

god's message in our windows

“God . . . at various times and in different ways spoke in times past . . . has in these last days spoken to us by His Son . . .” (Hebrews 1:1,2). Perhaps one could apply these words to the stained glass windows that beautify and enhance the worship experiences of countless believers.

Centuries ago, when most of the common people could not read, they had their own “Bible-in-Pictures” surrounding them in the cathedrals and churches of Europe. Those windows depicted the stories of the Bible, both Old and New Testament - the life of Jesus, the images of saints and martyrs, along with symbols that contained eternal truths.

The Bible identifies Jesus as “the Word” of God. That “Word” “became flesh.” That “Word” is also “fleshed out” through the medium of colors, symbols and scenes depicted by artists working with glass and lead.

Windows have a very practical purpose; they “let in the light” and add beauty to a worship space. Pilgrim’s beautiful stained glass windows serve a parallel purpose. ***“God who commanded light to shine out of darkness . . . has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus” (II Corinthians 4:6).*** Pilgrim’s windows, most of which portray aspects of Jesus’ life and ministry, point the viewer to Him who is ***“the Light of the world.”***

For well over a half century, worshipers at Pilgrim have been able quietly to meditate and contemplate the images and stories portrayed front and back and on both sides of the church that point to Jesus as our “Beautiful Savior.” Indeed, “one picture is worth a thousand words,” especially when that picture shines forth through the interplay of light and color. For many believers, the images they first saw of Jesus in the stained glass windows as children will remain indelibly printed in their hearts and memories.

From the three panels over Pilgrim’s altar depicting the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus to the windows in the choir loft symbolizing the believer’s ultimate heavenly hope, those images have instructed, comforted, and inspired generations of people. It is our hope and prayer that they will inspire many more.

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