THE WINDOWS OF PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4881 S.E. COVE ROAD
STUART, FLORIDA
The windows of Peace Presbyterian Church were created by artist Stan Klopfenstein.

There are eight side windows in the sanctuary, a Cross in the Chancel area and a Rose window which includes the Presbyterian Symbol over the main entrance.

The side windows in the Sanctuary portray significant events in the life of Christ on Earth. The four windows on the east side portray phases of His life as a child. The four on the west side depict events of His life as an adult.

Each window has visual beauty, but you should look beyond that to the Biblical story being told and the symbolism the artist has used in colors, detail, composition and objects. For example, there is a red and white halo surrounding the head of Jesus in all windows depicting Him. The halo symbolizes divinity; the white portions purity; and the red portions, which suggest a cross, symbolize His blood which would be shed for all mankind. Other symbolic detail is described in the narrative statement accompanying each picture.

The Biblical story is set forth by quotes from The Living Bible. Space limitations required omission of some words in the Biblical quotes. Such omissions are indicated by the use of periods, i.e., ... A special effort was made to insure that these omissions do not change the content or continuity of the story being told. Citations are given so you can refer to your Bible to read the entire story of each window.

It is hoped that this combination of pictures and narrative statements will enable you to look at the actual windows with enhanced appreciation and understanding of their significance and meaning, individually and collectively.

This book is my gift to present and future members. It is dedicated to the glory of our Lord. It is also to honor the memory of my beloved wife who died in 1988, and is, I believe, safely home in Heaven with Him now.

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance given by Dr. Carl Pollhein, Gail Hanson, and Judy Endresen.

The initial copy to members is free. Extra copies may be purchased from the Church. Proceeds will be held to reprint more copies when the initial supply is exhausted.

James W. Stancil
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THE CHANCEL CROSS

The 12' x 20' stained glass Chancel Cross incorporates much detail having symbolic meaning.

At the very top there is a star representing the nativity of Christ. Below the star is a crown signifying His Lordship.

At the center is the Crown of Thorns, which surrounds a burst of sunlight, with rays extending outward in all directions.

A rainbow, representing the promise of God, bisects each section of the cross, forming a circle which symbolizes eternity.

On the left arm of the cross is the Greek letter “Alpha” (the beginning), and on the right, the letter “Omega” (the end).

Moving down from the center, there are drops of blood dripping from the Crown of Thorns into the communion cup. Just above the cup is the bread, shown in white.

Below the cup is a green and orange background, with twelve tongues of fire representing the Apostles.

At the base of the cross, the colors start with the blues of the ocean, go up into the greens and browns of the earth, and on up into the heavenly light.
"...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin, Mary, engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendent of King David.

Gabriel appeared to her and said, 'Congratulations, favored lady! The Lord is with you.'

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

'Don't be frightened, Mary,' the angel told her, 'for God has decided to wonderfully bless you. Very soon now, you will become pregnant and have a baby boy, and you are to name him 'Jesus.' He shall be very great and shall be called the Son of God. And the Lord God shall give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he shall reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom shall never end!'

Mary asked... 'How can I have a baby? I am a virgin.'

The angel replied, 'The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of God shall overshadow you; so the baby born to you will be utterly holy — the Son of God.'

Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant and I am willing to do whatever he wants. May everything you said come true.' And then the angel disappeared.'

Luke 1:26-36, 38

This window is the first of the series of eight portraying significant events in the life of Jesus. The angel Gabriel, sent by God, is telling Mary she shall be the chosen among women to give birth to the Christ child. We see a ray of heavenly light shining upon Mary.
"...Caesar Augustus, the Roman Emperor, decreed that a census should be taken...

Everyone was required to return to his ancestral home for this registration...Joseph...had to go to Bethlehem...journeying there from Nazareth. He took with him Mary...who was obviously pregnant by this time.

And while they were there...she gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.

...some shepherds were in the fields...guarding their flocks of sheep...an angel appeared...and the landscape shone bright with the glory of the Lord.

'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you the most joyful news ever announced... The Savior...the Messiah, the Lord has been born tonight in Bethlehem'...

...the angel was joined by a vast host of others...

'Glory to God in the highest heaven' they sang, 'and peace on earth for all those pleasing him.'

...Eight days later, at the baby's circumcision ceremony, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was even conceived."

_Luke 2:1, 3-14, 21_

We see the baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The lamb depicts Jesus as the "Lamb of God." The star of the nativity is also a symbol of man — two feet, two arms and a head.
"When the time came for Mary's purification offering at the Temple, as required by the laws of Moses...his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...

...That day a man named Simeon...was in the Temple. He was a good man...the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen...God's anointed King...Simeon took the child in his arms.

...'Lord,' he said, 'now I can die content!...I have seen the Savior you have given to the world. He is the Light that will shine upon the nations, and he will be the glory of your people Israel.'

Simeon...said to Mary, 'A sword shall pierce your soul for this child will be rejected by many in Israel, and this to their undoing. But he will be the greatest joy of many others...'

Luke 2:22-32, 34, 35

This window portrays the baby Jesus being presented to the Lord in the Temple.

In the lower portion there is a basket with two doves. This represents Mary's "purification offering," required by the laws of Moses at that time after the birth of a child.
"When Jesus was twelve...he accompanied his parents to Jerusalem for the annual Passover Festival...After the celebration was over they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind. His parents didn’t miss him the first day, for they assumed he was with friends among the other travelers. But when he didn’t show up that evening, they started to look for him...when they couldn’t find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there.

...He was in the Temple, sitting among the teachers of Law, discussing deep questions with them and amazing everyone with his understanding and answers.

...his mother said to him...‘Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere.’

‘But why did you need to search?’ he asked. ‘Didn’t you realize that I would be here at the Temple, in my Father’s House?’

Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them; and his mother stored away all these things in her heart. So Jesus grew both tall and wise, and was loved by God and man.”

Luke 2:41-52

Note the two figures behind Jesus. One has the look of total awe, the other shows skepticism which we frequently encounter in today’s life. The depth of this scene gives one the feeling of a guest actually listening to young Jesus.
"...John the Baptist began preaching out in the Judean wilderness...

People from Jerusalem and from all over the Jordan Valley, and ...every section of Judea went out to the wilderness to hear him preach, and when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River... 'With water I baptize those who repent of their sins; but someone else is coming, far greater than I am... He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.' Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized there by John. John didn't want to do it.

'This isn't proper,' he said. 'I am the one who needs to be baptized by you.'

But Jesus said, 'Please do it, for I must do all that is right.' So then John baptized him.

After his baptism, as soon as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God coming down in the form of a dove. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, and I am wonderfully pleased with him.'"

Matthew 3:1, 5-6, 11, 13-17

In this window we see fish, the original symbol of Christianity before the cross came into being. The dove represents the "Spirit of God" which came down from the heavens as described in Matthew 3:16. Behind the dove are rays in four directions to signify God's Spirit extending to all four points of the earth. They also form a cross.
Shortly before the Passover celebration Jesus told his disciples "I shall be betrayed and crucified."

Matthew 26:2

Jesus shared the Passover meal (which we refer to as the "Last Supper") with the twelve Disciples. The following events are related through Scripture.

"...as he sat eating with the Twelve, he said, 'One of you will betray me'...
They went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, 'Tonight you will all desert me'...Then Jesus brought them to a garden grove, Gethsemane, and told them to sit down and wait while he went on ahead to pray. He took Peter with him and ... James and John, and began to be filled with anguish and despair.

He...fell face downward on the ground, and prayed, 'My Father! If it is possible, let this cup be taken away from me. But I want your will, not mine.'

...he returned to the three disciples and found them asleep...Again he left them and prayed, 'My Father! If this cup cannot go away until I drink it all, your will be done.'

He returned...again and found them sleeping...so he went back...the third time, saying the same things again.

...he came back...and said...'The time has come! I am betrayed into the hands of evil men! Up! Let's be going!'
Matthew 26:20-21, 30-31, 36-37, 39-40, 42-46

This window seeks to portray the utter loneliness of Jesus at the time, alone in the Garden, his disciples all asleep, very much aware of approaching doom.
"It was now about noon of the day before Passover.
And Pilate said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!'
Away with him,' they yelled.
'Away with him - Crucify him!'
'What? Crucify your king?'
Pilate asked.
'We have no king but Caesar,' the chief priests shouted back.
Then Pilate gave Jesus to them to be crucified.
So they had him at last, and he was taken out of the city, carrying his cross to the place known as 'The Skull,' in Hebrew, 'Golgotha.' There they crucified him and two others with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them."  John 19:14-18
"And they put a sign above his head, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'"  Matthew 28:37

"INRI", shown above Jesus' head, is the acronym for the Latin words "Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum," meaning "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

This window is dramatic for us because it is the Gospel that "Jesus Christ died for our sins." Through His crucifixion we have forgiveness of our sins, and we have been declared to be His daughters and sons through His suffering in our behalf. The dark despair in the death of Jesus is portrayed, but in the background we see the sun rising which portends the coming Resurrection.
"...the third day he rose again from the dead..."

Apostles' Creed

"During the forty days after his crucifixion he appeared to the apostles from time to time, actually alive..."

Acts 1:3

"It was not long afterwards that he rose into the sky and disappeared into a cloud, leaving them staring after him. ...suddenly two white-robed men were standing there among them, and said 'Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has gone away to heaven, and some day, just as he went, he will return!'

Acts 1:9-11

"...he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead."

Apostles' Creed

This is the last window in our series portraying the life of Christ on earth. The sunrise in the background of the Crucifixion window, portending the Resurrection, is repeated in this window. Christ is shown ascending into Heaven, victorious over death, taking the sins of the world with him.

We have been promised he will return. We do not know when.
THE PRESBYTERIAN SYMBOL
ROSE WINDOW

This circular window, located over the Narthex of the Church, contains a wealth of symbolic detail. Its dominant feature is the Presbyterian Symbol. Look closely at the Symbol and you see a dove descending upon a pulpit shaped as a cross. The top of the pulpit has what could be an open Bible representing God's Word. To each side of the pulpit you see flames reaching up, indicating the Holy Spirit. Behind the pulpit there are forms and colors representing the waters of the earth, the grass, the mountains, the sky, and rays which could be sunrise or sunset. These serve to remind us that we leave the world behind us as we enter the sanctuary to center our attention on the worship of God. As we leave the Sanctuary after worship services, the same elements of this window serve to remind us we are returning to the world to serve God in accordance with the teachings of Jesus.