

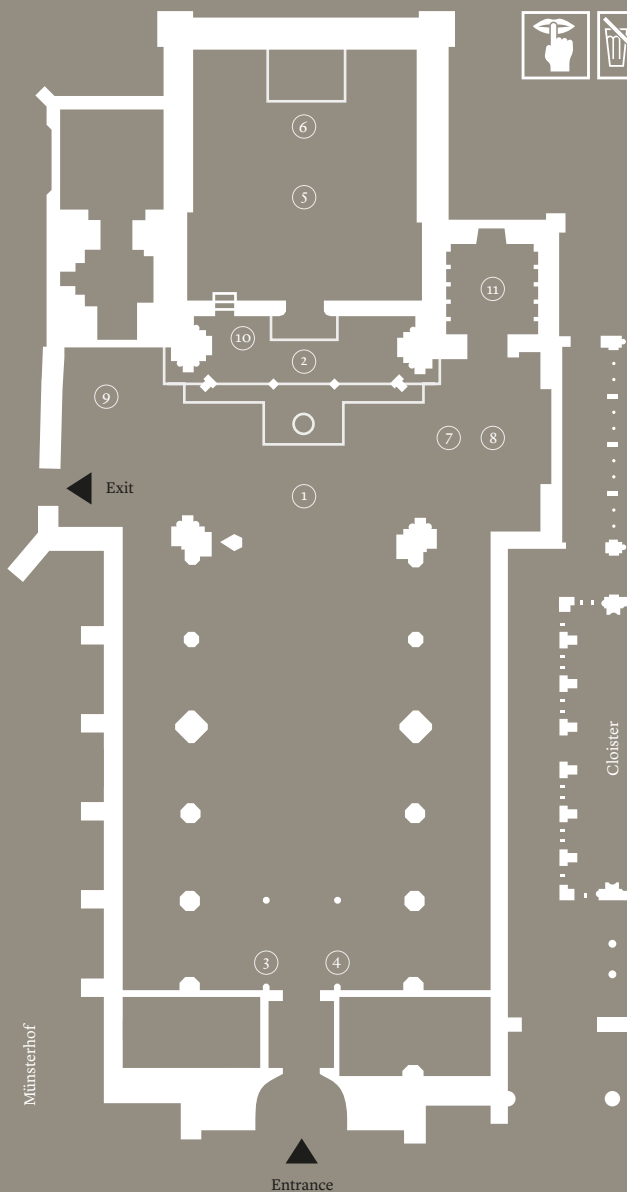


ALTSTADT  
KIRCHEN

WELCOME TO

# Fraumünster Zurich

reformierte  
kirche zürich



- |   |                        |   |                     |    |                       |
|---|------------------------|---|---------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Pulpit, baptismal font | 5 | Chancel             | 9  | Giacometti window     |
| 2 | Rood screen            | 6 | Chagall windows     | 10 | Crypt Museum entrance |
| 3 | Organ                  | 7 | Chagall rose window | 11 | Chapel                |
| 4 | Heaton window          | 8 | Founding legend     |    |                       |

WELCOME TO

# Fraumünster Zurich

Fraumünster is one of Zurich's oldest sacred buildings. It has a rich and chequered history. 'Gotteshaus St. Felix und St. Regula' was founded as a convent on 21 July 853. The convent played a major role in Zurich's development from a Celtic, then Roman settlement of regional importance into a prosperous medieval town. From the 8<sup>th</sup> century onwards, Zurich was a strategic base within the empire of the powerful Carolingian dynasty.

Fraumünster was a Benedictine convent for many centuries. The abbey's crucial significance is evidenced by the fact that it had the right to mint coins on behalf of kings, collect tolls and hold markets from the 11<sup>th</sup> century onwards. In addition, the incumbent abbess was the official ruler of Zurich from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards, holding the title of royal princess. This era came to an end with the Reformation: in 1524, the last abbess, Katharina von Zimmern, handed over the abbey and all its goods to the city of Zurich.



## 1 PULPIT, BAPTISMAL FONT

Prior to the Reformation, several altars dedicated to various saints stood below the arches of the rood screen. The Reformists had them all removed. With Fraumünster's conversion into a Protestant church, the pulpit from where sermons are delivered and the baptismal font assumed central liturgical roles.



## 2 ROOD SCREEN

The rood screen separated the chancel, which was reserved for the clergy, from the rest of the church used by the congregation. In the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, the church was completely rebuilt – first in the Romanesque, then in the Gothic style. The artistically designed Gothic rood screen was added around 1470. During renovation work at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the rood screen was moved four metres closer to the chancel. The neo-Gothic parapet and the statues of the Four Evangelists also date back to this period.

### **3 ORGAN**

The great organ was inaugurated on 4 October 1953 by the famous French composer and organist, Marcel Dupré. Its four manuals, 5,793 pipes and 95 registers make it the largest organ in the canton and the third largest in Switzerland. The longest pipe measures ten metres and the shortest just three centimetres. The two-manual organ in the chancel can also be played from the great organ. Together, the two instruments produce an impressive sound inside the church. The great organ is popular owing to its warm, symphonic tone and is played during church services and at international organ recitals.

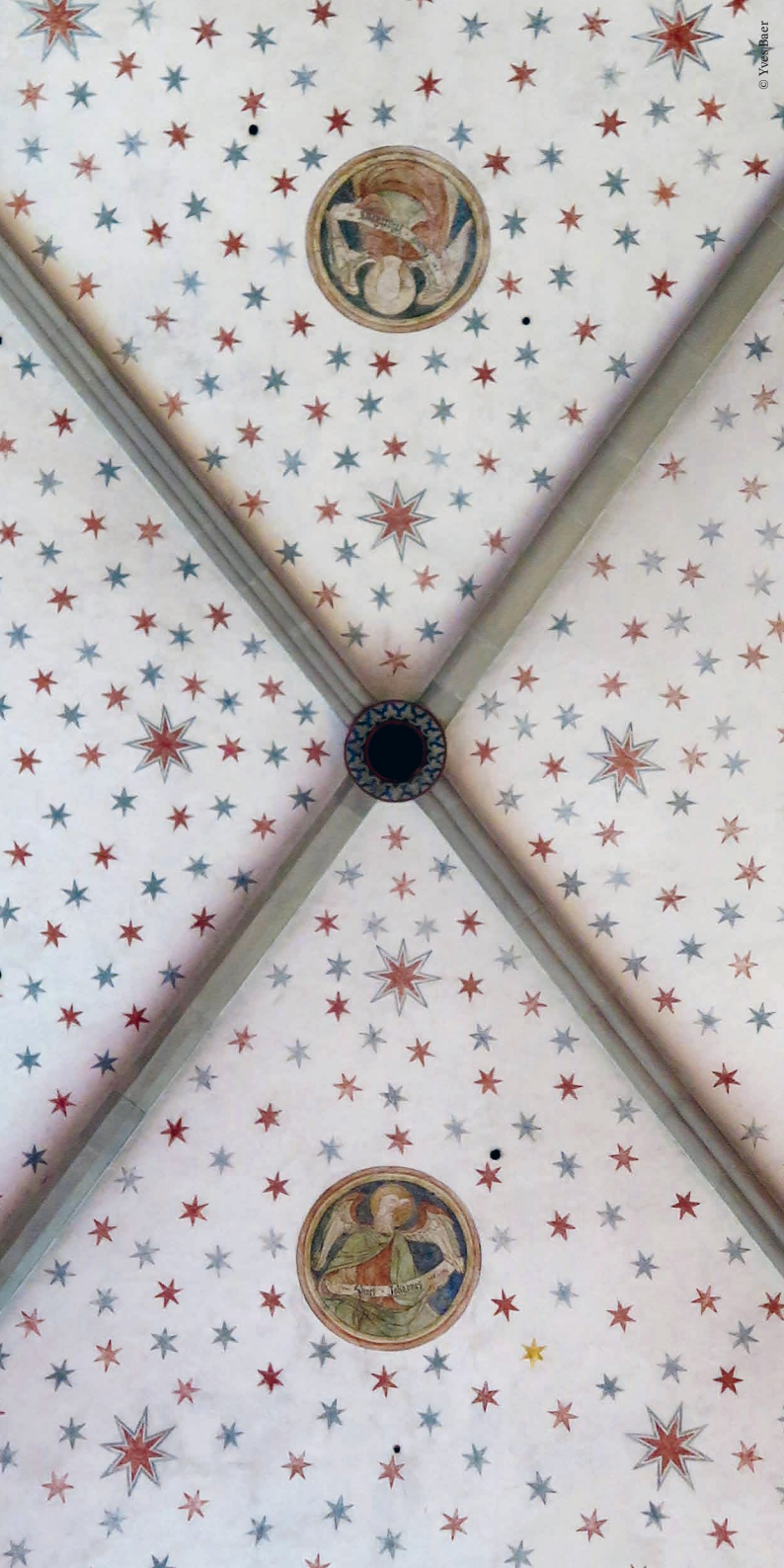
### **4 HEATON WINDOW**

The large window behind the organ was created by the British stained-glass painter Clement Heaton in 1914. The artist produced it using the techniques of medieval master craftsmen, which give the panes an extraordinary luminosity. As the window can only be viewed from a distance, the four angels are the only figurative motifs. Ever since the new organ was installed in 1953, the lower part of the window has been covered.

### **5 CHANCEL**

The spacious chancel, with its huge ribbed vault, was built between 1230 and 1260, i.e. during the Romanesque period. The stars on the ceiling were whitewashed during the course of the Reformation, along with the murals, and were only uncovered again in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The pews date back to the late Gothic period. The tiered seats feature decorative carvings and were originally covered by a canopy. They were reserved for the canons and chaplains who said Mass in the chancel and heard confessions.





## 6 CHAGALL WINDOWS

‘He must have an angel in his head,’ Pablo Picasso once said of his fellow artist, Marc Chagall. It is indeed amazing that such a spiritually inclined artist as Chagall, who was born in Vitebsk in Belarus in 1887, only discovered stained-glass painting at the age of 70. The stained-glass windows Chagall had designed for a synagogue in Jerusalem were already world-famous when Fraumünster parish priest at the time, Peter Vogelsanger, ventured to contact the elderly artist in 1967. The result of this courageous request is a unique, highly spiritual work of art that is extremely colourful and expressive: a pictorial symphony of biblical images. The windows were inaugurated in the presence of the then 83-year-old Chagall in 1970. The Zurich couple Lou and Heinrich Hatt-Bucher paid his fee plus the high production costs. At the time, the donors wanted to remain anonymous.

### A WINDOW OF THE PROPHETS

Elijah is being carried away in a fiery horse-drawn chariot to the sky, away from Elisha. The angel Cherub hovers in the middle. Above, Jeremiah is sitting immersed in thought in a blue gown. In the round arch, the Creation is depicted.

### B WINDOW OF JACOB

Jacob, the patriarch of the Israelites, hovers with eyes open and hands folded on his lap. He dreams of the ladder leading to heaven, which makes up the upper part of the window. Jacob’s tussle with the angel is shown directly below.

### C WINDOW OF CHRIST

The life of Christ, from birth to resurrection: Joseph, the family tree of Jesse, the Lamb of God, Mary,

Elizabeth, the life and parables of Jesus Christ and his crucifixion, among other aspects.

### D WINDOW OF ZION

An angel announces the beginning of eternity. Below, the new Jerusalem descends from heaven. King David singing psalms and Bathsheba are shown at the bottom.

### E WINDOW OF THE COMMANDMENTS

Moses holds the tablets inscribed with the commandments and observes the disobedience and suffering of humanity. The middle section depicts absolute peace. Beneath, Isaiah is held by an angel. He prepares to spread his message of peace to the world.

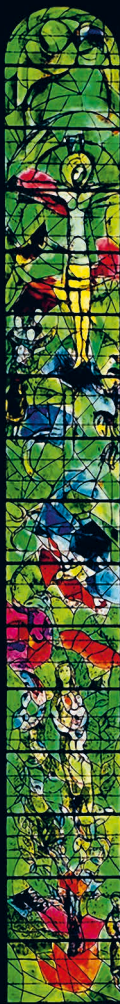




A



B



C



D



E

## 7 CHAGALL ROSE WINDOW

In 1978, eight years after finishing his windows for the chancel, the then 90-year-old Marc Chagall created another stained-glass masterpiece, namely the rose window. As a symbol of everlasting life and death, the rose window depicts the stages of Genesis in a clockwise direction. These are arranged in a perpetual cycle around the centre of the rose, which features Noah's Ark, symbolising the salvation of creation.



## 8 FOUNDING LEGEND

According to legend, the devout princesses Hildegard and Bertha followed a deer sent by God, carrying burning candles on its antlers. It led the sisters from their father's castle to the place where Fraumünster was later to be built. Hildegard and Bertha became the abbey's first abbesses. Since the 13<sup>th</sup> century, their remains have lain in the alcove under the large frescoes depicting this founding legend.

## 9 GIACOMETTI WINDOW

In the late 1920s, the Swiss artist Augusto Giacometti began work on his nine-metre-high stained-glass window for the transept. But it was not installed until after the end of the war in 1945, thereby making it an even greater symbol of peace. Giacometti called it 'The heavenly paradise'. At the very top of the two central panes is God the Father himself. Giacometti depicted him as the bearer of the globe. Next to God the Father is Jesus, and below them are all eight prophets of the Old Testament, in pairs. All ten figures are surrounded by the same number of angels. The Four Evangelists – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – are shown in the bottom row.

## 10 CRYPT MUSEUM

During renovation work in 1900, the remains of a crypt were discovered under the chancel. These date back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Originally, relics or the remains of prominent people were probably kept here. Today, the space under the chancel houses a multimedia exhibition about the history of Fraumünster, the Reformation and the city of Zurich.

## 11 ROOM OF SILENCE

The room of silence is a place for contemplation and reflection. Please be considerate – it is closed to tours.

MORE ABOUT  
FRAUMÜNSTER:



## OPENING HOURS

Fraumünster is open to visitors all year round, except during church services and events.

March to October 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

November to February 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Special opening hours at [www.fraumuenster.ch](http://www.fraumuenster.ch)

## TOURIST ADMISSION

Admission includes an audio or printed guide (German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese) and access to the Crypt Museum: CHF 5 | € 5

Free admission for children up to 16, as well as students

## GROUP VISITS

Registered groups: CHF 3 | € 3 per person

Unregistered groups: CHF 4 | € 4 per person (including audio guide).

Guided tours by accredited tour guides only, using whisper technology.

## GUIDED TOURS

We offer regular public guided tours, as well as private tours for groups and schools.

Programme and registration at:

[fuehrungen.reformiert-zuerich.ch](http://fuehrungen.reformiert-zuerich.ch)

## CRYPT MUSEUM

Visit the Crypt Museum with its multimedia exhibition about the history of Fraumünster. The entrance is on the left, next to the chancel.

## SHOP

Books, cards, Chagall merchandise and more are available in the church shop.

## HOUSE RULES

Please be quiet in the church. Please do not eat or drink. Photography is permitted.

Photos of the Chagall windows are for private use only. Any publication – including on social media – is in breach of copyright.

## MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

Reformierte Kirchgemeinde Zürich

Kirchenkreis eins, Altstadtkirchen

Besichtigung und Führungen

Kämbelgasse 2, 8001 Zürich

[www.fraumuenster.ch](http://www.fraumuenster.ch)

[fuehrungen.kk.eins@reformiert-zuerich.ch](mailto:fuehrungen.kk.eins@reformiert-zuerich.ch)

MORE ABOUT  
GUIDED TOURS:

