
The Gift of Creation

(First window from the altar)

This window symbolizes the creation story found in Chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis. It expresses the gift of the universe, the world and all types of life.



In the top left side of the window, a sunburst represents God. A milky way winds diagonally down through the window and the stars, sun, moon, comet, and world are all depicted. The dividing of the waters of the earth and the appearance of dry land is represented in the vent section by the sea and hills.

The atom symbol above the vent represents the gift of energy and power with which the universe is endowed. The gift of all types of life is symbolized by the band of birds, marine life in the sea, and plant life on the land. The gift of human life is represented by the life symbol (the Tau cross) superimposed over the world.

The Gift of Fellowship

(Second window from the altar)



The top part of the window contains a sunburst representing God, with a streamer running down to the earth. The extended hand of God with a flame and the up-reaching hand of humanity symbolize God's gift of fellowship, raising humanity above other forms of life.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is depicted in the dove in the streamer. The tall, narrow plant on the left represents humanity's upward quest, seeking enlightenment.

The Gift of the Covenants

(Third window from the altar)

The rainbow symbolizes God's covenant with Noah. Genesis 9:11-13: *"I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood to destroy the earth. . This is the sign of the covenant, which. . I make for all future generations. . I set my bow in the cloud. . ."*



God's covenant with Abraham is represented by Abraham's shield, covered with stars. Genesis 15:5: *"Look toward heaven and number the stars, if you are able to number them. . So shall your descendants be."* The large star with the ray of light signifies that the Messiah would also be one of Abraham's descendants.

The burning bush and the stylized stone tablets of the law represent God's covenant through Moses in the form of the Ten Commandments and the Law. (Note that the stone tablets also appear with Moses in the great window above the altar of the church.) Exodus 19:5: *"Now, therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples. . "*

The Gift of the Redeemer

(Fourth window from the altar)

At the top of the window are symbols of the Trinity – the triangle and three circles interconnected. The lilies represent the Virgin Mary and her role as the human vehicle in Jesus' birth. (The lily also appears in the Annunciation window in the church.) The star with its ray of light shining down on the manger represents the nativity of Jesus. The large "P" with crossbar is the traditional "Chi Rho" monogram, emblematic of the title, "Christ." In the ancient Greek uncial spelling system, the title Christ was spelled *XPICTOC*, and the first two letters were joined together to form the monogram for Christ.

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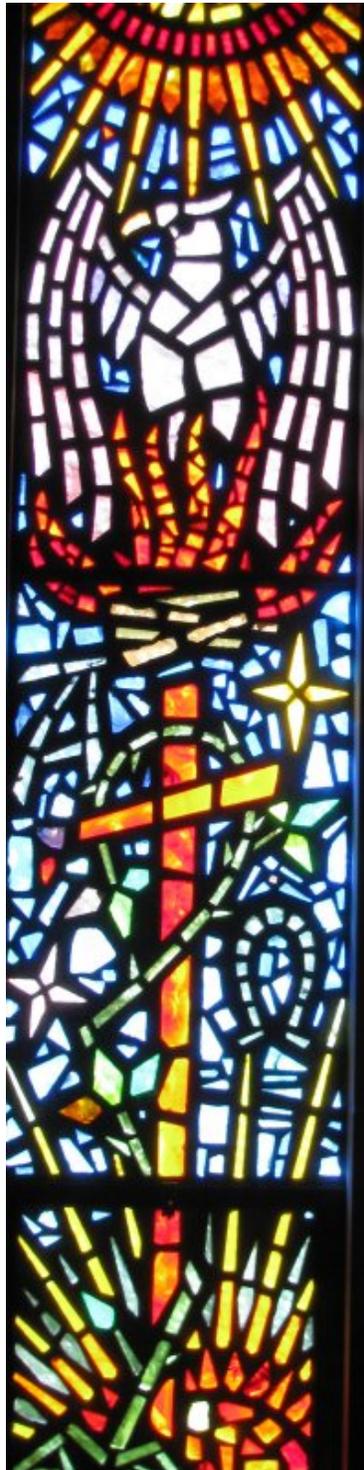


At the Tower part of the window, the candle with the two-part flame represents the incarnation, the human and divine aspects of Christ.

The Gift of Eternal Life

(Fifth window from the altar)

The window contains two resurrection symbols – the sun rising behind an empty cross and the phoenix. The phoenix is a legendary bird and in the ancient world it was believed that the phoenix lived for five hundred years, then was consumed by fire, and out of its ashes rose to renewed life. Early Christians adopted the phoenix as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus and of "all who sleep in him."



The thorn vine entwining about the cross represents the sufferings of Jesus. The Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, symbolize Jesus' statement at the very end of the New Testament in Revelation 22:13: *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."*