



Where God's Taking Thornapple From Broken to Beautiful

We wonder: What would it look like to be a church that names Jesus above all other names? A church that pledges its allegiance to the one who hung on a cross so that we might be reconciled across all human divides?

What future does God have for Thornapple? Thornapple will be seen by our neighbors as a people (and place) that are for them... because God is for them

When you look at stained glass up close, it doesn't look like much. When you step back and see the colorful pieces all together, the real beauty shines through and the complete picture is revealed. Over the next 3-5 years, Thornapple will invite the Spirit of God to shine out through our broken pieces, creating a beautiful image of who God is for our neighbors in Cascade (and beyond) to experience for themselves. We anticipate seeing people in our community bring their broken pieces and add them to the masterpiece God is creating called Thornapple. They will find a spiritual home here because of our particular vision of being centered on Jesus. Our neighbors will want to be a part of this joyful and grateful church where God makes beauty out of brokenness.

Our Vision: We will be unequivocally centered on Jesus, asking God to use us to draw people into belonging and oneness in Christ

The original purpose of stained glass was not purely decorative; it told the stories of the Bible to those who were illiterate or could not afford their own copies of Scripture. It visually spread the "good news" to those who didn't know Jesus, and drew them in, and invited them to know God and belong in His church. Jesus is the key to holding together our diverse, unique pieces of broken glass and healing the fissures that keep us separated from one another. With our eyes fixed on Jesus, the "founder and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2), everything else fades to the periphery. The power of the Holy Spirit shining through us will bear witness to the one who has brought us together and who welcomes all to saving faith in Jesus.

We want to be a authentic representation of Christ's church: a refreshing oasis to those who are hurt, divided and grieving

Our current cultural forces seek to divide at every turn, even among those who claim to follow Jesus. We own our part in this polarization and turn to God in repentance, asking Him to smooth out the jagged edges of our past. By recentring all of our lives on Jesus, we hope to reacquaint our community with him. He wants to transform their lives and relationships, not simply modify their behaviors, just as he is doing with ours. Now is the time to take our broken pieces and offer them up to God, our masterful craftsman, so He can redeem them and through them, bring rejuvenation and wholeness to our tired, worn out world.

Reframing our brokenness in light of God's power

For stained glass windows to be made, intentional scoring and breaking often needs to occur. Thornapple will acknowledge our grief, process our losses and tell a fuller truth about who we are. We are inviting a season of lament for our church body, trusting we have a lot to learn about the darkness in our lives and bringing it all before God. We anticipate God's restoration and healing will result in examples of how God has transformed us. This will enable us tell our story to our neighbors as a testament to God's love and redemption. We seek to trust God in new ways and lean more heavily on the Holy Spirit as we take this journey together.