

THE CHRISTUS

The Christus is the focal point of the St. George Temple Visitors' Center. The statue is a replica of the Christus by Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen (1770-1844). This white marble statue of the Savior represents an invitation offered by the Redeemer of the world: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).



For more information contact

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The St. George Temple



Construction started 1871
Dedicated 1877

A temple is a sacred place. Many civilizations have had temples. Moses, for example, carried a tabernacle with him and the children of Israel in the wilderness. Later it became a model for the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. The St. George Temple is similarly a sacred place, not for congregational meetings but for sacred ordinances. The temple is a place of holiness and peace, apart from the world, where LDS members feel a special closeness to God. Everything in the temple testifies of the divinity and sacrifice of Jesus Christ and teaches us to follow His example of love and service.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have built such temples wherever they have settled. Brigham Young was determined that a temple be completed in his lifetime so he could guarantee that Joseph Smith's revelations about the temple would be fulfilled.

On April 15, 1871, a letter from President Young was read to the people stating that the time had at last arrived when a temple should be built in this land, to the God of Israel.

Brigham Young chose to locate the first temple in the West in St. George for several reasons. One was that the people living there had experience with major construction projects and had the quarrying and timber facilities underway. He hoped that the building could be completed quickly and in a remote place where opposition would be minimal. Truman O. Angell was the temple architect. He had worked on the Nauvoo Temple and his design for the St. George Temple included much of the Nauvoo design both on the interior and exterior. By

November 9, 1871 authorities gathered on the site to break ground.

Along the north edge of the site selected by Brigham Young a limestone ledge was found and made the base of the foundation. On the other three sides, water and mud were encountered from a spring there. The water was diverted from the site, but the ground was soaked with mud many feet deep. After the water was diverted from the foundation, it was necessary to bring hundreds of tons of volcanic rock to pound into the earth to create a solid base for the foundation.

A pile driver was improvised out of an old cannon which was filled with lead and wrapped with rawhide for added strength. It was fitted into the hoist and raised by horsepower some thirty feet and tripped, tamping the stone into the damp earth and compacting the mass until the whole section was perfectly solid. A secure foundation was made possible by this relentless hammering process that took almost two years. Thereafter great stones were hewn out from the nearby volcanic mesa and brought to the site. They were used to build the basement walls up to the ground level.

The upper stories were constructed of red sandstone, quarried at the same place north of town as the stone for the St. George Tabernacle. Scaffolding was erected on the exterior of the building to facilitate the work of the masons and those who later applied the white stucco and paint. The walls were completed on March 5, 1875.

During much of 1875, 100 men were involved at the Temple in construction work; 100 at the rock quarries and 40 engaged in finishing lumber.

The Temple is 141 feet 8 inches long, 93 feet 4 inches wide, 84 feet high to the square or parapet, and 175 feet high to the top of the weather vane on the tower.

Over a million feet of lumber were used to construct the building. Some of the beams were exceedingly large, being 12 inches by 24 inches by 26 feet to 46 feet long. Wooden pegs were used to connect the wooden beams, binding them with a "tightness that could never have been achieved with the strongest steel bolts." Much of the lumber was hauled by ox team from Mt. Trumbull, 70 miles south on the Arizona Strip.

Seventeen thousand tons of black volcanic rock and red sandstone went into the building. Mule teams hauled much of the stone, the larger pieces being slung under the wagons. The 18,000 pound baptismal font came from Salt Lake City on three special wagons. Brigham Young made a gift of the \$5,000 font to the Church.

The St. George Temple was built by a band of stout-hearted pioneers in the days of their poverty. It is a testimony to the integrity and faith of these Latter-day Saints, under the leadership of Brigham Young, Erastus Snow, Wilford Woodruff and other men who devoted themselves to this service. Wilford Woodruff was appointed the first president of the St. George Temple in 1877.

The dedication was held in connection with the general church conference in St. George on April 6, 1877. Miles Romney was the general superintendent of construction, just as he was for the St. George Tabernacle.

Following the dedication, Brigham Young returned to Salt Lake City, where he died on

August 29, 1877. On August 16, 1878 a terrible storm of crashing thunder and flashing lightening engulfed the Temple. A tremendous bolt of lightning struck and destroyed the dome. The tower and dome were redesigned and built as we see them today, similar in appearance to the Nauvoo Temple. Renovations have been made from time to time over the past century. Major improvements were done in 1937-38, and again 1974-75. This last renovation included an addition to the west end of the building where new stairwells and an elevator were installed. This remarkable structure remains a lasting tribute to the sacrifice and devotion of the early pioneer builders and continues to inspire all who visit these sacred grounds. Even more, the Temple serves as a place where Latter-day Saints can dedicate their lives to the Savior Jesus Christ.

ANGEL MORONI

For many Latter-day Saints, the statues of the angel Moroni atop our temples symbolize the Restoration of the gospel in these latter days. They represent the angel in John's vision in the New Testament: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth" (Rev. 14:6).

It is appropriate that Moroni would embody that heraldic figure—for it was he who directed the Prophet Joseph Smith to the golden plates of the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ.

Eight temples do not have an angel Moroni. They are the St. George Utah, Logan Utah, Manti Utah, Laie Hawaii, Cardston Alberta, Mesa Arizona, Hamilton New Zealand, and

Oakland California Temples. Five temples feature the statue holding the gold plates: Los Angeles, Washington DC, Seattle Washington, Jordan River Utah, and Mexico City Temples. The original statue was sculpted for the Salt Lake Temple by Cyrus E. Dallin and is 12 feet, 5 ½ inches tall.

THE ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.
3. We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.
4. We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.
5. We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.
6. We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists and so forth.
7. We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth.
8. We believe the Bible to the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.
9. We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.
10. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.
11. We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.
12. We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates, in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law.
13. We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul – We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.