

The Resurrection Window: A Sermon in Glass



The Resurrection Stained Glass Window is the featured architectural element inside the sanctuary. The window is designed to tell the biblical story, capturing the most important themes of scripture. The window was designed and created by Judson Studios of Los Angeles, California. Tim Carey is the lead artist. Also consulting and providing artistic expertise on the project is world-renowned glass artist Narcissus Quagliata.

Beginning 35 feet above the chancel floor, the Resurrection Window will rise another 37 feet and span a width of 92 feet. Each rectangle is a panel 5 feet tall by 4 feet wide. There are 161 panels, 3,404 square feet and between 5,000 and 6,000 individual pieces of painted, fused, etched and glazed glass. The stained glass will be protected from outside elements by an exterior wall of clear glass.

The Church of the Resurrection congregation as well as sacred art patrons in the community and across the county contributed \$3.4 million in honor or memory of loved ones to create this work of art which will proclaim God's story for generations to come.

THREE GARDENS AND THREE TREES

The Biblical story portrayed in the window begins in a garden, it ends in a garden, and in between, Christianity's most important redemptive story takes place in a garden. At the center of each of these gardens is a tree. These three gardens with their trees form the unifying theme of scripture. The window is a triptych with three panels capturing these three gardens and their stories.

The left panel takes us to the opening scenes of the Bible: Creation and the Garden of Eden, Paradise. At its center is the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit and paradise is lost. The leaves on the tree are turning colors; its bark is darkened. The left panel also includes key figures and events from the Old Testament.

In the center of the window is another garden. John writes in his gospel that Jesus was crucified in a garden, buried in a garden, and when he rose from the dead, he appeared to Mary as a

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS 66224
913-897-0120 | www.cor.org

gardener. John intends for us to see that Christ has come to restore Paradise and to set the world aright. In this panel the "tree" is the cross where Jesus died to redeem humanity. Central to this window is the resurrected Christ beckoning all who enter to come to him. The panel also includes key scenes from the life of Christ.

To the right in the window is Revelation's restored Eden, paradise, and at its center is the Tree of Life whose leaves bring "healing for the nations." Its leaves are lush and green. Paradise has been restored. In the foreground are biblical images of the "peaceable kingdom" – the wolf lies down with the lamb and swords are beat into ploughshares. This section of the window is the story of the Church, from the day of Pentecost to the present and beyond.