

Church of Kiruna

Welcome to the church of Kiruna. The city of Kiruna was founded in 1900 when the wilderness was transformed into a mining center. The first transport of iron ore occurred in 1903 after the railroad was completed during the same year. The district of Kiruna has a population of about twenty thousand.

The parish of Jukkasjärvi includes three churches: the church of Kiruna (1912), the church of Jukkasjärvi (1600), and the church of Tuolluvaara (1957).

The former president of the mine, Hjalmar Lundbohm, asked the architect of the church, Gustav Wickman, to "build a church in the form of a Lapp cottage."

One is reminded of a Lapp cottage when entering the church. The light entering from above and the ceiling's construction is typical that of a Lapp cottage. The church has even been called "the nomadic shrine."

The church and bell tower are situated in a natural park consisting of birch and rowan and the park is surrounded by a granite wall. A granite monument was raised in the park in 1929 by the mining company, LKAB, in memory of Hjalmar Lundbohm. The eastern section of the park is known as the Crematory Grove.

The bell tower was completed first. The long spires were transported from the Russian forests near the White Sea via Narvik in Norway. The tower is painted in Falu red paint. The tower was consecrated on Good Friday in 1906.

The church was built between 1909 and 1912 under the supervision of Olof Nygren, building contractor. The church rooster was placed on top of the church in the autumn of 1911.

The church was consecrated the 8th of December, 1912, and was given away by Hjalmar Lundbom as a gift from LKAB to the parish of Jukkasjärvi.

A number of prominent artists have contributed to the ornamentation of the church. The gold-plated bronze statues on the exterior are designed by Christian Eriksson. The twelve statues show the human frames of mind, such as prayer and desperation.

The beautiful carving above the main door was designed by Christian Eriksson and is a gift from the Tuolluvaara Company. God looks down upon Lapps and settlers. Two children, a boy and girl, are holding hands and looking up towards God.

The main door is designed by Ossian Elgström.

The altar piece is painted by Prince Eugen and is a lyrical picture of heavenly beauty.

The organ was built in 1957 by Rudolf von Beckerath, Hamburg, and reconstructed in 1978 by Grönlund. The organ has 40 stops, 4 manuals, and is fully mechanical.

St. George and the dragon was a gift from Christian Eriksson in 1928. He has even designed the cross on the altar. The baptismal is from 1925. There are 3 Bibles inside the sacristy, one in Swedish, one in Finnish, and one in Sami; the three languages spoken in the parish.