no gender, form, creed, or race.

We must, however, face earth-plane realities: we cannot be everything to everyone, lest we fall victim of becoming nothing to anyone. Therefore, we look to one Master Spirit as the well-spring of our guidance and inspiration. That Master is Jesus of Nazareth, the embodiment of the Great Christ Spirit.

“Why Christ?” one may ask. To answer this question, we turn to the writings of Alice A. Bailey, who, in her masterpiece “From Bethlehem to Calvary”, wrote: **“In the life of Christ we have the most complete and perfect demonstration and example of divinity lived successfully on earth, and lived – as we must live – not in retirement, but in the full tide of storm and stress and glory.”**

We fully embrace Jesus’ humanity as a Jewish rabbi and prophet; therefore, in addition to Christian-based holidays, we share in his celebration of Passover, Pentecost, Yom Kippur, and the later celebration of Chanukah.

This in no way detracts from our honor and respect for other great prophets, especially Buddha and those of the Old Testament; and we commit ourselves always to remind people of their profound impact upon the spiritual and religious evolution of the planet.

It is our belief that Christ is preparing to reappear on the earth; not as a forerunner of the “end times”, but as one who will herald in a new world religious order which will cut through and, hopefully, tear down the religious, social, and racial barriers which, for centuries, have resulted in humanity’s darkest moments. No one knows when Christ will reappear and through which vehicle he or she will do so. But, this we do know: countless points of light, most of which are small and unassuming, are actively engaged

in preparing the way. He will also become the forerunner of God’s Holy Spirit, firmly engaged in the affairs of men and women. 2,000 years ago, John the Baptist, echoing the words of the prophet Isaiah, proclaimed, **“Prepare ye the way of the Lord.”** (ISAIAH 40:30; MATTHEW 3:3), We share in that proclamation.

The founder of our Church, Marcellus Seth Ayer (1839-1921), had a deep and abiding love for God, Spirit, and the Christ. Our early church documents and Mr. Ayer’s personal diaries portray him as a man of great vision who, even in the early 1880’s, embraced Christ as a messenger for all people and as head of a great spiritual hierarchy. It was his vision to found a religious and educational society which would play a part in ushering a new dispensation of religious thought, unity, and freedom. His dream became reality in the founding of the First Spiritual Temple on June 28, 1883, and the subsequent three-day dedication of the original house of worship, in Boston, in September 1885.

Today, after facing various challenges, we proudly carry the banner of light and truth well into the twenty-first century. Much has transpired since the 1880’s. Our planet has endured two world wars and numerous other conflicts. Ethnic cleansing and religious upheaval continue to challenge human decency and dignity. Bigotry and hate crimes appear to be on the rise. Our planet produces sufficient for all, yet countless of our fellow citizens

suffer from poverty, starvation, and inadequate medical care.

A new world religious and spiritual order can address these issues through religion, science, and education. The First Spiritual Temple commits itself to promulgating the following:

- The reality of God.
- Humanity's relationship to God.
- The reality of the Holy Spirit, God's Spirit alive in the affairs of men and women.
- The dignity and sanctity of all Spirit.
- The immortality of Spirit.
- The gifts of the Spirit, particularly healing and mediumship.
- The truth and laws of reincarnation and karma.
- The continuity of divine revelation.
- The intimate relationship between religion and science.

We hope you will join us and consider participating in our community. You may do so by:

- Attending Sunday morning worship.
- Attending any of our extensive series of classes, courses, or seminars.
- Scheduling a private consultation.
- Participating in our ever-growing internet ministry.

Our doors and hearts are always open to you, your family, your friends, and your spiritual needs.

~ The Ayer Institute ~
***Dedicated to Understanding
The Journey of the Soul
and the Gifts of the Spirit***

The Ayer Institute, a teaching body of the First Spiritual Temple, offers people a place in which they may engage in sound, responsible teaching concerning the journey of the human spirit and its varied God-given gifts, in an open and nondenominational environment.

Through an understanding of the Spirit and its many gifts, we come to see, more clearly, our human and divine potentials and, then, apply that knowledge to manifest those potentials in our lives. In this, we become closer to ourselves, to each other and, ultimately, to God. Some areas which the Ayer Institute deals with are:

- **Death and Dying**
- **Life After Death**
- **Spiritual Healing**
- **Mediumship**
- **Reincarnation and the Great Law of Karma**
- **Meditation**
- **Color Healing and Awareness**
- **Psychic Awareness and Development**
- **Spiritualism**
- **The Journey of the Soul**

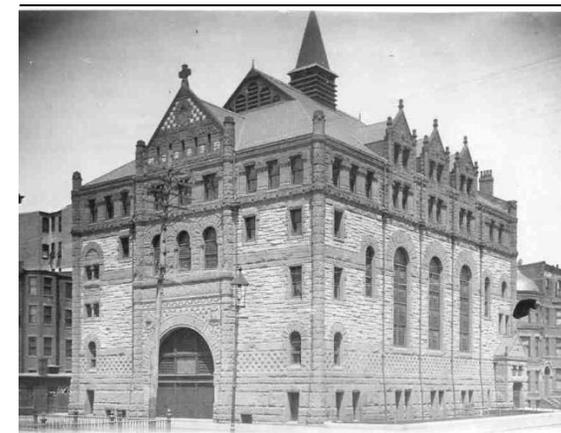
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Founded in Boston June 28, 1883
By Marcellus Seth Ayer



*Original Boston Temple
Dedicated by Spirit
September 26th, 27th, 28th, 1885*

***God is Spirit. You are Spirit.
We are all Spirit.
That is how we are connected.***