



Chapter 4

Stained Glass Windows



The sanctuary of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Glencoe has been described as “our own little cathedral” with its unique interior architecture and the resplendent stained glass windows all around. To the casual observer these windows are a decoration and cast light that enhances the mood, but on close inspection there is a wealth of premeditated Christian symbolism that is there for constant instruction and meditation.

This was not always the case. The church building was built in 1931 but because of budget issues the stained glass windows were not added until the 1950’s when individuals and organizations worked to fill in the spaces with stained glass panels.

There are a total of 20 windows in 14 locations. The majority of the windows were created for this church in 1954 and 55 by the Edward M. Leighton Stained Glass Studio. The window over the altar was the first however, done in 1949. Four are large windows with several panels each that mark the ends of the four arms of the cross. The sanctuary is laid out in the shape of the cross. The next smaller windows are the Apostle Windows. There are twelve in all in six window openings that run down the sides of the lower leg of the

cross. The windows that light the stairwells and the hall to the connector building are the smallest and depict the Beatitudes. The hallway to the connector building was once the coatroom and contained two windows. When the connector was opened up one window was removed and is now in a backlighted display case in the connector lobby.

Four Large Cross Windows

Window #1 (Alter window-top of the cross)

This window is one of the four large windows and is positioned over the altar in the front of the church. It is a part of the worshipper’s central view and is divided into two parts, lower and upper. The lower part is divided into three vertical panels. The center panel depicts Jesus standing and the outer panels depict angels. The angel on the left is holding a radiant blue globe overlaid with an inverted Tau cross and topped by a small normal cross. The angel on the right bears a radiant golden crown. The central feature of the upper or arch portion of the window is a blue square within a four-leaf clover shaped pattern encompassing an eagle within a circle. To

veterans of World War II this symbol is known as the “ruptured duck” The inscription under the window reads: “In honor of the Spirit of the men and women who served their country in World War Two.” This window was presented by the church as a whole.

Window #2 (East transept window-right leg of the cross)

THE RESURRECTION

This window shines on the east or right side of the cross horizontal and is larger than window #1 and divided into three sections: upper arch, middle and lower. The upper section or arch contains a central cloverleaf pattern in which there is a red square containing the symbol Alpha and Omega. The middle section contains three vertical panels, the center of which is the Resurrection panel featuring Jesus with stigmata and staff flanked at the left by the Roman soldier with his spear and on the right by his mother Mary. The inscription under the panel is: “I am the resurrection and the life.” The left middle panel is primarily decorative glass featuring a pomegranite and the similar right panel features a bird. The lower section is in three parts as well. Left and right panels are decorative glass. The center panel features a blue diamond with three lilies and the inscription on a yellow ribbon surrounding them: “Lo, I am with you always.” Across the bottom the inscription reads: “In grateful remembrance of the faithful workers who have served God through this church. This Resurrection Window is presented by Abram and Lydia DeLeeuw, Herman A. and Edith P. Ebling, George H. Laible and Henrietta J. Laible.” Dedicate June 5, 1955.

Window #3 (West transept window-left leg of the cross)

THE NATIVITY

This window shines on the left arm of the cross where the choir sits and is laid out like window #2 in three sections. The top arch section contains as its central feature a cloverleaf pattern containing a red square in which is inscribed: “IHS”. The middle section outer panels are primarily decorative glass with a pink flower as a symbol. The center panel is the Holy Family, Joseph, Mary seated with the Baby Jesus with a shepherd kneeling at Mary’s feet. The inscription reads: “For unto you is born this day a savior.” The lower section is three panels. Again, the outer panels are decorative glass while the center panel features a blue diamond containing a gold caduceus, the medical symbol of a winged staff entwined by two serpents. The inscription across the bottom of the window reads: “ Presented by Mr. And Mrs. Hillard Holm. In memoriam Dr. Hillard H. Holm. Presented by Mr. And Mrs. Raymond Rantala.” Dedicated January 23, 1955.

Window #4 (Balcony window-foot of the cross)

CHRIST HEALING THE BLIND

Window #4 is at the back of the church at the base of the cross and is in two sections. The upper arch section contains the cloverleaf pattern with a red square on which are written the Greek letters XPI . The lower section is in three panels. The outer panels are decorative glass, the left with a blue diamond containing a ship’s anchor and the right a heart shaped vessel with flame coming out the top. The center panel is Jesus making a blind man see. The inscription is: “and

their eyes were opened.” There is no dedication on this window. But, church records indicate that it was presented by the church as a whole, the Pilgrim Fellowship and the Sunday school In memoriam to: Frank Gaines, Howard Allen, Ina T. Pierce, Mrs. Jay Greaves, August Hartelt, Mrs. Froston I. Nelson, Mrs. Laura L. Tessmer, Hulda G. Burtman, Joseph Skorpik, Rev. Dana Getchell, Ambrose Le Roy Fretts, Mrs. Ole Roen and Robert L. Rodeck. Dedicated December 19, 1954.

The Apostle Windows (Nave windows)

Windows #5 - #10 are the apostle windows, each with two vertical panels. They flank the congregation on each side of the lower leg of the cross. Panels will be described going counter clockwise around the church from the left side. These windows were dedicated May 30, 1954.

Left Side

Window #5

The right panel depicts the Apostle Peter. Peter is holding two crossed keys in his right hand. Below is a red shield with two crossed keys overlaying an inverted cross. At the bottom: “Presented by the Mayflower Club.”

The left panel depicts the Apostle Andrew holding the cross of St. Andrew in his right hand in front of him. Below is a red Shield with an inverted anchor overlaying a Cross of ST. Andrew. “Presented by the Mayflower Club.”

Window #6

The right panel is the Apostle James holding a book under his right arm and a shepherd’s staff in his left hand. The red shield below contains a hat, a staff and the letters S.J. “by Earl and Ada Barnum.”

The left panel is the Apostle John holding a quill pen in his right hand and an open book in his left. The red shield contains a coiled serpent inside a golden chalice. “In memory of the Barnums.”

Window #7

The right panel is the Apostle Philip with his right hand raised index finger extended and a rolled parchment in his left hand. Below in the red shield is a basket over which is a Tau cross. “Presented by Mr. And Mrs. Herman Ebling in memory of Ina T. Pierce.”

The left panel is the Apostle Bartholomew holding a case displaying three knives. Below in the red shield is a plant with fruit that appears to be a pear. “Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Moravec and Mr. And Mrs. Anthony D. Felepe.

Right Side

Window #8

The right panel is the Apostle Thomas holding a carpenter's square in his right hand, gesturing with his left. The red shield contains a carpenter's square over a spear. "Presented by the Ladies Aid".

The left panel is the Apostle James the Less holding a book under his right arm and a spear in his left hand. The red shield contains a handsaw flanked by two rocks. "Presented by the Ladies Aid."

Window #9

The right panel shows the Apostle Mathew holding a bag of coins in his right hand and a shepherd's crook in his left. The red shield below shows three bags of coins. "and Mr. and Mrs. Loren Buss, Alden and William."

The left panel is the Apostle Thaddaeus holding an open book in front of him in his right hand and a spear crossing his body in his left. The red shield has a crossed gold club and spear overlaying an inverted silver cross. "Presented by Mr. And Mrs. L. O. Butler and Mr. And Mrs. H.H. Bruckschen, Bob and Betty."

Window #10

The right panel shows Apostle Simon the Zealot holding a long two man cross cut saw vertically in his right hand and an open book in front of him in his left. The red shield contains a book standing on its binding with a fish laying on top. "In memory of Dr. Wallace L. Tiff: presented by Elizabeth Tiff Lytle and Catherine Tiff Merrill."

The left panel is the Apostle Paul with his right hand resting on a vertical sword and an open book in front of him in his left hand. The red shield below contains an open book overlapping a sword with the words "Spiritus Gladius" on the pages. "Mrs. Wallace L Tiff. Presented by Elizabeth Tiff Lytle and Catherine Tiff Merrill.

Small Windows Outside the Sanctuary

Beatitude Windows

Window #11

Window #11 is a small window on the first landing of the balcony stairs. A red shield shows an overflowing gold chalice surrounded by a white ribbon with the words: "Blessed are they that mourn." Across the bottom: "Presented by Orrin O. and Linnie B. Vaughan."

Window #12

This window is on the south wall over the stairs to the basement fellowship hall. It has a red shield containing a flying dove with a branch in its beak. It is surrounded by a white ribbon: "Blessed are the Peacemakers." "Presented by Estelle Albrecht in memory of Louis P. Albrecht and Louis P. Albrecht Jr."

Window #13

Window #13 is in the hallway to the connecting building, formerly the coatroom. It has a red shield with a lamb reclining. The inscription is: "Blessed are the Meek." "Presented by Mr. And Mrs. Frank E. Miska and Lyle J. Miska."

Window #14

Window #14 was formerly on the east wall of the coatroom but when the hall was opened up it was moved to a backlighted display case in the lobby of the connecting building. Its red shield contains three lilies and the inscription "Blessed are the Pure in Heart." "In honor of Rev. and Mrs. D.C. Truesdale."

