

A Chrismon Meditation

We are blessed at St. Paul's to have a Chrismon Tree. Each decoration uses various symbols which have come down to us through the ages. The Chrismon tree is a teaching tree -- telling the wonderful story of the Christian faith. Studying it can be a worship experience. Take the time to appreciate its beauty and its meaning.

As you look at the centre of the bottom circle (which depicts the Church and the major events of the Church Year), see the Holy Scriptures at the centre. Also notice that the link between the upper ring (which represents God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the major sacraments) is Pentecost. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Christ; at Pentecost we celebrate the birth of the Church. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that the Scriptures were inspired. And it is also through His power that the words become a life-giving message today.

The Bible is the centre of the Church's life. The whole purpose of the Church Year - from Advent, to Christmas, to Epiphany, to Lent, to Easter, to Ascension - is to expound the meaning of Scripture. It is in the birth of His Son Jesus Christ, and His life, His death, His resurrection and ascension that we come to know God as a God of love -- the source of all love. This is the highest point in God's revelation to man -- that He so loved the world that He came in Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. It is a very important aspect of our faith that we teach only what is found in Scripture. Without these Scriptures none of these signs have any meaning.

Symbols of our Lord and God

The circle symbolizes eternity.

The triangle symbolizes the Trinity.

The crown - the kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sun of Righteousness from Malachi 4:2.

Stars often formed by crosses set at various angles, symbolize the close relationship between the birth and death of our Lord. With 5 points - the Epiphany Star; with 6 points - the Creator's star; with 7 points - the seven gifts of the Spirit; with 8 points - man's regeneration through baptism.

The Fish The Greek word for fish (IXOYC or ICHTHUS) is an acrostic on the first letters of "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour".

The Butterfly - our Lord's resurrection.

The Rose - the nativity of our Lord.

The Daisy - the innocence of the Christ child

The Lily of the Valley - the humility of the man Jesus

The Chalice - the Lord's Supper.

The Shell - the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

MONOGRAMS, LETTERS, WORDS AND CROSSES

There are various combinations of these on our tree, all in white and gold to symbolize the purity, perfection, majesty and glory of the Son of God. May these symbols continually remind you of God's greatest gift to us all - Jesus Christ.

Crosses



TAU CROSS - anticipatory, Old Testament, Advent



LATIN CROSS - with a long upright, is the most widely used form of the cross among Christians.



GREEK CROSS - with all extensions of equal length, much used by early Greek artists.



JERUSALEM CROSS - four Tau crosses meet in the centre to form a larger cross. They symbolize the Old Testament prophecies (the tau crosses) which culminated in the crucifixion of our Lord (the large cross) on a hill outside Jerusalem (hence the name). Or they can symbolize the five wounds of Christ. The four smaller crosses represent the four Gospels or the carrying of the Gospel to the four corners of the world.



CROSS TRIUMPHANT - the world united in Christ.



CROSS OVER THE WORLD - "Go ye into all the world"



CROSS IN ETERNITY

Monograms, Letters and Words



CHI - first letter of the Greek word for Christ



CHI RHO - interpretation based on the Latin, Christus Rex, Christ the King.



ALPHA & OMEGA - first and last letters of Greek alphabet, showing God as the Source & Ending of all.

INRI - the first letter of each word in the Latin inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"

IHS - the first three letters of Jesus in Greek.



IX - a monogram of the first letters of Jesus and Christ

The Christian Year

Season Symbols

Crosses

