

The Chrismon Christmas Tree

Images, Symbolism and Scriptural References

St. John's Lutheran Church Conover, North Carolina



Noah's Ark

THE CHRISMON CHRISTMAS TREE

When did the Chrismon tree begin and why?

The Chrismon tree began as an offering to God. God blessed the offering, and it became a song of praise and thanksgiving to him. It continues as a witness to His love and His glory. The Chrismon tree actually began during the Christmas season of 1940. An elderly minister by the name of George Pass noticed the many discarded Christmas gift wrappings and decided to use these pretty papers and ribbons to make Christmas ornaments for a tree in his little church. There was no money to buy decorations; but there was a willingness to glorify God with the talents he had and the materials that he could get. Reverend Pass's devotion moved Frances K. Spencer and her husband to decorate their home tree. Each year different decorations required new ideas using various materials. In 1956 there was a tree in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, VA. Frances Spencer recognized the simple and profound dedication and willingness of those members who cared enough to do what they could. The following spring Spencer volunteered to decorate the tree in the Church, and the pastor accepted her offer. She had no new ideas or plans for decoration except to create something, with God's help, suitable for the church. She then realized that Christmas was the birthday of Christ and any decorations should be Christ centered. That was the answer; Let the Child be honored, the Person He is! While searching for a way to honor the Christ, she came across some drawings of designs called chrisma. "Chrismon" is a combination of parts of two words: CHRISt and MONogram. A Chrismon is just that, a monogram of Christ. Symbols used in early churches were incorporated into designs in order to tell a more complete story of Christ's birth. New Chrismons were added yearly through 1964 to the tree in Ascension Lutheran Church. From its early beginning in a small church in 1940, the idea of telling the story of Christ symbolically has grown. There is always something new to say about God and always a better way to say it. Each symbol on the Chrismon tree must, first of all point to our Lord and God. Through the ages the church has found varied ways of telling the Good News, and the living church will still find other ways of making God's love more meaningful. All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to our Lord's purity and perfection; gold, to His majesty and glory. We point to Christ as the Light of the world by using tiny white lights on the tree.

As the popularity of Chrismon making grew, it became increasingly difficult for Mrs. Spencer to obtain supplies. In 1964 Rufty's Garden Shop in Salisbury, NC became the chief supplier of Chrismon components. Harold and Barbara Rufty searched for and found manufacturers in New York and Japan who could supply the necessary materials for making Chrismons.

One should not underestimate the contributions of Harold Rufty towards the growth of Mrs. Spencer's Ministry. He was willing to satisfy this small market, which was ignored by the established crafts industry. For this reason, Rufty's was given the rights by Mrs. Spencer to use the copyrighted word "Chrismon" in its name and so Rufty's Chrismon Shop was born. Rufty's hold onto Mrs. Spencer's and the Lutheran Church of the Ascension's original concept and continuing desire that no assembled chrismon or Christian symbol ornaments be sold. **BECAUSE OF COPYRIGHT LAWS, READY-MADE CHRISMONS CANNOT BE PURCHASED AT RUFTY'S CHRISMON SHOP.**

Mrs. Rufty's daughter Melonie Rufty Beaver who graduated in 1978 from the University of Oregon with a BS in Fine Arts (Major in Weaving, Minor in Ancient Art History) conceived the idea of creating the Christian Symbol Kit. In 2003 Melonie began designing patterns that were inspired by the entire Bible, not just the New Testament monograms of Christ. She worked out a system of first conceiving the physical structure of the ornament as well as the symbolism of the pattern. Next she devised the step by step instructions (including graphics). The first product would become what is today known as the Christian Symbol Kits. These kits offered in single pattern form (Not all of Rufty's patterns are offered as Single Kits) or in multiple pattern kits which are compiled into a series called Booklet Kits. Both are lovingly packed by hand. The Booklet Kit became necessary as the single kits were simply too numerous. Both types are packed with supplies necessary for creating the enclosed pattern or patterns.

This Booklet was developed in order that the reader would have a better understanding of the Rufty's patterns and descriptions of Chrismons. It is intended to illustrate the meaning of each individual design and enhance the desire to keep God at the center of Christmas.

Cora Setzer Ingle
Jerome Ingle

Table of Contents

Hand from Cloud.....	1
Morning Star – 6 points.....	1
Cross Patee with Four Scrolls:	1
Greek Cross Crowned with NIKA	1
3-D Epiphany Star.....	2
Heavenly Host Angels.....	2
Nativity 1.....	2
Nativity 2.....	2
3D Noah's Arc	3
Dove with Olive Branch.....	3
Symbolism: Test of Faith/ Pages of the Bible.....	3
Jonah & the Whale	3
Sword of the Spirit	4
Triangles & Trefoil.....	4
Golden Lyre.....	4
Trumpet Cross	4
Descending Dove.	5
The Baptism of Jesus.....	5
Poinsettia	5
Eastern Cross (Russian)	5
Cornerstone	5
Shield of James the Lesser	6
Shield of Bartholomew/Nathanael	6
Shield of Thomas	7
Shield of Simon the Zealot.....	7
Shield of Andrew	7
Shield of Jude/Thaddus	8
Shield of Simon Peter.....	8
Shield of John.....	8
Shield of Mary.....	9
Shield of James the Elder	9
Shield of Paul	9
Shield of King Solomon	10
Shield of Matthew	10
Shield of Philip.....	11
Shield of Judas Iscariot	11
Shield of David.....	11
Shield of Christ.....	12
Shield of John the Baptist.....	12
Word of God.....	12
Shield of Moses	13
Shield of Luke	13
Serpent on the Tau Cross	14
The Bronze Snake	14
Celtic Cross	14
Chi Rho with Alpha & Omega.....	14
Cross of the Disciples.....	15
Shell.....	15
He Calms the Waters.....	15
Beaded Fisher of Men	15
Anchor.....	15
Gabriel.....	16
Michael.....	16
Raphael.....	16

Uriel.....	17
Chalice/Sacraments of the Church	17
Wheat & Grapes Chrismation/Confirmation.....	17
Fish Bearing a Basket of Bread.....	17
Latin Cross Fusilee Couped	18
Paired Latin Crosses Fusilee	18
Iota Eta Sigma (IHS) on a Greek Cross	18
Pearl Crown of 10 Commandments	19
Jacob's Dream.....	19
Gold Star of Jacob - 5 Points.....	19
Iota Chi with Daisies and Lilies-of-the-Valley	19
Daisy with Bud.....	20
Rose of Mary.....	20
Lily of the Valley	20
Madonna Lily	21
Iris	21
Calla Lily.....	21
Chi Rho in Sun	21
Lamb of God	21
Beaded Ribbon Cross	22
Butterfly	22
Circle with Monograms, Cross.....	22
Mother's Love.....	22
Stylized Fish.....	23
Three Fish Entwined in a Circle.....	23
Chrystal Fish	23
Star of Bethlehem.....	23
New Treflee Cross with the Rose of Mary	23
Embellished Crystal Passion Cross	24
Epiphany (Five--Points) Star and Rose.....	24
Plain Ball.....	24
Nimbed Figure of the Son	25
Mansion.....	25
Flowers and birds	25
Pearls On Butterflies, Square	25
Vine, Shears	25
Opened-Armed Father.....	26
Fig Tree, Spade	26
Balance Scales.....	26
Ninety-Nine In, One Outside.....	26
Road, Lamp Butterfly.....	27
Man Running in Moonlight.....	27
Wheat from the cross, loaf of bread	27
Christogram Radiating Light.....	27
Cornerstone	28
Door.....	28
Caduceus in Fish	28
Bowl, Towel	28
Five and One Talent	29
Streams of Water From Rock.....	29
Vine and Christogram Roots	29
Crowned Good Shepherd	29
Little Children	30
Large Cross Followed by Small Crosses.....	30
Mirror	30
House on a Rock	30

Ball Filled with Varied Beads	31
Growing Wheat	31
One Large Pearl.....	31
Tiny Beads Throughout the Ball	31
Eternity Triangle/Heaven Triangle(I am the Light)	32
Faith in Christ/Earth Triangle... (I am the Way)	32
"I am the Way"/Cross Glory Orb:	32
Shamrock in Trinity/Earth Triangle..... (I am the Life).....	33
Holy Triune/Heaven Triangle..... (I am the Truth).....	33
Children of Israel.....	33
Eight Point Star	33
Three Entwined Circles	34
Triquetra and Circle	34
Jerusalem Cross.....	34
Dogwood Branch.....	35
The Palm Branch.....	35
The Olive Branch	35
Birth of Christ.....	36
Baptism of Christ	36
Ministry of Christ.....	36
Basin and Towel.....	36
Last Supper.....	37
Crucifixion of Christ	37
Resurrection of Christ	37
Birth of the Church (Pentecost).....	37
Crown of the Cross Embellished.....	38
The Latin Cross	38
Golden Unity Crown (7 Points)	38
Crystal Greek Resurrection Cross	38
Golden Latin Cross with Crown.....	39
The Crown of Thorns	39
Wounded Crown (5 Points).....	39
Large Pearl Cross	39
The Pearl Wounded Cross.....	40
He Died For Me.....	40
Gold Latin Cross	40
CROSS TRIUMPHANT (VICTORY).....	41

There are additional cross and star chrismons made of pearls and gold beads on the trees not illustrated in this booklet.

Hand from Cloud



Frequently used in the Old and New Testaments, the Hand was almost the only symbol that designated the Father during Christianity's first thousand years. Psalm 98:1. The open hand extended from the clouds evokes the image of both power and grace, and the action of giving or withholding blessings. "Thou openest Thy hand, Thou satisfies the desire of every living thing." Psalm 145:16

Morning Star – 6 points



Symbolism: The six-pointed star reminds us of the six days of creation (Exodus 20:1). Also called the Star of David. The two triangles that made up the star symbolize the Holy Trinity. "I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright Morning Star."

Cross Patee with Four Scrolls:



The saving work of our Lord, revealed by the four Evangelist, is the gospel that Christians proclaim. At the heart of the Good News is the cross and the redemption that was accomplished through it. In each corner of the cross is a scroll, one for each of the Evangelist; Matthew, Luke and John. St. Matthew stressed our Lord's human nature, a winged Lion for St. Mark is derived from his presentation of Christ the King with a description of St.

John the Baptist's, "a voice in the wilderness". Since St Luke's account of our Savior's life gives a full account of his atonement for us, the sacrificial ox becomes his symbol. An eagle (soaring upward) suggest the way that St. John's Gospel thrust into the spiritual activities and significance of our Lord's life.

Greek Cross Crowned with NIKA



NIKA, the Greek word for conquer, becomes the ray of a rising sun behind this Cross Crowned. This adaptation of the Cross in Glory symbolizes our Lord's glorious victory over sin and death.

BIRTH OF CHRIST

3-D Epiphany Star



Symbolism: To the Gentiles, the Star was the First Manifestation of the Christ Child. The Star led the Three Wise Men to the Nativity.

Heavenly Host Angels



Symbolism: In the Christmas story a host of Angels Announced the Birth of Christ to the shepherd. "Suddenly there was with the angels a multitude of heavenly hosts, praising God" LUKE 2:8-14

Nativity 1



The nativity of the messiah is told in Matthew 2:1 and Luke 2:6. The story of Jesus' birth is celebrated as Christmas in the Christian church. The story tells us of His humble birth in a stable. The announcement of the coming birth of the Christ child was made by the angels. The importance of this event to mankind was illustrated by the visitation to the stable of Christ's birth by the three kings.

Nativity 2



Symbolism: The Christmas story found in Luke tells the story of the birth of the Messiah prophesized in the Old Testament. "For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a savior which is Christ, the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you, he shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12

3D Noah's Arc



every living being on earth." Genesis 9:12-17

Symbolism: Noah was ordered by God to build an Ark. God was tired of the wickedness of mankind and intended to wipe the evil from the face of the earth and begin anew. God saw Noah as the only truly righteous man on earth, so he would save only Noah, his family and animal pairs of every species. After forty days and nights, the ark came to rest on Mount Ararat. God had preserved man and animal from disaster and given them a fresh start. Gods promise is to never destroy the earth by flood again "For I will see the rainbow in the clouds and remember my eternal promise to

Dove with Olive Branch



Symbolism: Traditionally, the dove is symbolic of peace, and the olive branch, of victory and hope. "...Noah released the dove again, and this time, towards the evening, the bird returned to him with an olive leaf in her beak. So Noah knew that the water was almost gone. A week later he released the dove again and this time she didn't come back". Genesis 8:10-11. The dove not returning was a sign of hope. Hope that man could begin anew.

Symbolism: Test of Faith/ Pages of the Bible



Abraham is portrayed in Genesis as a rare and important forefather to whom God gives promises and makes a covenant. This covenant was made with Abram because of the faith and obedience he has shown to God. God tested Abraham's faith in Genesis: "take with you your only son –yes, Isaac, who you love so much – and go to the land of Moriah and sacrifice him as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I'll point out to you." Genesis 22:1-19. The elements of the altar and wood for fire were necessary for the sacrifice. An angel spoke to him not to harm his son and because of his obedience was blessed with the promise of many descendants. The family tree is symbolic of the lineage that preceded Abraham.

Jonah & the Whale



Symbolism: The story of Jonah (Jonah 1-4) is one of God's grace and forgiveness, and Jonah's repentance and deliverance. God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh to deliver the message that it would be destroyed for all of the wickedness in the city. But Jonah was afraid and ran from the Lord. He boarded a ship where he hid below in the ship's hold. God sent a great storm down that threatened to sink the ship. The crew threw him overboard and the storm stopped "Now the Lord arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights." Jonah-1:17. During his time in the fish, Jonah prayed to God. "I will never worship anyone but you! And the Lord ordered the fish to spit up Jonah on the beach." Jonah 2:9-10

Sword of the Spirit



Symbolism: The symbol for Saint Paul is a sword with an open Bible marked with the words: “Spiritus Gladius” which means, sword of the spirit. He preaches that in a believer's struggle against the forces of evil, the word of God serves as a part of the Christian's protective armor. Hebrews 4:12 speaks to the power of the Word of God. “It is sharper than the sharpest dagger, cutting swift and deep into our innermost thoughts, exposing us for what

we really are. “

Triangles & Trefoil



Two geometric figures, a trefoil and an equilateral triangle combine to define the Godhead. The triangle has three distinct parts united into a perfect whole. The trefoil is a modification of the three interlaced circles which suggest the three Persons.

Golden Lyre



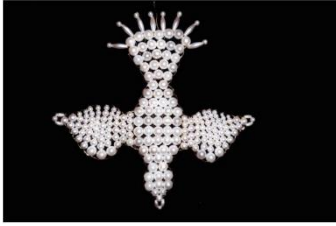
Symbolism: The lyre or harp was an instrument used in biblical times to accompany both worship and divine speech. David who had great musical talent, played the lyre for King Saul. He sang the psalms to the glory of God. In Genesis 4:21 Jubal was the first musician and invented the harp.

Trumpet Cross



Symbolism: The trumpet was used in Biblical times as an announcement device. During war it was used to sound a warning, the beginning and the end of an attack as well as to proclaim victory. God used his angels sounding trumpets to proclaim his will. "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matthew 25:31

SPIRIT



Descending Dove.

Also an ancient symbol of Scriptural origin, the dove has been widely used since the days of the first Christians. Matthew 3:16.

The Baptism of Jesus

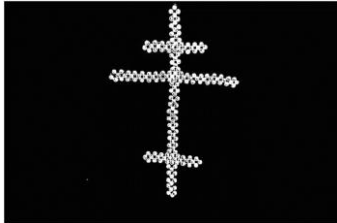
As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit Descending on Him like a dove.

Poinsettia



The poinsettia was introduced to us in 1825 out of southern Mexico, It is known as the Christmas Star or Christmas Flower. Today it is used as a Christmas decoration in churches and homes. To modern Christians, the poinsettia represents purity and is symbolic of Christian regeneration. The star shape formed by the leaves reminds us of the star that was present at the first Christmas. Its red coloration reminds us of the blood Christ shed so that we might be forgiven of our sins.

Eastern Cross (Russian)



We offer one of several interpretations: The top bar – the superscription; the bottom bar – the footrest.

Cornerstone



Monograms of our Savior are on the sides while the bottoms show another symbol for the "chief cornerstone".

SHIELDS OF THE DISCIPLES (Pearl Shield)

During Biblical times, the shield was a warrior's main defensive tool. The shield became a metaphor for protection. "God is my shield; He will defend me. He saves those whose hearts and lives are true and right." Psalms 7:10. The Old Testament frequently refers to God as a shield, as he actively protects his people. "For you bless the godly man. O Lord; you protect him with the shield of love" Psalms 5:12. The introduction of these disciples to Jesus and his ministry is found in Matthew 4:18-22 and Mark 1:16-20.

Shield of James the Lesser



James, the son of Alphaeus of Cleophas, was believed to be the brother of Matthew. His mother, Mary, was the sister or close friend of Jesus' Mother. She was a devoted follower and an eyewitness to the crucifixion of Christ. She helped a devoted follower and an eyewitness to the crucifixion of Christ. She helped prepare the body for burial with the mother, Mary. Mark 16:1.

James was called "the Lesser" or Little James," meaning he was either young or small in stature. There is little known about James in the Bible besides the listing of the 12 disciples; he was one of the most obscure. Saint Paul writes that James was the first to witness the resurrection of Christ. After he was empowered by the Holy Spirit in the upper room, he became a great preacher of the gospel. The ship represents his many missions to spread the word through Syria and Persia. The boat is also a symbol of the church itself. Serving for thirty years in the church, James became the first Bishop of Jerusalem. He was given the name "James the Just" He consulted Saint Paul on his gospel who he called the "pillar" of the church. He was the author of the first Catholic Epistle. James was martyred for his faith by the Jews. He was thrown from the temple, stoned and clubbed while he prayed for his attackers.

Shield of Bartholomew/Nathanael



Bartholomew, also known as Nathanael, meaning "God has given," was from Cana in Galilee. Philip was his closest companion. After meeting Jesus, Philip sought out Bartholomew to tell him he had found the Messiah as prophesied in the Old Testament. Bartholomew was skeptical "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" When Jesus saw him, he said "behold an

Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit." This spoke volumes about Nathanael's character, his pure heart, honesty and faithfulness to the word. "Before Philip called you, you were under the fig tree. I saw you." Then Bartholomew said, "you are the son of God, King of Israel." John 1:45-50 He realized that he was in the presence of someone who could see straight into his heart. The fig tree was his place of solitude where he studied the scriptures, prayed and meditated.

Shield of Thomas



Thomas was nicknamed Didymus which mean “the twin.” He was from Galilee as were many of the disciples. He was paired with Matthew to preach about the Messiah. Thomas demonstrated his love and devotion for Christ when he was willing to risk his own life to follow Jesus into Judea when the Jewish leaders wanted to execute him. “Let us also go that we may die with Him” John 11:16. This show his courageous faith and loyalty to Jesus.

Thomas was referred to as the doubting Thomas because he refused to believe Jesus had risen from the dead until he saw and touched Christ’s physical wounds. John 20: 24-29. Thomas was the first missionary sent to India. It is said that he built the church with his own hands. The carpenter’s square and hammer are symbolic of his mission. He was slain with a spear by a pagan priest while kneeling in prayer. It is ironic that not until he saw the spear mark in Jesus’ side, that his faith was solidified.

Shield of Simon the Zealot



Simon belonged to a political party called the Zealots; a widely feared militant sect. Their goal was to overthrow the Roman occupation, The Zealots were extremist who advanced their agenda through terrorism and acts of violence. They believed that only God himself had the right to rule over the Jews. “Zealot” could have referred to Simon’s fiery temperament; although he

later became a gentle disciple. Simon was a great preacher of the gospel and was paired with Jude Thaddeus. Through the power of the gospel he became a “fisher of men,” hence: the fish is commonly used to represent him. The anchor cross symbolizes his martyrdom and death on the cross in Persia (Iran). Simon was a man of fierce loyalties, amazing passion and courage. He embraced Christ as his Lord and took the gospel north to the British Isles.

Shield of Andrew



Born neat the Sea of Galilee, Andrew was a fisherman by trade. He was the younger brother of Peter and introduced him to Jesus. They had been disciples of John the Baptist when they first met Jesus. He, along with his brother, abandoned their old life to follow Christ. His undying faith was an inspiration to all Christians. Andrew was crucified on a crux, and X-shaped cross.

He felt he was unworthy to be crucified the same way as his Savior. Suffering for days, Andrew continued to preach to those who gathered around him. The crux became the symbol of the beginning of the end of the church year (season of Advent). He founded the church of Prussia (now Russia)

Shield of Jude/Thaddus



Thaddeus lived in Galilee and was the brother of James, the Lesser, and cousin of Jesus. He went by three different names, one being Lebbaeus, meaning "dear to heart" or "heart child". The name suggests that he was tender-hearted and had a gentle, compassionate soul. Thaddeus was paired with Simon, the Zealot, to spread the gospel. He was fairly obscure in the Bible. At the last supper, he questioned Jesus "how is it that you will manifest yourself to us and not the world?" John 14:22-24. Jesus answered, "I am not going to take over the world externally, I am going to take over hearts one at a time." Thaddeus was present in the upper room at Pentecost. The three flames represent the Holy Spirit which empowered him to devote his life to being a foreign missionary.

Shield of Simon Peter



Simon, the brother of Andrew and also a fisherman by trade, abandoned his old life along with his brother to follow Jesus. He was later renamed "Petrua," or Peter; the Rock, by Jesus when he recognized Jesus as the Son of God. "Upon this rock I will build my church and I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven". Matthew 16:13-19 Peter became the leader of the Apostles and a spokesman for the Church of Jerusalem. He was instrumental in the decision to evangelize the Gentiles along with Apostle Paul. He was Crucified head- down on an inverted cross in Rome, by Nero, so he could look toward Heaven and his new life with Christ

Shield of John



John, the younger brother of James and second cousin of John the Baptist, was the youngest disciple and lived to an extremely old age. He was also a fisherman before he followed Jesus. Mark 1: 19-20 John was called the "beloved disciple." He was the only disciple who did not forsake Christ in the hour of passion. He was present at the crucifixion and stood faithfully at the foot of the cross where Jesus dubbed him the guardian of Mother Mary, his mother's sister John 19: 25-27.

Shield of Mary



The Fleur-De-Lis is a stylized representation of the Lily which symbolizes purity, and in turn, is associated with Mary. The three petals & sepals exhibit the Holy Trinity. In Christian art, the Fleur-De-Lis is attributed to the Archangel Gabriel, most notably in representations of the Annunciation, where he declares that Mary will conceive and give birth to the Son of God. LUKE 1:28-35.

The shield represents her protection of Jesus as an infant.

Shield of James the Elder



James, the brother of John, lived as a fisherman by the Sea of Galilee where Jesus called upon them to follow him. Matthew 4:21-22. In a story from Luke, Jesus was preaching from a boat on Lake Gennesaret because the crowds were so large. "Now go out where it is deeper and let down your nets and you will catch a lot of fish." They had worked all night and not caught any fish.

"But this time their nets were so full that they begin to tear." Jesus said to them "do not be afraid; from now on you will be fishing for the souls of men." Luke 5:1-10 After Christ was crucified, James traveled a great deal to preach the Gospel. He proclaimed the good news, healed the sick and casted out demons. John 21:11

Shield of Paul



Paul, also known as Saul of Tarsus, was both a Roman citizen and Jewish. Being well educated he spoke Latin and Greek. His reaction to the newly formed Christian movement was to persecute the early followers and to violently attempt to destroy it. His vision of the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus was clearly a life-altering event for him. After being blinded for three days, Ananias was sent by Christ to restore his vision and to be baptized in the Christian Faith. (Acts 9:1-9) Paul converted from Judaism to Christianity and became one of the most important figures of the Age of the Apostles. He became the Apostle to the Gentiles and tried to unite them with Jesus as the people of God. Paul preached that Jesus was Christ the Son of God and that the Church was the Body of Christ. He was a profound thinker. His method was to put people at ease and to approach them with his message in a language and style they could relate to. He often traveled with Barnabas on his missions. He founded several churches throughout Asia Minor and Europe. Fourteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament are attributed to Paul. He influenced Christian thinking and arguably has been more significant than any other New Testament author. The open Bible is a symbol of his conversion and his greatness as a preacher of the church. He spoke the Word of God as the sword of the spirit. (Ephesians 11:17). It is believed that he was martyred after being beheaded in Rome during Nero's reign.

Shield of King Solomon



King Solomon was the king of Israel and son of King David and Bathsheba. He ruled during the "Golden Age," between 970 and 931 BC. He was the builder of the first temple in Jerusalem. He was one of the central Biblical figures in Jewish heritage having lasting effects on religious, national and political matters. God promised Solomon great wisdom (1KING 3:49). He became a wise ruler and author of three books of the Old Testament; Proverbs, Ecclesiast and the Song of Solomon. He is also believed to be the author of Psalms. Even though Solomon was a great ruler, he was also a sinner. He had many wives, some from foreign countries who influenced him to build temples to their gods. He also became very wealthy and surrounded himself in luxury and grandeur. God punished Solomon by breaking his kingdom into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah preceding his death. 1 KINGS 11:30

Shield of Matthew



Matthew, also known as Levi, meaning "gift of God," was the brother of James the Lesser. Matthew was a publican, or tax collector, in Capernaum. He was well educated and wealthy with a good knowledge of languages. Tax collectors were the most despised people in Israel. Most extorted money for the Romans, keeping a percentage for themselves. They were not permitted in the Temple. He was very familiar with the scriptures and thought to have been self-taught. When Jesus say Matthew, he said, "follow me," so he rose and followed him." Jesus was invited to his house for a feast with Matthew's friends, other tax collectors and sinners. Jesus and the disciples sat at the same table. This drew protest from the Scribes and Pharisees. Jesus rebuked them. "I came not to call the righteous, but the sinners to repentance." Matthew 9:9-10 Matthew wrote the first gospel of Matthew in which be established the authenticity of Jesus as the expected Messiah of Israel as promised in the Old Testament texts.

Shield of Philip



Philip was a native of Bethsaida, Galilee. He knew the brothers Peter and Andrew who were from the same town. He was also a follower of John the Baptist before he was called by Jesus John 1:43-45. Philip brought Nathanael to meet the Messiah and was paired with him to preach the word of God. He was known as the "Greek" because he was fluent in the language. Philip is mentioned in the story of the miracle of feeding the 5,000. "Philip, where can we buy bread to feed all of these people" John 6:1-14. A basket of five loaves of bread and two fish was multiplied to feed the crowds who gathered to hear Jesus preach. Jesus was testing Philip's faith because He knew he would perform the miracle to feed the crowd. Philip showed his imperfect understanding of the big picture of Christ's divine power when, at the Last Supper, he asked Jesus to "show him the Father" John 14:8-11. "Don't you even know who I am, Philip, after all this time I have been with you."

Shield of Judas Iscariot



Unlike the other disciples, Judas was from Kerioth in Judea. He traveled with and studied under Jesus for three years. He was appointed treasurer of the group and used his position to embezzle funds. Luke 22:47-48 Judas is infamously known for betraying Jesus for a bribe of thirty silver coins by identifying Him with a kiss to the arresting soldiers of the High Priest Caiaphas. Mark 14:43 Even though he later showed remorse and, by some accounts, hung himself, his greed and selfish ambition are written in history. Matthew 26: 14-16 and 27:3-5

Shield of David



David, a shepherd, was chosen to rule Israel as a child. The popular story of David killing Goliath turned the Philistine army away from the battle. David's struggle against the House of Saul ended in victory. He became the king of Jerusalem, the Kingdom of God, and ruled over the 12 Tribes of Israel represented by the 12 gold beads in the crown.

SHIELDS OF THE BIBLE (Gold Shield)

"God is my shield; He will defend me. He saves those whose hearts and lives are true and right." Psalms 7:10

Shield of Christ



There are three symbols in this ornament; the Shield, the Crosses and the Crown. The Shield is a symbol of God's protection. The three crosses represent the crucifixion at Mount Calvary and Christ's sacrifice on Earth to save us from our sins. The Crown is symbolic of the Kingship of our Lord and Christ's new life in Heaven. "God is my shield; he will defend me. He saves those whose hearts and lives are true and right." Psalms 7:10

Shield of John the Baptist



In the first chapter of Luke, Gabriel appears to Zacharias, an old Jewish priest, to announce that his barren wife, Elizabeth would have a child. "He will precede the coming of the Messiah, preparing the people for his arrival." LUKE 1:17 John spread the promise of the Messiah. He baptized Jesus at the River of Jordan which marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry. JOHN 1:29-34 John became a prophet, a martyr and a saint. Today Baptism is a sacrament of the Christian church, which the water is used to purify the body and free one of sins.

Word of God



The open Bible is a symbol for the Word of God. The initials "W.G.E.F." stand for "the Word of God Endures Forever."

SCRIBES OF SCRIPTURE

"God is my shield; He will defend me. He saves those whose hearts and lives are true and right." Psalms 7:10

Shield of Moses



The most prominent image of Moses in the Bible is that of a lawgiver. In the story of the burning bush, Moses received a divine calling and revelation from God (Exodus 3:1-22); that he would deliver the Hebrews from their bondage in Egypt and deliver them through the wilderness to the Promised Land. God reveals himself to Moses through the sign of a burning bush, which miraculously is not consumed by the flame. The imagery of the burning bush is that of God's holiness and glory. As a sign of His power, God instructed Moses to throw down his shepherd's rod and it became a serpent. Then, the Lord told him to grab it by the tail and it became a rod in his hand. This was God's way of proving to his people and Pharaoh that He was truly speaking through Moses. Exodus 4:1-5. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-18) were the laws given to Moses at Mt. Sinai, also known as Horeb, the Mountain of God. These laws were given so the people would live as God intended. Specific instructions were given to Moses on how to build the Tabernacle, a place for God to dwell amongst His people. Although many Bible scholars credit Moses with authorship of the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Pentateuch, it is never directly stated. It is known that God was the author of those words spoken through His prophet, Moses. The most important evidence supporting this is when Jesus refers to this section of the Old Testament as the "Law of Moses" (Luke 24:44).

Shield of Luke



Luke, a disciple of Paul, was one of seventy who worked with Paul traveling to Rome to convert Jews and Pagans to Christianity after Christ's death. He was born in Syria, well-educated and thought to be a physician or doctor. Luke was the only gentile writer of the New Testament and the author of the Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles. Unmarried with no children, he was fully committed to serve the Lord until his death at eighty-four. Luke was one of the four Evangelists with the winged ox as his symbol.

Serpent on the Tau Cross



This is a "type" of our Lord's crucifixion an Old Testament occurrence that parallels an event in Christ Jesus, life. "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up." John 3:14. Num.21:6

The Bronze Snake



Israelites traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us". So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it upon a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."

So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

Celtic Cross



The circle is a symbol for eternity. A pearl serpent ornaments the pictured cross to make its center.

Chi Rho with Alpha & Omega



The most widely known Chrismon is a combination of the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ. The Chi Rho (XP) was widely used by the early church.

Cross of the Disciples



Jesus called twelve men to become his disciples whom are represented by the twelve crystal beads in the center of the cross. They followed Christ and were loyal to him. He taught them and they became spokespersons for the Christian church. After Jesus' ascension, the disciples were empowered with the Holy Spirit. They began their "Great Commission" to spread the gospel throughout the world, becoming "fishers of men", symbolic of the Circle and fish. He told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commandments I have given you; and be sure of this – that I am with you always, even to the ends of the world." Matthew 28:18-20.

Shell



The shell symbolizes the regeneration of Baptism; the ritual of purification by water. The three drops of water symbolize the Triune. "Each one of you must turn from sin, return to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, then you also shall receive this gift the Holy Spirit." Acts: 2:38.

He Calms the Waters



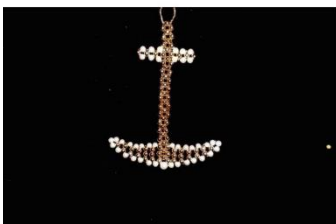
Since ancient times the church has been compared to a ship. We still refer to the main part of the church as the nave, the Latin word "navis" meaning ship. As Christ and his disciples crossed the lake there was a great storm and he said "Quiet down" and the water was calmed Mark 4:39

Beaded Fisher of Men



The Kingdom of God is compared to a dragnet in which all kinds of fish are swept up together. "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a net that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind." Matthew 13:47

Anchor



We have this hope as anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19

ARCANGELS

Archangels are angels of high rank. In the Old and New Testaments they delivered messages from God to various characters of the Bible. Gabriel, Michael, Rafael and Uriel were thought to be the highest ranking of all the archangels. Others of varying numbers and names are mentioned in religious text, Michael and Gabriel were the only two mentioned by name in the Bible.

Gabriel



Gabriel is the Hebrew name meaning “God is my strength”. Typically, this archangel served as a messenger of God. He is mentioned in both the Old and New Testament. Gabriel revealed himself to David to interpret his visions (Daniel 8:15-26, 9:21-27), to Zacharias (Luke 1:11-20), and to the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38), foretelling the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus. In this ornament, Gabriel is holding a lily, symbolizing purity and truth.

The large rose is representative of the Virgin Mary. The three rose beads at the base of the cross symbolize the three women present at the crucifixion. The three crystal points of the crown represents the Holy Trinity. The wings are the form of a cope (or cape) which he was often depicted wearing. Gabriel is the patron of the Sacrament of Baptism and small children.

Michael



Michael is a Hebrew name meaning “who is like God.” He is the most mentioned name of any archangel in the Bible. He is known as the warrior angel and is the leader of the armies of Heaven. In the Angelic War depicted in Revelations, he defeats the dragon (Satan) and his fallen angels. (Revelations 12: 7-9) In the book of Daniel, Michael led Daniel’s army into battle against the kingdom

of Persia. (Daniel 10:13, 21) Michael was said to be the protector of Israel and later the Christian Church. He is depicted with upraised wings of gold and dressed in the Golden Armor of God. He is carrying the Sword of the Spirit and the Shield of Faith and wearing the Helmet of Salvation. (Ephesians 6:13-17) Michael is the patron of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist/Communion.

Raphael



Raphael is a Hebrew name meaning “God heals”. Although Raphael is not mentioned in the Bible by name, he is in the Book of Tobit which is widely accepted as canonical by most modern-day denomination. In the Gospel of John, Raphael is generally associated with an angel who is stirring the water at the healing pools of Bethesda. He is also associated with all forms of healing and is said to carry a jug or gourd of oil or ointment. In this

ornament, Raphael holds a staff and is the guardian of travelers. The Staff-Cross has three crystal beads which symbolize the Holy Trinity. He is also the patron of the Sacrament of Penance. He is depicted in this symbolic pattern with folded wings, I prayer and forgiveness.

Uriel



Uriel is a Hebrew name meaning “God is my light” or “fire of God”. He represents the divine light of God’s truth and justice. Uriel is not mentioned in the modern Bible but is named in other books of the Hebrew Bible. The seraphim has six flaming wings and is thought to be an angel in Eden who wields a fiery sword. He is also the Angel of Noah, the Passover and the angel seen at the tomb of Jesus. Uriel is often depicted with a book or scroll of

wisdom. He provides the light of knowledge and truth of God to the world. The Scale of Justice he holds symbolizes the weighing of good and bad deeds at the final judgment. Uriel is the patron of the sacrament of Confirmation. The budding cross represents the young, new believer.

Chalice/Sacraments of the Church



The chalice symbolizes the Last Supper which Christ shared with his disciples on the evening before his death is his last will and testament. The Greek word Eucharist means thanksgiving. Communion is also known as the Lord's Supper.

Wheat & Grapes Chrismation/Confirmation



Confirmation marks the maturing believer's first Communion. The body and blood of Christ is received which strengthens our Faith through the forgiveness of Sins and our growth in the Holy Spirit. The Grapes and Wheat are products from which the visible elements are derived: the bread and wine use in this Rite.

Fish Bearing a Basket of Bread



The fish with a basket of bread illustrates our Lord Himself as the food, the bread of life. This is a reminder of our Lord’s presence in Holy Communion, of our Lord’s gift of Himself for us.

Latin Cross Fusilee Couped



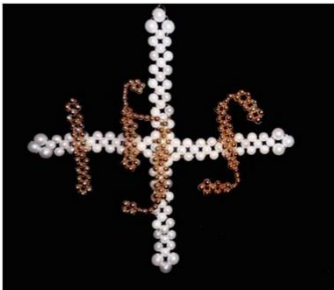
These crosses with which their Greek letters depict our Lord as the man Jesus (IHC), as the anointed Messiah. Christ (XP), and as God the One. Circles around the monograms for Jesus and Christ echo the idea of eternity which is implied in the use of the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet Alpha and Omega

Paired Latin Crosses Fusilee



One entwine with an Alpha, another with an Omega. (Fusilee-spindle; diamond-shaped). Revelation 1:8

Iota Eta Sigma (IHS) on a Greek Cross



This design employs the same Iota Eta Sigma monogram. Its use here on a Greek cross suggest the sacrifice that our Savior made for our salvation

Pearl Crown of 10 Commandments



The ten points of the crown represent the Ten Commandments received by Moses from God. These are the moral guidelines by which we all live. Exodus 20

Jacob's Dream



Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said; "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying."

Gold Star of Jacob - 5 Points



The 5-point star (Epiphany Star) announces the birth of Christ. A prophecy from the Old Testament told that "there shall come a star out of Jacob, a scepter shall rise out of Israel." Numbers 24:17 Jacob fathered 12 sons which became the tribes of Israel.

Iota Chi with Daisies and Lilies-of-the-Valley



Iota (I), the first letter of Jesus in Greek, combines with a Chi (X), the first letter of Christ, to make our Lord's cipher, an interwoven abbreviation of His title. The Iota is made of daisies to point to the innocence of the Child in the manger while the lilies-of-the-valley that form the symbolism of Christ's humanity.

FLOWERS OF FAITH

This series of white, flowering bulb plants bloom in the early spring, around Easter. The lifecycle of these plants symbolizes the life and death of both Christ and man. The white color represents purity, innocence and humanity. The promise of spring brings forth the rebirth of a new life. In the Bible flowers are usually made in reference to women, who carry the seeds of life. "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet, I tell you, not even Solomon, in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is there today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you – oh you of little faith." Luke 12:27-28

Daisy with Bud



The Daisy is a flower of simplicity and symbolizes the purity and innocence of the Christ Child. Referred to in the Bible as one of the "lilies of the field" cited to describe the Father's loving care of his children. Ablaze in an annual springtime color on the Mediterranean hillsides, daisies and other wildflowers such as the anemone, poppy and the chamomile reflect the beauty of Gods great creation. They bloom from seeds for only a few short weeks.

Their beauty quickly disappears but will bloom again to be reborn the next spring. (References: Matthew 6:28-29, Isaiah 35:1-2, Psalms 103:1-2)

Rose of Mary



A rose is a symbol of the Virgin Mary, the human birth or the Humanity. The thorns symbolize the crown of thorns worn by Christ on the cross. The rose bloom rises from its root or a branch. It is believed to be the "Jesse Tree" in the Bible. It is said to bear one perfect flower from its branch. The flower is symbolic of Jesus who is a descendent of Jesse, David's father from whose royal lineage the Messiah was prophesied to be born. (Isaiah 11:1-10).

Lily of the Valley



The low growth of this flower suggests Christ's humility. The three stems represent the Holy Trinity. This flower blooms in the spring from a dormant rhizome bulb. The verse, "I am the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley... ", which many Bible scholars attribute to the coming of the Messiah who rose from the dead to free us from our sins (Reference: Song of Solomon 2: 1).

Madonna Lily



The lily is a symbol of the Virgin Mary. The six petals symbolize the six days of creation. "Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, where seed is in itself upon the earth and it was good..." Genesis 1:11-13

Iris



There are over 200 varieties of the iris; various meanings are attached to the different colors of the flower. The blade-like leaves denote the sorrow which pierced Mary's heart during Christ's persecution. The three upright petals represent faith, valor and wisdom. The iris is planted on graves to guide souls to heaven.

Calla Lily



Despite the name, the Calla Lily is not an actual member of the lily family. The word Calla is derived from a Greek word, meaning beautiful." This regal, trumpet-shaped flower is commonly used in weddings.

Chi Rho in Sun



The most well-known symbol in the Greek language for Christ is Chi Rho (XP). "Then spoke Jesus again unto them, saying, ' I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. '" John 8:12

Lamb of God



In both the Old and New Testaments, the Messiah is compared to the Lamb. The Lamb symbolized gentleness, innocence and dependence. There are numerous passages that associate the Lamb with sacrifice. John the Baptist refers to Jesus at his Baptism. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." JOHN 1:29

The haloed Lamb carrying the banner of victory and staff of the cross is a token of Christ's resurrection and bitter agony preceding Christ's triumph.

Beaded Ribbon Cross



The circle of beads represents the eternal presence of God. The 2 figure eight ribbons symbolize infinity. God has and will always exist, with no beginning or end.

Butterfly



Our Lord's resurrection; resurrection of those who die in Christ. I Corinthians 15:20-23

Circle with Monograms, Cross



This design combines the cross and the Chi. But the butterfly at the center adds another element to the meaning. By the resurrection (butterfly) of the Christ (Chi) from the death on the cross (+) all humanity may look to eternal life.

Mother's Love



During the time leading up to the birth of Christ, many in the same country witnessed and spoke of wonderful things pointing to the place of the blessed event. "But Mary kept all of these things, and pondered them in her heart." LUKE 2:19. The pattern contains a heart with three crystals incorporated into the top of that heart. The heart represents Mary's emotions during her son's life from his glorious birth to his triumphant resurrection. The three crystals represent the Holy Triune. The birth of Jesus is symbolized by the details at the center of the cross; the single crystal bead cradled by the arch of gold beads. The Tau Cross represents the promise of salvation through the crucifixion and death of Christ and his resurrection on the third day.

Stylized Fish



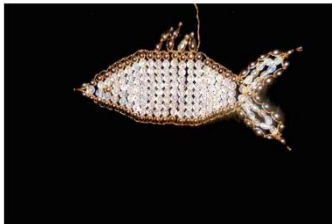
The Greek word for Fish, IXOYC, is a formation of the Greek words, Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior. John 20:31.

Three Fish Entwined in a Circle



Three fish reminds us that three persons participate in our salvation: The Father loves and gives; the Son is the means; the Spirit calls and enables us to respond. In this union we recognize the eternity of the one God.

Chrystal Fish



The symbol of the fish was used by early persecuted believers to discretely identify themselves as followers of Christ. Thus, the fish became a symbol of the faith. It was used to point the way to places of worship. The Greek word for fish represents Christ, God's Son and Savior. The crystal beads in the pattern symbolize the Holy Spirit or Triune of Christen Faith

Star of Bethlehem



This Star is a combination of a cross representing the crucifixion and the X is a stylized manger representing the Birth. The Chi (X) is also the first letter of the Greek word for Christ.

New Treflee Cross with the Rose of Mary



This Cross represents the life and death of Jesus. The rose symbolizes Mary, Christ's human birth and His humanity. The three buds at the end of the Cross suggest the "budding" of a young believer.

Embellished Crystal Passion Cross



This Cross is the most common form of the cross. The length of the lower arm of the Latin cross is twice the length of the other three which are of equal length. The cross is a reminder of Jesus' suffering which provides the gift of eternal life. The crystal beads represent the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Epiphany (Five--Points) Star and Rose



A combination of the rose and the five-point star design is a portrayal of the two-natures of the Christ: He is true God and he is true Man.

THE PARABLE BALLS

The Parable Balls depict our Lord's teaching about Himself, the Father, and the Kingdom. On some of the balls, one of the parables told by Jesus of Nazareth appears. Others show a "figure" that he used. A few balls illustrate words, phrases, or ideas which the Son of man expressed. To emphasize that each ball represents a teaching of Christ Himself, the Chrismons are named the Parable Balls. There are three kinds of original Parable Balls: Gold balls, to suggest the glory of the Father, which portray our Lord's teaching about His father and white balls, to symbolize the purity of the Man of Galilee, in which the Son describes Himself (the "I am balls). Open balls which depict the kingdom are of three concentric circles to imply that those in the Kingdom are encircled by "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit". Those of the Kingdom are in the hands of the Triune God.

The Father Balls

Plain Ball



A Gold ball which describes Father God who is Spirit: "Real worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. Such are the worshipers whom the Father wants. God is Spirit."

John 4:23

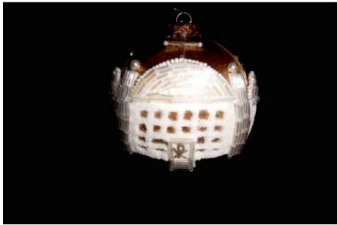
Nimbed Figure of the Son



The Father is like the Son: “He who has seen me has seen the Father.”

John 14:7

Mansion



The Father has a place for everyone: “in my Father’s house are many rooms.”

John 14:2

Flowers and birds



The Father knows our needs; He supplies them: “Consider the ravens...the lilies...your father knows...and these things shall be yours...”

Luke 12:24

Pearls On Butterflies, Square



The Father calls all men to His Kingdom and expects them to respond: “A king who gave a marriage feast for his son.”

Matthew 22:1

Vine, Shears



And He will help his children grow so that they can fill their places. “My Father is the vine-dresser... Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

John 15:1

Opened-Armed Father



But, the Father loves: "The prodigal son"
Luke 15:11

Fig Tree, Spade



He is merciful and just: "A fig tree planted...seeking fruit...and found none."
Luke 13:6

Balance Scales



He forgives as one forgives others; "A king who to settle his servant accounts."
Matthew 18:23

Ninety-Nine In, One Outside



And the Father searches to reclaim those who are lost: "A hundred sheep and one astray."
Matthew 18:12

Son Balls

Christ Jesus used symbols to explain His Life is the way for each person to return to the Father and eternal life. The white balls show some images and figures that he used. Our Lord says that the Father's arms are open. But how can humanity-mortal, sinful and weak-approach the majesty of the eternal God? Christ gives the answer when He explains what He is.

Road, Lamp Butterfly



"I am the way, the truth, and the life."
John 14:6

Man Running in Moonlight



And when He is asked, the Father gives more wisely than any earthly father or friend: "A friend...at midnight."
Luke 11:5

Wheat from the cross, loaf of bread



"I am the bread of life."
John 6:48

Christogram Radiating Light



"I am the light of the world."
John 18:12, 11:9

Cornerstone



“the stone which has become the head of the corner.”
Psalm 118:22, Luke 20:17

Door



“I am the door, if anyone enters by me...”
John 10:9

Caduceus in Fish



I am like a “physician” for the sick.
Mark 2:17

Bowl, Towel



“I am like your “slave” and your “servant”
Matthew 20:27; John 13:4

Five and One Talent



“I am like the master who gives talents...”
Matthew 25:14

Streams of Water From Rock



“I...give...living water....to eternal life”
John 4:10; 7:37

Vine and Christogram Roots



“I am the true vine”.
John 15:1

Crowned Good Shepherd



“I am like the king on his throne...who will separate them...as...sheep from the goats.”
Matthew 25:31

Open Kingdom Balls

He is truly King. But the Kingdom over which He reigns is unlike kingdoms of this world. It is not here for a few days or years or decades. His Kingdom is eternal; it is the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven. When he walked this earth as a man, our Lord probably spent more time proclaiming this Kingdom than in any other work. Certainly, the Kingdom is the subject of the majorities of His parables. Some of our Lord's "pictures" of the Kingdom are depicted in the open balls made of three concentric circles.

Little Children



The members of the Kingdom are the children of God. Our Lord said that man must be "born anew" and "become like children" to enter it.

Matthew 18:1; Mark 10:13; John 3:3

Large Cross Followed by Small Crosses



They follow their King, Christ Jesus, as He commands: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross...daily..."

Luke 9:23

Mirror



For as our Lord has said, "The kingdom of God never comes by watching for it. Men cannot say, 'Look, here it is', or 'There it is', for the kingdom of God is inside you."

Luke 17:20 (Phillips translation)

House on a Rock



Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is "like a wise man who built his house upon the rock".

Matthew 7:24

Ball Filled with Varied Beads



Every man who hears is invited to share in the kingdom. “A great banquet”.
Luke 14:15

Growing Wheat



He explained how the Kingdom of God grows: “First, the blade then the ear...”
Mark 4:26

One Large Pearl



Those who can see know that the Kingdom is like “one pearl of great price”.
Matthew 13:45

Tiny Beads Throughout the Ball

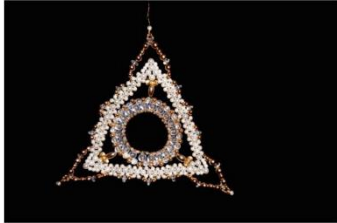


And the “leaven” which permeates the bread.
Luke 13:21

KINGDOM TRIANGLES

The equilateral Triangle with its equal sides forms one figure. This figure represents the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God in three persons. Like the Glory Orbs, these four Triangles represent Christ's description of himself in John 14:6. "I am the way, the truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." These designs are symbolic examples of how we can attain Eternal Life in the Kingdom of God. The Heaven Triangles represent the way to eternal life in Heaven through our Faith in the Savior. The Earth Triangles represent the promise of Eternal Life through our faith in Christ while living on this Earth.

Eternity Triangle/Heaven Triangle(I am the Light)



The Triangle and Circle are symbols of the Holy Triune and Eternal Life. The Circle is also like the Sun (Son), the source of Life. Together they represent Christ's presence in the World. John 8:12

Faith in Christ/Earth Triangle... (I am the Way)



There are three symbols in this pattern; the equilateral Triangle, the Boat and the Fish. The Boat is a symbol for the church, a gathering place for the faithful. The Fish is a symbol of Christ, the cornerstone of our Faith. "What a foundation you stand on now: the apostles and the prophets; and the cornerstone of the building is Jesus Christ himself. We who believe and are carefully joined together with Christ are parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. And you also are joined with him and each other by the Spirit and are part of this dwelling place of God." Ephesians 2:20-22

"I am the Way"/Cross Glory Orb:



"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. The Orb with the Cross symbolizes the path to Heaven is through our Faith.

Shamrock in Trinity/Earth Triangle..... (I am the Life)



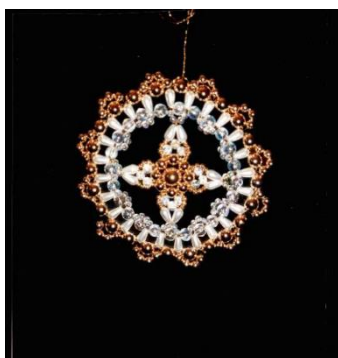
The Triangle and the Shamrock with its 3 leaflets on one stem are symbolic of the Holy Triune. This plant is used as a symbol of God's creation of life on Earth. The gold square in each corner represents the four corners of the Earth.

Holy Triune/Heaven Triangle..... (I am the Truth)



The Triangle is a visual aid reminding us; we are renewed by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the love of the Father and of the fellowship in the Holy Spirit. John 4:24

Children of Israel



In Genesis an Angel gives Jacob his new name, Israel, meaning "Champion of God. And he said, thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel for as a prince hast thou power with God and with man and hast prevailed." Genesis 32:28 He was blessed and his twelve sons became the 12 tribes of Israel. They ruled the Jewish World (symbolized by the outside Circle). The center Circle represents Heaven. In the center is the Greek cross.

Eight Point Star



When this design was used it was not always easy to be a Christian; not even in name alone. In Christian symbolism, the eight-pointed star refers to regeneration through Holy Baptism. 1 Peter 3:20-21

Three Entwined Circles



A Symbol for Holy Trinity, One God in three persons, each eternal, all one.

Cross and Chi



The Greek Chi (X) the first letter of Christ combines with the cross. We can never separate Christ and the Cross. Only when we understand both, can we begin to see the measure of God's love.

Triquetra and Circle



The Trinity in Eternity! The Eternal Triune! The Eternal One! The endless circle suggest eternity, God-the only eternal One, or eternal life with God. The one God who reveals Himself to man in three separate and distinct Persons.

Jerusalem Cross



live the Gospel.

This cross was on the shields of the crusader kings of Jerusalem. Some suggest that the five crosses symbolize the five wounds of our Lord. Another interpretation: The four Tau crosses which make up the center cross represents the Old Testament prophecies of a Savior. When the prophecies were fulfilled on a hill outside Jerusalem, our salvation was accomplished. The small crosses represent those who take up a cross, follow Him, and proclaim and

BRANCHES OF FAITH (Gold Diamond Base)

A four-sided design symbolizes the four comers of the Earth or Earthly things. The number four can also be a reference to the four Gospels or the four Evangelists.

Dogwood Branch



The legend of the Dogwood states that the tree originally had huge strong branches and was used to make the cross on which Jesus was crucified. After that time it never grew large enough to be used for a cross. Its branches were twisted and too small. The flower of the Dogwood tree resembles a cross in that it has only four petals. The brownish-red tips of the petals represent the stains of blood left on the cross after the crucifixion. The center of the

flower resembles the crown of thrones. The tree blooms in the spring (Easter) and represents new birth.

The Palm Branch



The palm tree, because it thrives in an oasis, became a symbol of fertility in the midst of the wilderness. The harvest of dates provided a source of food and a sweetener for wine used in festivals and ceremonies. The leaves and fronds of the palm tree are a symbol of victory. They were waved as Jesus entered Jerusalem. John 12:36

The Olive Branch



The olive tree is an evergreen tree cultivated in the Mediterranean region. There are more than 20 references to the olive tree in the bible. It was a staple in biblical times providing food and oil. In Genesis 8:10-11, the well-known story of the dove returning to the Ark with a freshly plucked olive branch confirmed to Noah that the flood had subsided and God's judgment of man was over. To this day the olive branch is a universal symbol of peace.

CHRISTIANITY

The most important events in Christ's life on earth have directly led to the celebrations and focus of today's church.

Birth of Christ



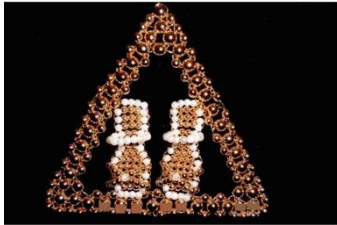
The nativity of the Messiah is told in Matthew 2:1 and Luke 2:6. The story of Jesus' birth is celebrated as Christmas in the Christian church. The story tells us of his humble birth in a stable. The announcement of the coming birth of the Christ Child was made by the Angels. The importance of this event to mankind was illustrated by the visitation to the stable of Christ's birth by the three kings.

Baptism of Christ



Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. When he came up, out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens open and the spirit descending upon him like a dove. Matthew 3:13-16. This event was recorded in all four gospels. Thus, the dove became a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The three droplets of water represent the triune (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). The shell is a symbol of baptism; the purification of the body and commitment to Christ.

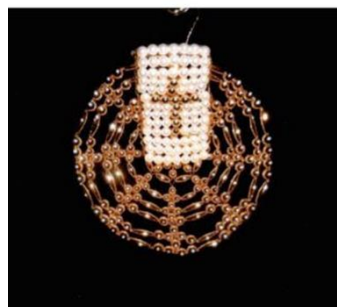
Ministry of Christ



Jesus called his twelve disciples together and sent them out two by two with the power to cast out demons (Mark 6:7-9). Because early Christians often went barefoot, the lacing of sandals signified preparation for a task or journey. Sandals are also a symbol of a free, humble, simple man. When describing God's armor, Paul says "wear shoes that are able to speed you on as you preach good news of peace with God." (Ephesians 6: 13-17).

Christians can promote his ministry by setting an example of love and forgiveness toward others.

Basin and Towel



The root of this practice appears to be found in the hospitality of the ancient civilizations, especially where sandals were the chief footwear. A host would provide water for a servant to wash the feet of his guest. At the last supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples "he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet and to wipe them with the towel he had around him." John 13:5. This act symbolized his humanity. "The servant is not greater than his master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sent him." John 13:14-17. Many denominations observe the

washing of the feet on Monday and Thursday of Holy Week.

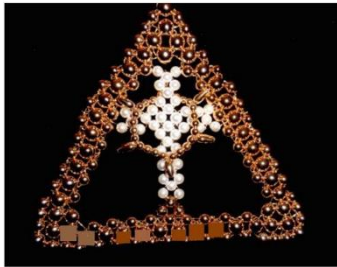
Last Supper



The Last Supper was the final meal Jesus shared with his twelve disciples prior to his crucifixion, described in three separate gospels: MATTHEW 26:17-30, MARK 14:12-26 and LUKE 22:7-30. It is celebrated as Communion in the modern church. The Passover Meal reflected the ancient deliverance of Israel from Egypt. The elements of bread (the body) "eat in remembrance of me," and wine (the blood) sealing the new covenant; "it is poured out to forgive the sins of the multitudes." (MATTHEW 26:27-28)

This witnessed the end of the messianic ministry of Christ.

Crucifixion of Christ



The cross combined with the crown of thorns is a symbol of Jesus' suffering. Through his death, Christians receive redemption through the forgiveness of sins. The three rosebud beads represent the three women at the foot of the cross; Mary, the mother, Mary Magdalene and his aunt, wife of Cleopas. John 19:17-30.

Resurrection of Christ



The story of the risen Christ from the tomb is told in all four Gospels (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:2, John 20:1, Luke 24:1-7). The Christian church celebrates the resurrection as Easter; the image of a new beginning and the renewal of life. It gives us hope of being united with Christ after death. "When Christ arose from the dead, now set your sights on the rich treasures and joys of heaven where he sits beside God in the place of honor and power." Colossians 3:1

Birth of the Church (Pentecost)



The Greek word Pentecost means "festival," which was celebrated at the end of harvest, fifty days after the Passover celebration. In Acts 2:1-21 the disciples gathered seven weeks after the crucifixion for the celebration. As the believers met that day, suddenly there was a sound like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them and it filled the house. Then, tongues of fire appeared and settled on their heads and everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in languages they didn't know, for the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. The promise from

Christ in his last weeks on earth before his ascension to heaven marks the birth of the New Testament Church. The miraculous speaking in foreign tongues enabled people from various language groups to understand the message of the Gospels.

Crown of the Cross Embellished



The crown is a symbol of the Kingship of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings. The crosses in the points of the crown symbolize the redeeming of mankind through his sacrifice for our sins. The eight points of the crown represent the eight days of the resurrections of our Lord.

The Latin Cross



The cross draped with a palm branch is a symbol of victory. Palm branches were being waved as Jesus entered Jerusalem, having been handed out to everyone on Palm Sunday.

Golden Unity Crown (7 Points)



The seven points of this Crown represent the unity of Heaven (the Triune God) and Earth (the four corners of the Earth).

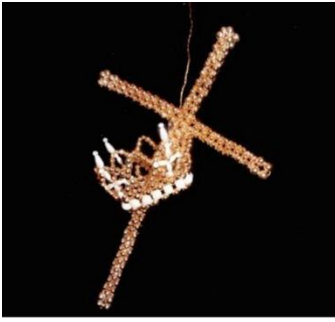
Crystal Greek Resurrection Cross



The Greek Cross is recognized by its four equal arms. This represents the spreading of the Four Gospels to the four corners of the world. The Rising Sun behind the cross symbolizes the new day which promises the forgiveness of our sins. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

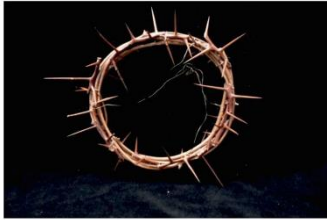
MATTHEW 16:24

Golden Latin Cross with Crown



Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone: Hebrews 2:9.

The Crown of Thorns



The crown of thorns placed on Christ head during his crucifixion represents the suffering he endured during crucifixion.

Wounded Crown (5 Points)



The 5 point Crown symbolizes the 5 wounds Christ suffered on the cross. The gold oval beads symbolize the wound, the large teardrop represents a drop of blood, and the gold filigree is the cup which holds the blood of Christ for Communion.

Large Pearl Cross



The large pearl cross with the three small Gold Crosses: Symbolizes Christ and the two robbers; one on his right and one on his left.

The Pearl Wounded Cross



The pearl wounded cross symbolizes the wounds of Christ. The three nails represent the ones driven into his hands and feet.

He Died For Me



A realistic depiction of Christ dying on the cross so that we might be forgiven for our sins.

Gold Latin Cross



The gold Latin cross draped with white linen used on Easter morning represents Christ resurrection. The cross associated with the death of Jesus, but more importantly, it becomes inseparable bound to all components of Christian faith. It represents the gift of eternal life to Christians and a symbol of victory over sin. "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me". Mark 8:34.

CROSS TRIUMPHANT (VICTORY)



Triumph of the gospel through the world: **Christ glorified.**