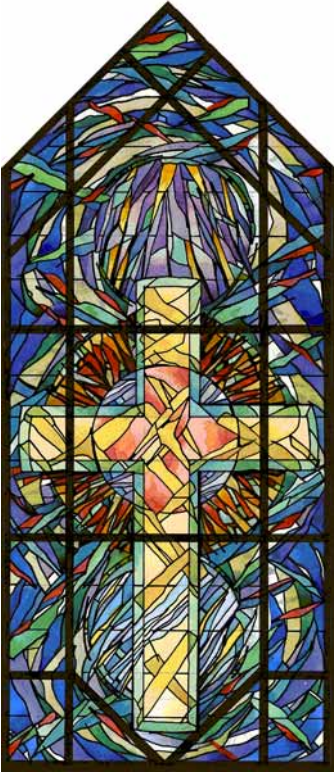


THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW *of* TRINITY CHURCH



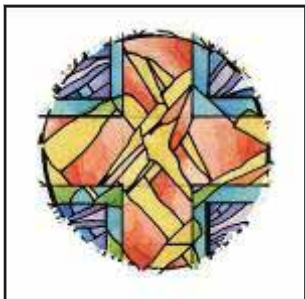
The stained glass window of the Trinity Church was designed by Andrew Young of Pearl River Glass Studio of Jackson, Mississippi, in October, 2004. Mr. Young captured in his design the essential beliefs and fundamental priorities of Trinity Church.

Notice first of all that the glass represents the **Trinity** Presbyterian Church. Our faith is in One God. He is "One only, the living and true God." We believe that "there are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance and equal in power and glory." (The Shorter Catechism, questions 5 and 6) The window is tied together by three circles, each one representing one of the persons of the Godhead.

At the top of the glass, in supreme position, is the first circle depicting *God the Father*. This circle is constructed in deep purples, lighter purples and pieces of golden yellow. These colors convey the creating genius and power of God the Father. Genesis 1:3, 4 tells us "And God said, Let there be light, and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness." Our God is the author of light, and light is a symbol of truth, goodness and joy. We learn of this First Person of the Trinity that, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:17) God the Father remains forever the God of Light who showers us with truth from His Word, goodness in His creation and joy in His grace. This God the Father is also the Father of Jesus Christ – the Light of the World. (John 1:1-9)



This Jesus Christ is the Second Person of the Trinity, God the Son incarnate. We see Christ in the second and center circle. His circle is centered on the cross, the instrument of His atoning and redemptive work. The colors that depict Him are golden yellow and red. These are the colors of both light and blood. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) By His godly, sinless life and by His wondrous words and works Jesus manifested the light of salvation and the truth of the Kingdom of God. By His crimson blood He atoned for our sins and paid our debt to God. In doing so He became the Savior of all who would believe in Him. He hovers in the glass between God the Father above and mankind below. This is for a reason: "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time." (1 Timothy 2:5, 6) Jesus is God the Father's redeeming gift to mankind, and He in turn gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit.



The Holy Spirit is God the Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, and is depicted in the bottom circle. His circle "flows" out of the cross to symbolize the doctrine of the ancient ecumenical Nicene Creed: "We believe in the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified." His circle is cast in blue glass which symbolizes water, and for two reasons. First, Jesus promised that Christians would be "baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5) on Pentecost Sunday



His baptism of reviving and reforming power remains the hope and the desire of the Church in all ages. Second, it is through the regenerating and converting work of the Holy Spirit that the grace of the Father and the atonement of the Son are applied to individual believers bringing them to new birth, repentance and faith in Christ. We are saved by the lovingkindness of the Father, the mercy of Christ and “by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.” (Titus 3:4-7) Our Evangelical faith rests upon the revelation of the Father of lights, the redemption of Jesus His Son and the regeneration of the Spirit of Life.



In the center of the window and dominating it altogether is a large cross. We are a **Christ-centered Church** and have as our message and mission, “...to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” (1 Corinthians 2:2) We believe that if Christ be “lifted up” in our preaching, teaching, worship and fellowship He will draw all of God’s people to Himself. (John 12:32) This is why the Cross of Christ is central to us. We live and die in the shadow of Christ’s Cross. As Martin Luther said, “The Cross alone is our theology.”

Yet this is not just any cross but a Celtic cross symbolizing that we are Trinity **Presbyterian** Church. The Celtic cross, originally found in the British Isles, has for centuries been the symbol of the Presbyterian Churches around the world. Notice that this cross has a circle at the center, in crimson red, larger than the inner circle which depicts Christ. This red circle emanates outward as if to fill up the whole of God’s creation. That creation is depicted in the multi-colors of our world: green for flora, blue for water, gray for clouds, golden yellow for sunshine, orange for day, purple for night, red for sin, and bronze for the works and accomplishments of mankind. The creation waits for the crimson circle of redemption to emanate throughout the universe. This red circle, centered on the cross of Christ, is a picture of the kingdom of God—redeemed by Christ, spread abroad by the Gospel of God, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. This crimson circle reminds us of one more fact.

Trinity Presbyterian Church is an **Evangelical** church committed to the great commission. It is our duty and our privilege to live within the circle of God’s love, Christ’s atoning mercy and the Spirit’s grace. And our mission in life is our great commission with Christ: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20)

How we accomplish this disciple-making is actually depicted in the four side windows, two on either side of the main window. They remind us of the four Means of Grace that enrich and empower the Church. “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42) These are the four major activities that cause the church to grow in grace and goodness. When Paul wrote to Timothy about the church he described it as the “pillar and buttress of truth.” (1 Timothy 3:16) Here in stained glass are depicted the four pillars of discipleship in the church: The Word of God, Prayer, the Sacraments, and Fellowship among the saints. Trinity Church is committed to study, prayer, worship and fellowship as the “program” for discipleship that God has given us. We invite all people to become part of this divine program.



We welcome everyone to become part of God’s forever family, a citizen of the Kingdom of Christ, a sharer in the life of the Spirit. We call you to repent of your sins before God the Father, to confess your faith in Christ alone for salvation and eternal life, and to surrender to the Spirit, the Lord and Giver of new life. And we welcome all who do so to **Trinity Church**.

