

God's Story as Told in the Windows

Our windows were designed and constructed by the *Willet Stained Glass Studios* in Philadelphia, PA., a world renown company. Mr. Willet, founder and president, came to Columbia and visited the church before suggesting the type of glass and designs he felt would be appropriate for our church. The windows were made possible by gifts from generous members and friends of the congregation. These windows were dedicated on June 3, 1979.

Willet Stained Glass Studios—Philadelphia



WE READ THE WINDOWS FROM THE BOTTOM OF EACH PANEL



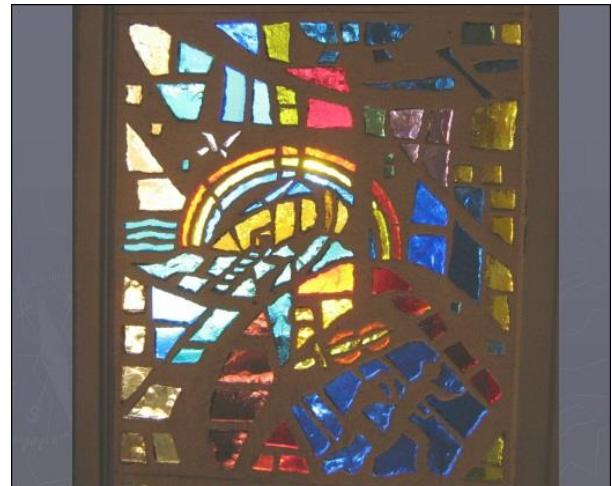
The first window on the left as you enter the Sanctuary is the Old Testament window. In these three panels we see people and events that happened some 4000 years before Christ was born.

This window begins with the symbol of God's hand reaching down to create. The story of creation is found in Genesis: i.e.:

- 1:8 the heavens are created
- 1:10 the earth is created
- 1:11 vegetation, plants, fruit trees
- 1:14 day, night, seasons, sun with rays
- 1:20-24 fish, birds, cattle
- 1:25-27 God creates male and female

Next we see Adam and Eve, God's human creatures, silhouetted in matrix. Because of their sin, Genesis 3:23 records their expulsion from the Garden of Eden.

As our eyes move upward, a rainbow is clearly seen arching over Noah's Ark. Genesis 9:13-16 speaks of the covenant God has made with his people and His promise that water will never again destroy them. A dove above the Ark assures Noah the rains have ceased.





Next we see a pot of smoking coals which symbolizes Abraham's attempted sacrifice of his son Isaac. (Genesis 22:1-19)

In the middle of the window, Moses is represented by the Tablets of the Law...God gives the rules by which mankind is to live. (Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21). Moses is also represented by a staff with a bronze serpent. (Numbers 21:5-9)

THE SECOND WINDOW

At the bottom of the second window is the six pointed star of David — topped with a crown. The story of David as king of the Israelite nation is found in I Samuel 16 — II Samuel 5. The crown is a symbol of his kingship — the star is a symbol of the Jewish race still used today. David is credited as having written many of the Psalms we find in the Old Testament (61, 63, 66, 70, 71).

The next symbol we see is that of the Ark of the Covenant. (Exodus 25:10 which begins an elaborate description of how it was to be constructed.)

The Ark became the center of Israel's worship. It was carried before the people as they journeyed toward the Promised Land. It was the symbol of God's presence with them at all times.



The Shepherd's Crook is a symbol for the prophet Amos one of the minor prophets...Amos was shepherd.

Next to the Shepherd's Crook, is the symbol of the fallen idol. There were many other people living on the earth in Biblical times...people who worshipped all sorts of idols. Idols became a problem for God's people. In Genesis 35:17— God tells Jacob to go to Bethel and make an altar to him. Jacob tells his household to get rid of all their idols..."so they gave to Jacob all the foreign idols they had and all the rings that were in their ears and Jacob buried them." But the problem persisted. God was totally against idols and He gives the first commandment recorded in Exodus 20:1-6. This passage includes these words "I am the Lord, thy God, thou shalt have no other gods before me."



The flaming chariot we see in this window represents Elijah. The story of this great prophet is found in First and

Second Kings. The account of his ascending into heaven ends in II Kings 2:11 ff.

The harps hanging in the willow trees symbolize the sadness of Israelites when they were captives in Babylonia and Egypt (Psalm 137:1). Jeremiah prophesied during the period of their captivity.

At the top of this second window we see a set of tongs – holding a burning coal. This symbol reminds us of another great prophet in Old Testament times. Isaiah (6:6-7) records Isaiah's lips being sealed to purify them so that he might prophecy some of the great things God would do for his people, His vision of Jesus as the suffering servant shows Him standing in the wine press (Isaiah 63:3) and Jesus' coming (9:6).



THE WINDOWS ARE EITHER SIDE OF THE ALTAR ARE CALLED THE CHRIST WINDOWS

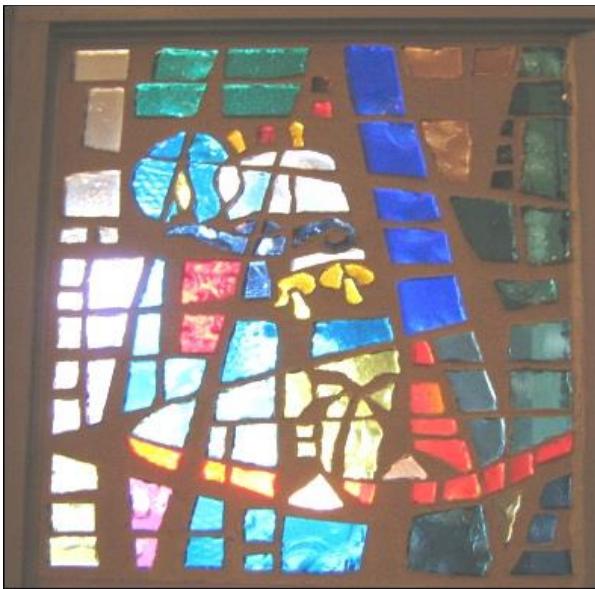


The third window begins the story of Jesus with a fleu de lys. The lily symbolizes the purity of the Virgin Mary. Her story begins in Luke 1:26. Next we see a manger with child...flanked by 3 shepherd's crooks. (Luke 2:8-17 “*and there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields...and they came and found Mary and Joseph, and a babe lying in a manger.*”)

Two doves in a basket – Luke 2:22-24 – Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem and offered the gift of two doves in thanksgiving to God for their child, Jesus. Rays coming from the star represent the Wise Men along with three crowns.

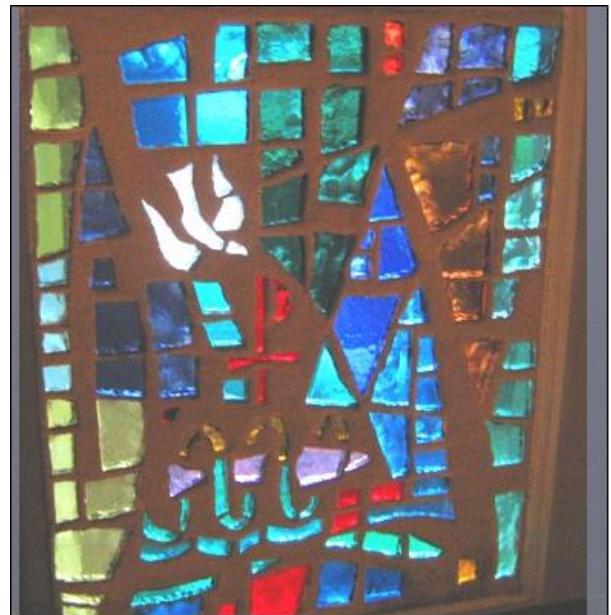
The gifts they brought were gold, frankincense, myrrh.





At the top of this window, we see a scroll and lighted lamp which symbolize Jesus' visit to the Temple in Jerusalem when He was 12 years of age (Luke 2:41-52).

Next we see pyramids and palm trees (Matthew 2:13-15) which symbolize the Holy Family's flight into Egypt to escape Herod.

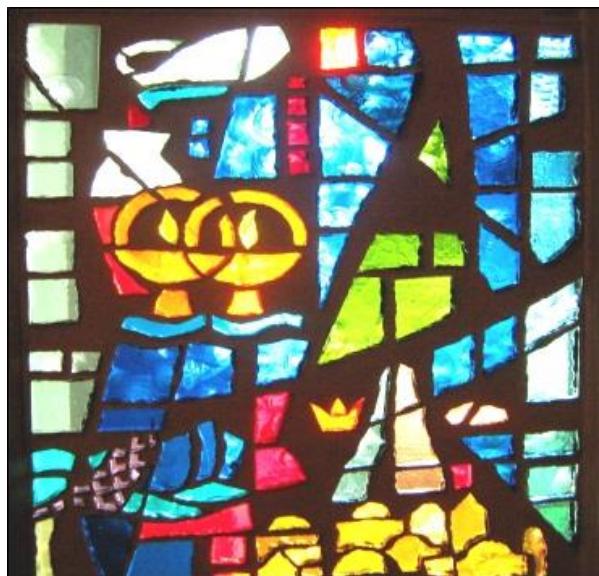


THE FOURTH WINDOW begins with a symbol of Jesus' baptism which combines a fish in water, a Chi Rho (the monogram for Jesus Christ) and a dove which lighted on Jesus' shoulder following His baptism (Matthew 3:16-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:31-34).

In this symbol, we find a high mountain with a city at its base, a loaf of bread and a crown...these are symbols which represent Jesus' temptation by Satan. (Matthew 4:1-10 and Luke 4:1-14.) Jesus is tempted to make stones into bread, throw himself down from the mountain, become temporal ruler of the world.

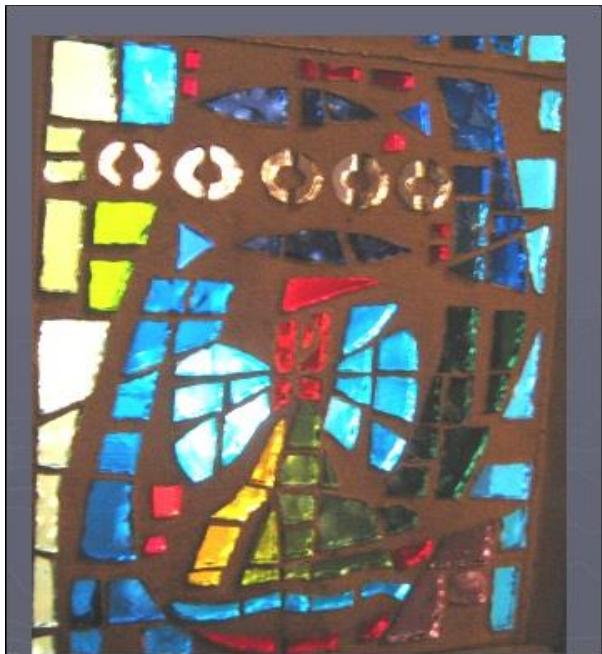
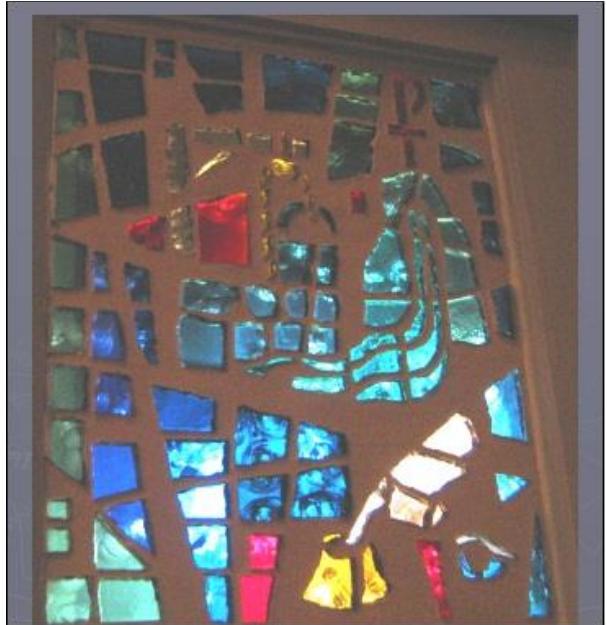
The boat with a fishnet (in matrix) symbolize Jesus' call to his disciples (Matthew 4:18 and Matthew 10:1-4 which lists them all.)

Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip,
Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James,
Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas Iscariot.



His first miracle was to turn water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana (see a water pitcher) (John 2:1-11). A second symbol of this event is two lamps with entwined rings which symbolize two individuals joined in marriage.

The well at the top of this window is Jacob's well where Jesus met the Samaritan woman and promised to give her living water (John 4:5-15). The symbol we see at the bottom right of the window is Jesus' finger dipping in clay. This symbol reminds us of the time Jesus anointed a blind man's eyes and restored his sight. (John 9:1-35 for a full account of this miracle.) This living water is also symbolized by water flowing from a rock surmounted by a Chi Rho.

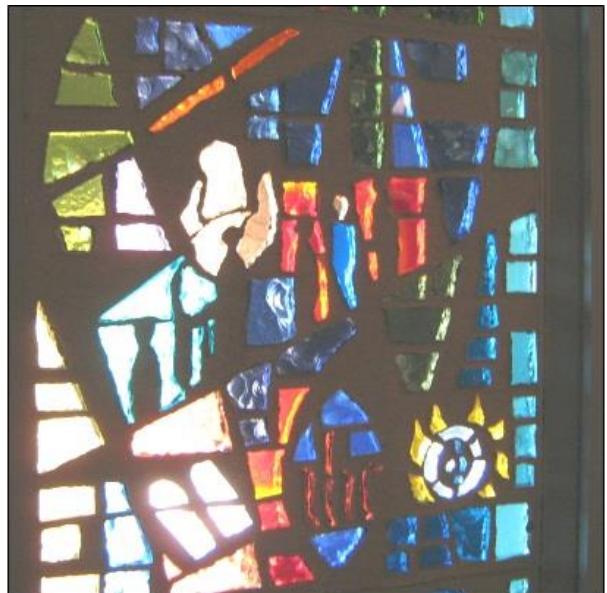


WINDOW FIVE continues with symbols for the life and ministry of Jesus. Jesus is portrayed at the bottom of the window preaching His famous Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 4:1 ff).

The five circular loaves you see next and the two fish recall for us the miraculous feeding of the 5000 (Matthew 14:15-21).

Next we see a symbol of the Transfiguration of Jesus, i.e., an IHC (for Jesus) flanked by the Ten Commandments (representing Moses) and a flaming chariot (representing Elijah). (Matthew 17:1-8)

Next we see Jesus' hand raised in blessing over the children seen in silhouette (Matthew 19:13-15 "Let the children come to me...").





The symbol of a lamb and shepherd's staff appear next as these two represent the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7).

At the very top of this window is a palm branch symbolizing Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Luke 19:37-38).

WINDOW SIX is devoted to the Passion of our Lord and His Resurrection. Beginning at the bottom we see loaves of bread and a chalice. Close by we see wheat and grapes. These are symbols for the Last Supper.

The cup with the cross emerging from it represents the cup of suffering Jesus prayed to have removed from Him. In Gethsemane Jesus ends His prayer with the words "nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39)



The cock crows when Peter denies Jesus. (predicted Matthew 26:34)

The actual account Matthew 26:74-75.

Next we see Pilate washing his hand...after he gave Jesus over to the crowd which would crucify Him (Matthew 27:19-25) Behind Pilate's hands is a guard's ax.



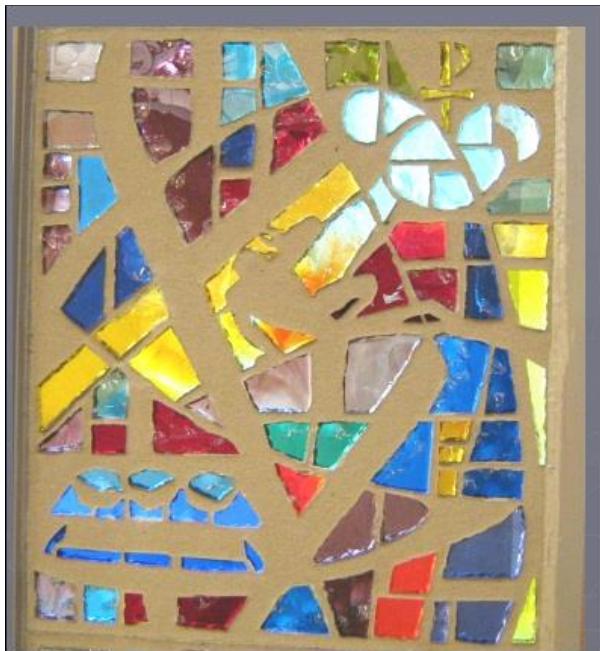
The cross of Jesus is purple, encircled with a crown of thorns. His cross is flanked by the two smaller crosses of the two thieves who were crucified with Him.



At the top of this window, we see Jesus, the Lamb of God emerging from the empty tomb. John the Baptist has spoken of Jesus earlier as the Lamb of God. The Lamb lifts high the banner of the victory of life over sin and death. (John 1:29)

IN THE LAST WINDOW (on your right as you face the Altar), the windows begin the story of the church with the arrival of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1).

We see seven flames coming from the dove. The flames represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, might (moral), knowledge, godliness (spiritual) and the fear of the Lord (respect). These are named in Isaiah 11:2 and Revelations 5:12.



The next symbol we see is a book and on it are stones – this symbol recalls for us Stephen’s sermon and martyrdom (Acts 6:5 and on through to Acts 7:60).

Saul of Tarsus is silhouetted next – falling on the Damascus road (Acts 9:3-4). His vision and Christ’s words from heaven are shown by a Chi Rho in a cloud.

A number of different animals being let down in a sheet symbolize the vision Peter had before he and Christ's followers were lead to accept Gentiles into their company. (Acts 10:9-16)

The sword superimposed on a book is a symbol for Paul's call and commission. (Acts 13:2)

A ship symbolizes the many missionary voyages the followers of Jesus took to spread the Christian message to the then known world.

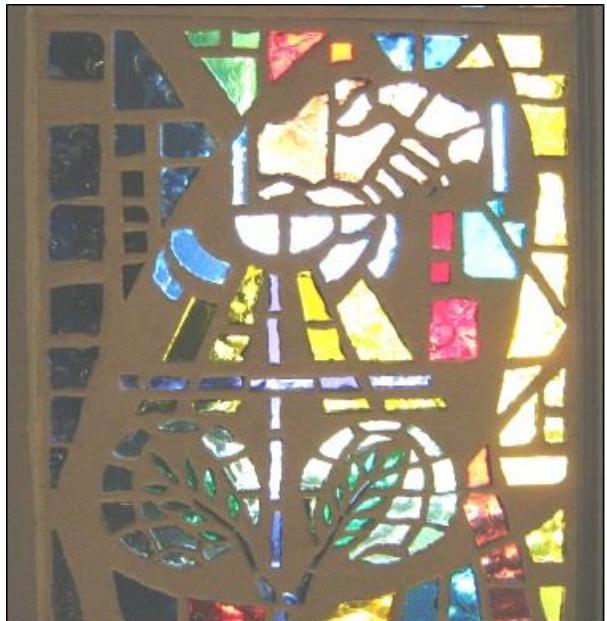


IN THE LAST WINDOW (beginning at the bottom) we see a rose. We turn back in the Old Testament to Isaiah (35:1) which speaks of Christ's kingdom as a rose. Luther's coat of Arms was a rose. A rose also is thought of as a symbol of the Reformation.

A circuit rider (in matrix) is pictured next to remind us of the pastors who traveled from place to place (here in America) spreading the good news. They carried personal belongings in their saddle bag and always a Bible. Most wore a broad brim hat to protect them from sun and rain.

The Eastern and Western hemispheres are shown together under the shelter of the cross.

The next symbol we see is that of a dark and light hand clasped together in brotherhood.





People gathered around a table to talk, to settle differences or perhaps a couple consulting (in matrix) with their pastor are silhouetted next above.

The 20th century symbol for peace seen next is made up of the wig wag symbols for ND (nuclear disarmament).

At the top of the window is a ship topped with a cross which represents the church secure in seas of disbelief — going throughout the world carrying people telling the good news of Jesus Christ!