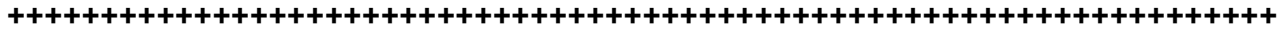


*Stained Glass Window Interpretation For  
North Raleigh United Methodist Church  
Raleigh, N.C.*



*The Old Testament*

*“The Creation”*

**“In the beginning, GOD created the heavens and the earth” ~ Genesis 1:1**

With these majestic words, the greatest book ever written begins the story of **GOD’s** relationship with **HIS** creation

The first chapter of Genesis tells us the order of creation, beginning on the first day with light on through the astoundingly rich diversity of life and ending on the sixth day with the pinnacle of **HIS** creation, man and woman.

**“And behold it was very good” ~ Genesis 1:31**

The window portrays Adam and Eve in the paradise of The Garden of Eden, among all the wonders of **GOD’s** handiwork. A vivid picture fills the senses and the imagination. Every tree is pleasant to the sight and animals unafraid to approach the man and woman. The gentle perfume of flowers with the appetizing scent of ripening fruit, and for Adam and Eve, no doubt, was an overwhelming presence of love.

Love and gratitude for **GOD** who made them in **HIS** own image, and then breathed into them, the breath of life and an eternal spirit. Love for each other, perfectly fulfilling abundantly, every **GOD** given need. Perfect joy, peace, love and an unbroken relationship with **GOD**, characterized each day.

Plant life in the window includes wisteria hanging upon branches of an apple tree, rhododendron and azaleas surrounding Adam and Eve, dressing the edge of the stream is lady slipper, trillium and water lilies.

Animal life includes doves, a fawn, a turtle, and a pair of rabbits.

Unfortunately, the paradise of Eden did not last. Adam and Eve sinned by eating of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, which **GOD** had forbidden them to eat. This caused separation from **GOD** and many other bad consequences, including being cast out of The Garden of Eden.

As mankind multiplied on the earth, they became increasingly wicked. Because they would not repent, **GOD** sent a great flood to destroy all people, except for Noah and his family, who were saved in the Ark.

**GOD's** promise to never again destroy the world by flood is seen in the rainbow above.

After the flood, once again the world forsook **GOD** and began to build a city and tower to unify and glorify man. **GOD** was displeased with this prideful effort and so **HE** confused their language and thereby scattered them abroad on the earth ~

Genesis 11: 1-9

In this background, **GOD** chooses Abram (*Abraham*) as his servant, to father a nation that would be separated from other idol worshipping nations through whom he would bless all nations. ~ Genesis 12: 1-3

~~~~~

### *“Abraham and Isaac”*

In this window, we see how **GOD** tests Abraham in a way that prophetically foreshadows **GOD's** own plan for redeeming mankind, by commanding him to sacrifice his own son, Isaac.

The story is told in Genesis 22: 1-18, how that **GOD** instructs Abraham to take Isaac, the son of promise, to a mountain in the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering to **The Lord**. As they approached the place, Isaac, (apparently unaware of his impending fate), asks his father, where is the lamb for the burnt offering?

Abraham's response to this question is remarkable in that he answers the question for Isaac, while simultaneously foreshadowing **GOD's** own plan by sacrificing **HIS** only son **JESUS**.

**“The Lamb of GOD which taketh away the sins of the world” ~ John 1:29**

Abraham is stopped however, by the Angel of **The Lord** and Isaac's life is spared an instant before the deed was done. **GOD** having seen the demonstration of his faith, the knife, in mid-air, drops toward the ground in the cross-like shape while providentially, a ram caught in a thicket by its horns, replaces Isaac in the offering and this father of faith walks back home with his son by his side.

Connecting the history of the next window, Isaac marries Rebekah and to Isaac and Rebekah are born Esau and Jacob and from Jacob (*Israel*) are born twelve sons among them is Joseph.

**GOD** used Joseph by interpreting dreams through him to preserve the Children of Israel in Egypt, through seven years of famine.

When a pharaoh arose to power who did not know Joseph, the Israelites were enslaved and in bondage for 400 years.

~~~~~

*“Moses”*

In the fullness of time, **GOD** called Moses to deliver the Children of Israel from bondage, by bringing ten plagues to the Egyptians. After parting the Red Sea, **GOD**, through Moses, led the Children of Israel into the wilderness, miraculously preserving their lives, though they were often times rebellious.

After three months, they came into the wilderness of Sinai, where the drama surrounding the Ten Commandments begins.

**The LORD** called Moses from the heights of the mountains and reminds the Children of Israel of the great things **HE** had done for them. They were told to get ready because on the third day, **The LORD** would descend in person to the top of Mt. Sinai.

On the third day, the mountain was veiled in smoke, the ground quaked, lighting flashed, thunder rolled, and the whole mountain seemed to be on fire. No one below could see the face of **GOD**, but in a voice like many trumpets, **HE** spoke the law that forever changed the world beginning with  
**“I am the LORD thy GOD”**.

Finally after forty days, Moses came down with the precious Ten Commandments, written by **GOD’s** own finger on the tablets of stone.

The history of the descendants of Abraham continue though forty years of wandering in the wilderness, the death of Moses, Joshua leading the Israelites into Canaan, the promised land and Israel then being ruled by judges.

~~~~~

*“Ruth and Naomi”*

It is in this period of the judges, that the story of Ruth and Naomi occurs, which is the subject of the right side of the window.

The story of Ruth is a story of faithfulness, not only of Ruth but also of **GOD**.

During a famine in the land of Israel, Elimilech with his wife Naomi and their two sons went to live in the land of Moab. While there, Elimilech dies and later his two sons die leaving Naomi with her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth.

When Naomi hears that there was food in the land of Judah, she decides to return back to her homeland. Orpah and Ruth began to follow Naomi, but in the course of the journey, Naomi tried to persuade them both to go back to their mothers in Moab.

Orpah finally consented, but Ruth clung to Naomi saying ***“where you go, I will go and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your GOD will be my GOD”***.

**The LORD** blessed Ruth for her faithfulness. She gleaned in the fields of Boaz, the kinsman of Naomi and eventually Boaz and Ruth are married. The last verses of the story tell how their son, Obed, is the father of Jesse and Jesse is the father of David the King, which leads us to the subject of the next window.

~~~~~

### *“David”*

We first learn of David as a youngster. He is handsome, gifted and brave, quietly tending his father’s sheep on the hillsides of Bethlehem. David’s great musical gifts brought him into King Saul’s royal court to sooth the King’s times of sorrow.

At this same time, Israel was in a constant state of warfare with the Philistines. The Philistine invaders brought with them a giant, nearly ten feet tall, named Goliath, who challenges and threatens Saul’s warriors to a one on one fight each day. One day, David’s father, Jesse, sends David with food from home to his brothers on the battle front. While he is there, he encounters the giant Goliath. After hearing of the rewards for victory to be granted by King Saul, David resolves to fight the giant even though King Saul tries to discourage him.

The victor in this combat is well known by young and old. David uses his trusty slingshot and with tremendous force and deadly accuracy, brings down the giant and finishes killing the giant with Goliath’s own sword. The result, David is held up as a national hero by all in Israel.

His journey to the throne however, wasn’t easy. As David’s fame grew, Saul’s affection for him turned to jealousy and hatred. Eventually after Saul’s death in battle, David was able to unite the kingdom and made the captured City of Jerusalem, his capital.

He pushed back his enemies on all fronts until Israel became recognized as a powerful nation and David became the most respected and celebrated earthly king of all time.

David reigned for forty years and although he had his faults, as all men do, he is described as a man after **GOD’s** own heart.

The scene pictured in the window of David is recorded in ~ **I Chronicles: 13-16**. The significance being the bringing of The Ark of The Covenant to the city of David, showed **GOD’s** presence and blessing on the reign of David.

**The Bible** describes the event as one of great reverence and celebration.

~~~~~

### *“Elijah”*

Sometime later, **The LORD** did great deeds by the prophet Elijah, such as the competition between the false gods of Baal and his prophets and **The True GOD** on Mt. Carmel, in which **The LORD** shows **HIS** power by sending fire down from Heaven and consuming the sacrifice that Elijah had prepared.

At the time appointed **GOD**, carried Elijah up in a fiery chariot. This scene is often used as a symbol of **CHRIST’s** ascension, which is directly across in the southern facing window.

As you can see, on the **Old Testament** side, we have illustrated the different ways in which **GOD** spoke to mankind, from the beginning, speaking through Patriarchs, Moses, the Judges, the Kings and the Prophets.

---

+++++

---

### *The New Testament*

The New Testament chronology reflects in figurative ways, the concepts established in The Old Testament windows.

### *“The Nativity”*

Directly across from The Creation window is the Nativity.

**Genesis 1:1** says, *“In the beginning, GOD created the heavens and the earth”*.

**John 1:1** says, *“In the beginning was The Word and the Word was with GOD and the Word was GOD”*.

*“All things were made by HIM; and without HIM was not anything made that was made”*

And in verse 14, *“The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the FATHER, full of grace and truth.”*

And in verse 29, John the Baptist identifies **The CHRIST** by saying, *“Behold the Lamb of GOD, who takes away the sin of the world”*.

That eventual sacrifice is reflected in the rays which form the Nativity star, which foreshadows The Cross. But in this scene there is only the joy of The Birth of **The Infant** who will change the world forever, the central figure of all human history, **GOD, HIMSELF**, being manifested in the form of a little baby, born of a virgin.

~~~~~

### *“The Baptism”*

**JESUS’** uniqueness was manifest again at **HIS** baptism. When **HE** was baptized by John and came up out of the water, the Heavens were opened to **HIM** and **HE** saw **The Spirit of GOD**, descending like a dove and lighting upon him and a voice from Heaven saying, **“This is MY SON in whom I am well pleased”**.

John the Baptist, upon seeing **The Spirit** descend and remain upon **HIM** declared that this is **The Son of GOD** ~ **Matthew 3:13-17** ~ **John 1:31-34**  
This is the covenant with **GOD** for Christians today along with the promises of **GOD** made with Abraham with its promises.

~~~~~

### *“Sermon On The Mount”*

**JESUS’** teaching from the mountain top, ~ **Matthew: 5-6-7**, provides a picture of the essence of **JESUS’** earthly ministry.

In **The Sermon on the Mount**, **JESUS’** lays out for the fundamental characteristics of a citizen of **The Kingdom of GOD**. **HE** teaches us what it means to be a disciple, primarily that attitudes of the heart cultivated by love for **GOD** and man, which moves one to righteous actions constitute genuine faith and is pleasing to **GOD**

The particular section of scripture portrayed in the window, is when **JESUS’** notes in Chapter 6 of Matthew, **“the lilies of the field, how they grow, they toil not, neither do they spin and yet I say unto you, that even Soloman, in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if GOD so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is, cast into the oven, shall HE not much more clothe you? O ye of little faith.**

The summary of this section of **Scripture** being verse 33: **“But seek ye first The Kingdom of GOD and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

Directly across in the **Old Testament** window, Moses comes down from the mountain with the tablets of stone, on which are written, **The 10 Commandments**. **JESUS** **“comes not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it”** and gives us a new law to be written on the fleshy tablets of the heart.

~~~~~

*"The Woman at the Well"*

**CHRIST** taught only in public ways as **The Sermon on the Mount**, but also in the lives of individuals in their ordinary routines of life.

Such is the case with **The Woman at the Well**.

**JESUS** takes the occasion of a woman coming to get water from Jacob's well and after asking her for a drink of water, **HE** turns the conversation quickly to the well of life and living water that **HE** could give to her.

**JESUS** shows this Samaritan woman how that **GOD** cares for all people and that **GOD** truly is no respecter of persons and that **GOD** accepts worship to **HIM** that is spirit and truth, not unlike the case of Ruth directly across from this window, whom **GOD** honored for her faithfulness, although she was a Moabite and not an Israelite.

At the end of the conversation, **JESUS** reveals **HIS** identity as **HIS** Apostles return from town. This Samaritan woman then immediately becomes one of the most effective personal workers in history, bringing people from town to see **HIM**.

~~~~~

*"The Triumphal Entry"*

As **JESUS'** and **HIS** Apostles approach Jerusalem, **JESUS** instructs two Disciples to go into the village where they will find a donkey and to bring it **HIM**.

**JESUS** rides into Jerusalem on the donkey, in fulfillment of ~ **Zachariah 9:9**.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road before **HIM** and shouted **"Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of The LORD"**.

In **The Old Testament** window of David, there is great joy and celebration as the Ark of **GOD** is brought back to Jerusalem. The wonder and rejoicing is without equal, when **The LORD, HIMSELF**, The Son of David, makes **HIS** glorious entrance into the city of Jerusalem.

In the space of about three years, multitudes had heard **HIS** teaching and had seen **HIS** miracles, many believed, but many of the religious leaders became more and more jealous of **HIS** popularity. So much in fact, they began to plot **HIS** capture.

In the fullness of time, **JESUS'** special Disciples, the Apostles go up to an upper room where, they are to partake of **The Passover** together. During this last meal, **JESUS** told them that one of them would betray **HIM**. Eleven could hardly believe their ears. But one knew very well that **HE** meant.

**JESUS** looked straight at Judas and said; *“What thou doest, do quickly”*, and the traitor left the room.

After Judas had left the room, a time of intimate, powerful and prophetic words, poured from **JESUS’** lips, which are recorded in ~ **John 13: 31-38** and chapters 14,15,16 and 17.

When the meal was over, **JESUS** and the Apostles went to a garden, which was called *Gethsemane*, where **JESUS** prayed. Shortly thereafter, Judas came with a band of men and officers with lanterns, torches and weapons to take **JESUS**. Judas betrayed **HIM** with a kiss and **JESUS** went willingly, for **HE** knew **HIS** hour had come.

There was a mock trial by the chief priest and then **HE** was sent to Pilate, the Roman governor, who tried to let him go, but the religious leaders and the people would not accept it. They chose to release a robber instead of **JESUS**.

To Pilate, that shouted *“Crucify HIM”*. So Pilate released Barabbas, **JESUS** was beaten, whipped and mocked and then **HE** was made to carry **HIS** own cross to the place of *“the skull”*.

They then crucified **HIM** between two criminals. **JESUS** in all **HIS** forgiveness, said *“FATHER, forgive them for they know not what they do”*. The soldiers tossed dice to part **HIS** garments.

Gathered close around the foot of the cross, was Mary, **JESUS’** mother, Mary Magdalene and the Apostle John. Others standing about, mocked **HIM** saying,

*“HE saved others, but, HIMSELF he could not save. If you are The CHRIST, come down from the cross and then we will believe YOU”* and *“HE trusted in GOD, let us see if GOD will save HIM, if he will have HIM”*.

After all these comments were made in an attempt to destroy the heart of **JESUS**, literal darkness fell on the earth, during which **JESUS** cried

*“My GOD, My GOD, why hast thou forsaken me?”*

Later, in **HIS** last breath, **HE** spoke:  
*“FATHER, into THY hands, I commend MY Spirit”*,  
 And afterward **He** uttered in **HIS** dying breath,  
*“It is finished”* and died.

As we see in these details, there are three crosses against a horizon, that bends down and an earth that bends up, between heaven and earth **CHRIST** stands as the mediator between **GOD** and

~~~~~

## *“The Resurrection”*

Death claimed **The Body** of **JESUS**, but death was not strong enough to hold it. Early on Sunday morning, something wonderful happened! Life came back to that lifeless form within the tomb. Not a weak tortured shell of a body, but a glorious, renewed resurrection body which was powerful, spiritual and eternal.

***“HE is not here! HE is risen!”***

~ **Luke: 24** said the shining Angels that stood by, to the women who brought spices to anoint **The Body**. The women hurried to tell the eleven Apostles the amazing news.

The bodily resurrection of **CHRIST** is the most important event in human history.

**JESUS'** entire ministry, of suffering and the cruel death, was dependent on **HIS** resurrection for confirmation and validation. Lilies, morning glories, butterflies and sunrise, are all symbols of **The Resurrection** of **CHRIST**.

The central scene of the east windows shows that intimate moment when after Mary Magdalene had come to anoint **The Body** of **JESUS**, the tomb was found empty. She speaks to someone she thinks is the gardener, but **JESUS** reveals **HIMSELF** to her by speaking her name, ***“Mary”***. Joy and wonder overwhelmed her.

Just behind Mary, we can see a shield, a helmet and a spear, left behind by the fleeing soldiers in fear of the awesome event which had taken place in early morning.

The same day, after these initial events of **The Resurrection**, two disciples were on the road to Emmaus and talking about all the recent miraculous events that had come to pass.

While they walked, **JESUS, HIMSELF**, came up and walked along with them, but they were kept from recognizing **HIM**. **JESUS** asks them what they were discussing and they begin to tell **HIM** about a prophet; powerful in word and deed, who was crucified. They went on to say that they hoped that **HE** was the one to redeem Israel and that the women had claimed to have seen **HIM** alive.

Then **JESUS** began to expound on all of the **Scripture** to tell them concerning **HIMSELF**. The disciples compelled **HIM** to stay with them as they entered the village and in the breaking of bread. The disciples recognized **HIM** and then **HE** disappeared from their sight.

The two disciples go immediately back to Jerusalem and found the eleven assembled and while they were talking about this **JESUS, HIMSELF**, stood among them and said ***“Peace be with you”***.

**HE** showed them **HIS** hands and feet and **HE** ate in their presence and **HE** told them *“all things have been fulfilled that is written in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms”* concerning **HIM**, and **HE** opened their minds to understand the **Scripture**.

~~~~~

*“The Ascension”*

After **JESUS** promised to send **The Holy Spirit** to comfort, strengthen and lead them, then into all truth, **HE** led the Disciples out of the city to the little town of Bethany, where **HE** lifted up **HIS** hands and blessed them and **HE** was then taken into the clouds and carried up into Heaven.

While **HIS** followers watched in awe and reverence, two angels stood by making a promise that;

*“The name of JESUS, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner, as you have seen HIM go into Heaven”.*

This prediction which **JESUS** made is one that Christians everywhere are waiting faithfully and patiently to see fulfilled.

To **GOD** be the glory and in **HIS** service,

*Statesville Stained Glass, Inc.*

March, 2007