

# GLEN ABBEY UNITED CHURCH

## Our Stained-Glass Windows

### ***The Welcoming Church***

*A community of ordinary  
people welcoming  
others to join us in seeking to  
be faithful  
followers of Jesus Christ.*

### **GLEN ABBEY UNITED CHURCH**

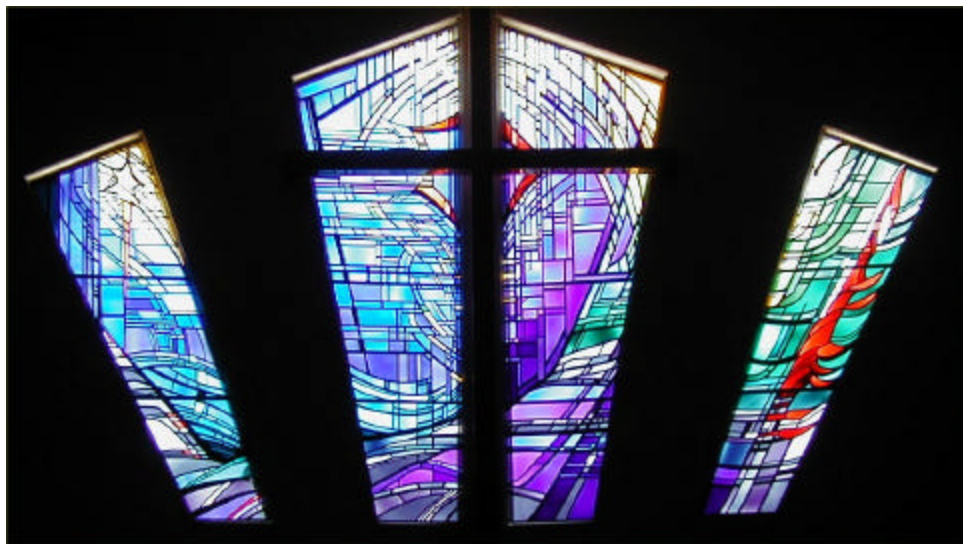
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By means of colour, line and symbol, the chancel window represents the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples at Pentecost. In doing so, all four lights of the window relate to the cross at the center.

In the left light the traditional symbol of the Nativity, the star, tells of the beginning of Jesus' life. The small green areas coming from the star and moving down the window represent growth and beginnings. Green is also the colour of Epiphany. Blue represents Heaven and is the colour for Advent when we prepare for the coming of God into human life and history.

Towards the bottom, the blue changes to turquoise and with the movement of line represents water, signifying the baptism of Jesus. The gray represents the earth where Jesus dwelt among us. The purple at the bottom of the left and center left lights foreshadows events of the Passion to come.

In the centre left light, blue symbolizes the spirituality and ministry of Christ. The white and amber rays coming down from the center represent God and the Holy Spirit. Moving through the blue, this white and amber and green continues the idea of spiritual growth as the line also reflects the advancing ministry of Christ. Water also flows into this light from the left referring to many references to water throughout Jesus' life and the whole Bible.

In the center right light, with the white and amber of God and the Spirit, purple turns towards the sorrow and suffering of the Passion. Purple is the colour for Lent when we identify in penitence with the death of Christ for us. The Passion is also symbolized by the Crown of Thorns. The lines of this light are more static to reflect the ending of Christ's life on earth. But the area of green represents hope in the Resurrection.

The movement of the lines in the right light recalls the rushing wind and the red represents the tongues of fire at Pentecost. The familiar white dove in the upper left corner of this light symbolizes the descent of the Spirit. The predominance of green continues to represent growth, hope and positive energy expressed in the life and witness of this congregation in the community and the whole church throughout the world.

## THE WINDOW INSCRIPTION

**"God, impart strength;  
and in that strength, reason;  
and in reason, knowledge;  
and in knowledge, justice;  
and in justice, the love of it;  
and in that love, love of everything;  
and in the love of everything,  
the love of God."**

*St. Talhaiarn*



The Winged Human-St. Matthew | The Winged Lion-St. Mark | The Winged Ox-St. Luke | The Winged Eagle -St. John

These ancient symbols of the four gospels are featured in the Book of Kells which is really four books - one for each gospel - the books are finely illuminated and ornamented and date from c. 650 - 800. The window symbols have been inspired by this ornamentation. The gospels are specially housed and kept by Trinity College, Dublin.

The St. Matthew windows are given in memory of the victims of September 11, 2001.

The St. Mark windows are given in memory of a former member of the congregation as an act of celebration and thanksgiving.

The upper St. Luke window is given in celebration of the power of the written word.

The lower St. Luke window is given in acknowledgement of God's cry for justice and peace in our world. May the voices of the silenced, the marginalized and the oppressed be liberated through our acts of justice.

The St. John windows, are given in celebration of God's presence and blessings.

### **"Go Now In Peace"**

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

