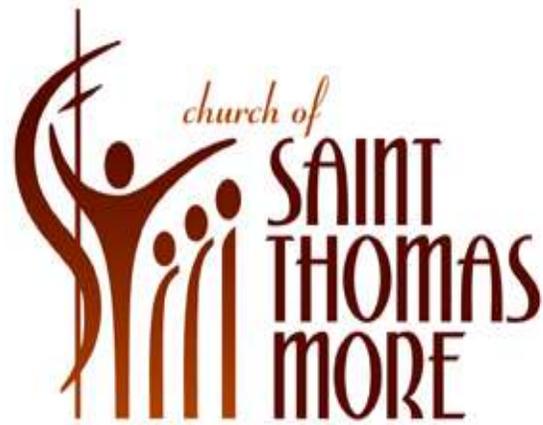


Our Window – The Waters of Redemption

Entering the Church of St. Thomas More for the first time, I gasped—a quick intake of breath as I looked at the beautiful sweeping colors of green, gold and blue—that magnificent stained glass window. I am still moved each time I enter the church, as those images draw me in, inviting me to explore a deeper mystery.



The three windows that make up this collage are entitled “The Waters of Redemption.” This work, by Crescent City, California artist Roger Hogan, is the story of our salvation, from the Creation story of Genesis to the images of the New Jerusalem in Revelation.

It best explained when viewed from right to left. Above the choir area to the west, is the depiction of Creation, with the sun, the moon and other planets atop blue swirling waters that bring forth flowers at the bottom. In this window, an invested white cross, piercing the waters, is a precursor of the cross and resurrection that leads to our redemption. Even in Creation, God has a plan of redemption.

The large center window, again from right to left, shows the waters receding and mountains appearing in silhouette. A vine down the center symbolizes God’s people, while the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove ties the people of God with manna falling from heaven, God’s provision and grace in our communion. To the left of the dove is the mountain of Calvary, and the sweeping lines of the entire window draw our attention to the Cross—the instrument of our Redemption.

The rising corpus, carved in white basswood, recalls the hope of Resurrection. The cross itself is a deep mahogany; the reddish wood a symbol of Christ’s blood. That image continues in the waves of water on the paneled wall behind the cross. The waters of creation have given way to the waters of redemption in the blood of Christ. The green that sprouts in the rear window on either side of the wood showcase the cross as the tree of life.

The final panel, to the east, shows the waters becoming a sea of grass. This window depicts images from the book of Revelation, with the new and holy city, Jerusalem rising behind figures gathered at a heavenly table. Again, a white cross pierces the image, an upright cross this time—a cross of victory, a symbol of our redemption.

Steve Raml
Director of Liturgy & Music