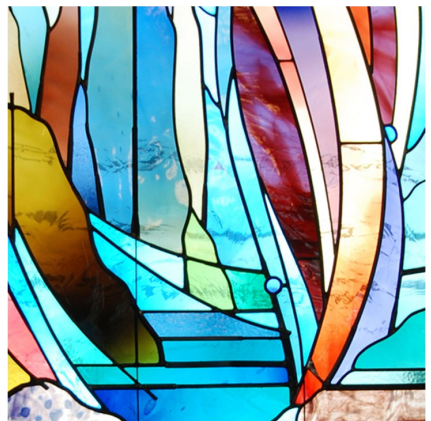
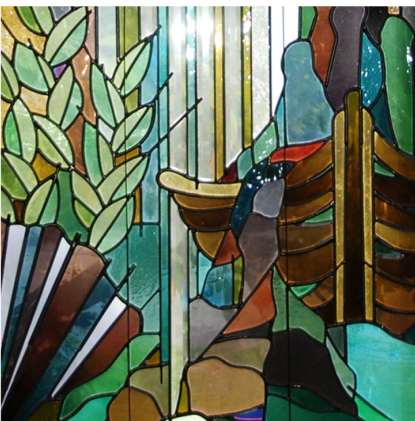
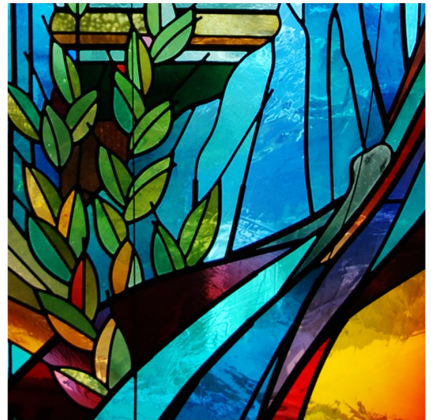
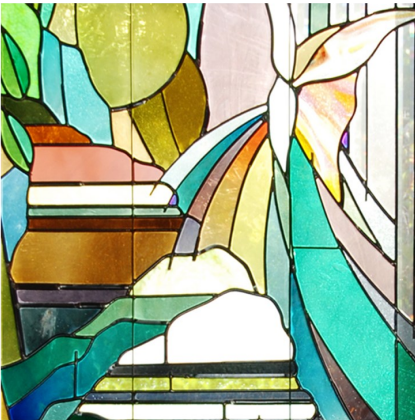


The Story in Light





The Trinity Wall

Jesus' final words to his disciples commissioned them to bear witness to the astonishing story of the gospel throughout the world. Christians have been telling that story ever since.

The Trinity Wall shows a representation of the foundation of our faith. The unity of God the Father, seen in the circle of the Rose window, embraced by the upward sweep of wind and fire, giving wings to the Holy Spirit, who from the beginning hovered over his creation. Central to it all, the cross of Jesus Christ, empty now, depicts the place where God and Man, Life and Death intersected to accomplish his incomparable purpose.

The stained glass windows in our sanctuary illustrate the gospel in all its beauty and grandeur. Beginning in the southwest corner and circling the sanctuary in a clockwise direction, each window focuses on a crucial part of the story.

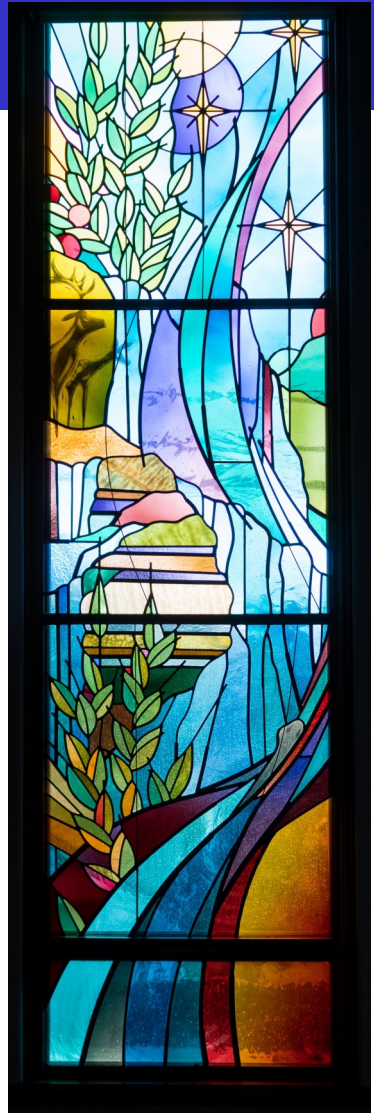
Creation

*Landscape · Wind/Water/Fire
Heavens · Growth · Tree of Death
Serpent · Four Rivers*

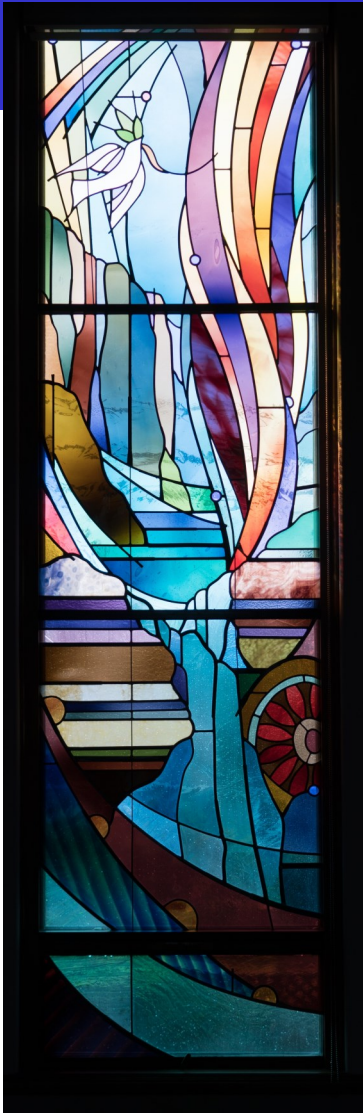
Color and form show the wind of God's Spirit sweeping through this new creation. Fire, water, earth and sky unite to form a paradise bursting with plant and animal life. The tree of life is visible, but creation is threatened by the serpent lurking near the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

—Genesis 1:1



Covenant



*Pillar of Fire/Smoke · Parting of the Sea
Great Wind · Chariot Wheel · Tent
Dove with a Branch · Rainbow
Mt. Sinai · Far Open Spaces*

God enters into a covenant with his creation, appearing as a pillar of fire near Mt. Sinai and meeting with his people at the tabernacle—or is that an ark, over which soar both a rainbow and a dove with an olive branch, symbols of his promise. You may find other symbols of his provision and protection in water from a rock, manna from heaven, or a mired chariot wheel.

‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.

—Exodus 19:4-6

Incarnation



*Christmas Star · Prophecy Fulfilled
Miracle of Wine-Jar · Service/Washing
Lost Coins · Poorly Sown Seeds
Wine/Fruit/Bare Branches · Sparrows*

The promise becomes reality in the birth of Christ in a stable under a natal star as God becomes our servant, washing our feet, sowing in our hearts the seeds of new life, teaching us in memorable parables, calling us to abide in him, and shepherding us, even through death.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—John 1:14

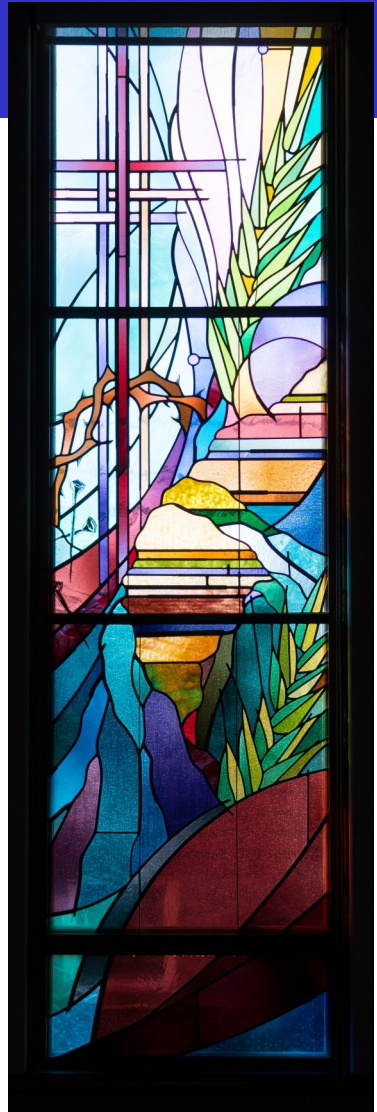
Crucifixion

*Calvary · Robe · Crown of Thorns
Nails · Palm Fronds · Dark Tomb
Blood · Eclipsed Sun*

His death, of course, ironically heralded with palm fronds, took place on a cruel cross, his suffering marked by nails and a crown of thorns. The sun is eclipsed and the tomb dark as the blood which will give us life flows from his body.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

—*Philippians 2:8*



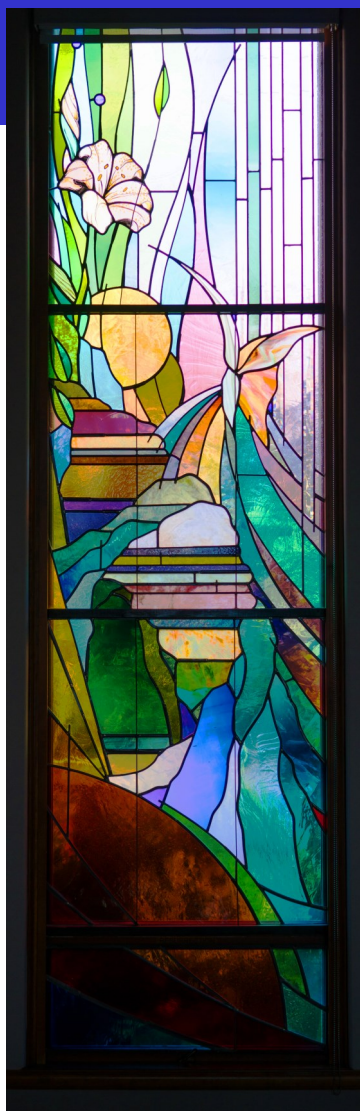
Resurrection

*Light · Empty Tomb · Sunburst · Linens
Rainbow · Butterfly · Angel Wings
Lily/Growth*

But light returns with the resurrection to life. The tomb is empty, the linens laid aside, and the body that was dead is transformed, like a butterfly emerging from a cocoon. A lily symbolizes the purity toward which this new life moves.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

—1 Corinthians 15:20-22



Ascension



*Ascending Christ · Sunburst/Rainbow
Enveloping Angel Wings · Christ's Last
Words · Boat/Net/Shell
Growth-Word*

Disciples then and now, their baptism symbolized by the seashell, are commissioned to become fishers of men. To their delight, they learn that the ascended Christ, interceding for them at the right hand of the Father, remains with them to the end of the age.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

—Acts 1:8-9

Pentecost



*Descending Dove · Baptism of Fire
Great Wind · Distant Shores
Pomegranate · Wine/Water/Sunburst
2 of 7 Stars of 7 Churches of God*

Empowered by the wind of God's Spirit, baptized by fire, the church is swept toward the grand climax of history when, in a new heaven and a new earth, the tree of life will bear its fruit in abundance.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

—Acts 2:1-4

Tree of Life

Carving

The Tree of Life is the dominant image in the wood sculpture, as He who is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, invites each of us to drink from the spring of the water of life.

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life."

—Revelation 21:6



Medallions

As we enter through the doors, the symbols remind us of the two sacraments which mark our entrance into the community of believers.



Chalice and cross remind us of Christ's atoning sacrifice, while the sheaves of wheat suggest the elements of Communion.



Symbols of water, including fish and a shell for pouring out the cleansing water of Baptism, convey our practice of this essential sacrament.

On either side door is an angel and trumpet with musical symbols which suggest our expressions of worship and praise.





X & P, the first two letters in the Greek word Christ, are superimposed on the Tree of Life.



Pentecost is represented by the water of Baptism, tongues of fire, the sunburst of a new dawn, and the fruit born of the spirit.



The powerful symbols of the cross and a crown of thorns, along with the nails of the crucifixion, direct our heart toward Lent and a time of confession and renewal.

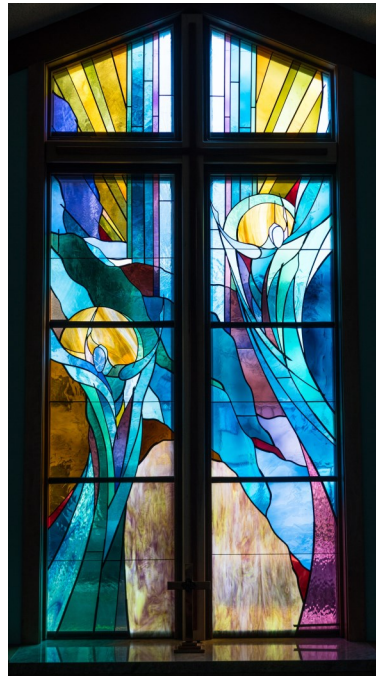


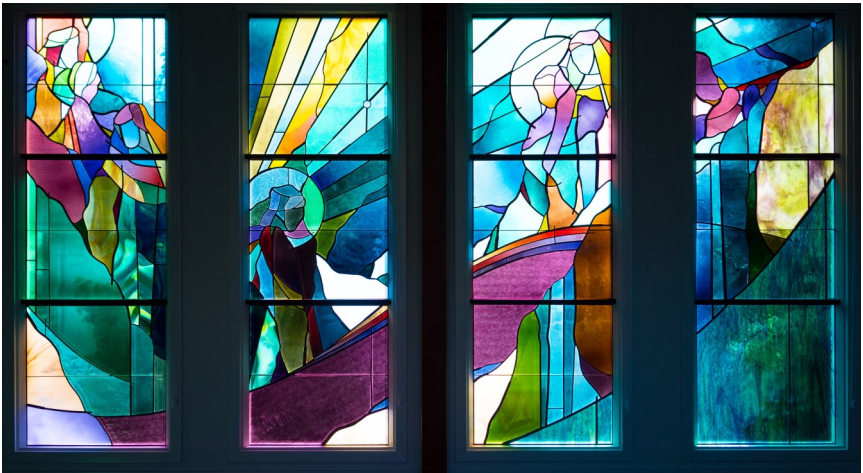
Light bursts from the cross of Christ to enlighten the whole world as we join forces to fulfill the Great Commission.

Chapel Windows

Hebrews 11 and 12, which were the inspiration for these windows, remind us of those who have boldly and faithfully lived and passed along to each new generation the good news of God's grace and salvation. They also challenge us to find our place among those witnesses as we fix our eyes on Jesus Christ and train ourselves to become his disciples.

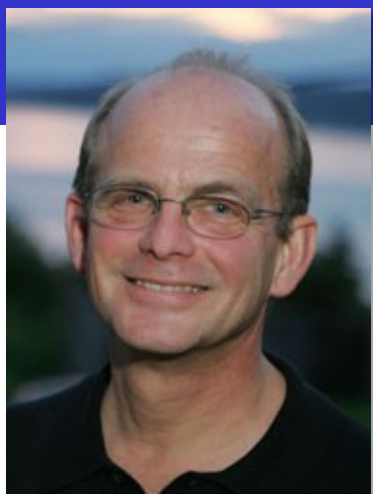
Central to the message of the windows are the figures at the front of the chapel who direct our attention to the empty cross and the dawning of the day of resurrection behind it. As one sees our own city and the traffic of our community beyond the images, we are reminded to take that central Christian message of hope and promise out into the world.





Along either side of the chapel are more figures representing those from Adam to the apostles and beyond who invite us to pass along the greatest story ever told to each new generation. If you look closely you may see a couple of silhouettes peering into an empty tomb.

Appropriately, as stained glass is a medium which allows us to paint with light, the figures of the saints and witnesses are drawn to and illuminated by the Light. This light, of course, finds its source in the One who first called the light into existence and who said, "I am the light of the world." The light of His revelation illumines our daily path.



Mark Eric Gulsrud has operated his architectural glass studio in Tacoma, Washington for 35 years. His site-specific commissions range internationally and include public, private, corporate, and liturgical formats. He expresses a wide range of sensitivity from abstract architectural forms to the incorporation of recognizable symbolism. Encouraging professional collaboration, he is personally involved in all phases of design, fabrication, and installation.

His artwork serves as a visual point of departure ... for each individual brings their own perspective. Like cloud watching, one is free to discover an unanticipated aspect, to see something new within the familiar.

"Whether public, corporate or liturgical, there exists the potential for the creation of a spiritual oasis; a space conducive to calm, healing and personal growth."

-Artist, Mark Eric Gulsrud