

ZSJ History-Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows

The stained-glass windows in the sanctuary were dedicated on April 14, 1974 and tell the story of Jesus, from birth to ascension, starting in the left front of the sanctuary. Beginning with Advent, we see the trumpets calling us to "Prepare the Way of the Lord." This window also includes purple banners to symbolize the coming of our Savior, the King. The second window reminds us of Jesus' first coming, to die on the cross and the second coming when he will be crowned King of all.



Moving to the south, we see the Christmas images, including the angel pointing the shepherds to Bethlehem, the staffs of the shepherds, the star to light the way, the manger for the baby and the "Chi Roh" letters that are the first two Greek letters for Christ.

Continuing to the south, we see the season of Epiphany, marked with the bright light of the star and the magi coming to pay homage to the Baby Jesus.



The next season of the church year is Lent. These windows are darker, reminding us of the suffering of Jesus and our own penitence. We see Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane and the three crosses on Calvary. The lightning bolt to the center cross reminds us that the power of God is always present and cannot be defeated. These events mark the last two days of Lent, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

The final window on the west side of the sanctuary to the south is Easter! The rising sun on Easter morning and the empty tomb mark our joy, victory and celebration. The staff with a cross and banner is testimony that Jesus has conquered death for all of us.



Jesus' story continues as we move to the east side of the sanctuary starting in the back with the Ascension of Jesus. The one large beam of light signifies Christ coming from heaven to earth. There is one cloud that crosses the beam to create a cross, to remind us of Jesus' victory over death.



Moving to the north we see Pentecost. Pentecost is considered the birthday of the church and happens fifty days after Easter. We see the dove and flames of fire which are symbols of the Holy Spirit sent to the disciples and to us. The second window reminds us of Jesus' words comparing the kingdom of heaven to a net thrown into the sea to gather fish of all kinds. The ship has long been a symbol of the church and the net reminds us to gather all people to be part of the church. The mast of the ship creates a cross. Without the mast, a ship cannot sail. Without the cross as the center, there would be no church.

The next window honors the miracles of Jesus, including changing the water to wine at the wedding feast and the feeding of the 5000 symbolized in the wheat. The wheat also reminds us of Holy Communion and the parable of the sower.





The final set of windows show the Greek letters, Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. From the book of Revelation 1:8 and 22:13, God says “I am the first and the last, who is, who was and who is to come.” This is God’s promise to always be with us!



The 3 windows over the altar remind us of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and also the sacraments and the Holy Bible. The window to the left shows that hand of God reaching down into our lives and the Baptismal font with a descending dove. The middle window is the lamb with the victory banner, of course symbolizing Jesus and the chalice and bread of Holy Communion. The window to the right show the descending dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Bible, God’s true word.

The balcony windows, only seen from outside remind us each and every week to go into the world and make disciples of all people.