

Chancel Window

The chancel window at Knox Church consists of seven main lights. The main theme is *The Glorifying of the Coming of Christ*. The Child Jesus, the Word made Flesh, sits on His mother's knee with hands upraised in blessing. The white and shining figure of the Child, focal point of the whole composition, is thrown into sharp relief by the deep glowing blue of the mother's robe. The great star of Bethlehem draws together the adoring shepherds and the richly clad figures of the magi who offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Angels of praise bearing trumpets kneel on the stable roof, while at the feet of the virgin two small crowned angels offer the celestial crown to the new born Saviour.

Under the text *My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord* a panel depicts the Last Supper, and appropriately links the window with the communion table below. On either side of the lamb, symbol of the crucified Christ, are shields with the sacred monograms P.X. (Greek, Chi Ro) and I.H.S.

The large figures in the side lights represent, on the left, David, king, psalmist and ancestor of Christ; Isaiah, one of the four major prophets bearing a scroll with the opening words of his prophecies *Arise. Shine for Thy Light is Come*, and a saw, traditional instrument of His death. On the right stands Andrew, fisherman, apostle and patron saint of Scotland; and John Knox, reformer, whose name is borne by this Church.



The four medallions beneath the figures complete the design of the lights, and illustrate events around the nativity: the annunciation; the announcement to the shepherds; the presentation in the temple; and the boy Jesus disputing with the elders.

The upper part of the window is filled with symbols of the evangelists; angels of praise bearing musical instruments; cherubims; the pelican, symbol of piety; and the phoenix, symbol of resurrection. Above are the burning bush, the archangels Gabriel and Michael, the star of Judah, the cross, the orb and the tongues of flame. Uppermost is the dove of the Holy Spirit and the Greek letters, alpha and omega, the beginning and the end.

The window is made in a mosaic fashion with 20,000 pieces of small jewel-like pieces of coloured glass, pieced together and held by strips of lead, producing glowing effect of coloured



light reminiscent of the great windows in the 13th century cathedrals. Blue in many shades, the colour of purity and truth, gives the keynote to the subject of the window.

The Knox Church people sought after the best stained glass artists in the world, and chose William Wilson, R.S.A, later to become O.B.E, who trained with some of the finest artisans, and then set up his own studio near the Dean Bridge in Edinburgh in Scotland. The congregation spent a lot of money, \$10,000 in their day, perhaps equivalent to \$200,000 today.

Gallery Window

In 1968 the same artist, by now blind, was asked to design the window in the gallery of Knox church. His artistic vision was still intact, and he dictated it to a colleague for construction. This window has as its theme the Revelation of St. John. In the centre are three figures representing the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is on the throne, the risen Christ on his right and the dove (symbolizing the Spirit) on the left. Adam and Eve are below, and Abraham, Isaac and Jacob flank them. On the far left is Jesus as the Lamb of God, and on the far right the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. At the top are six Scottish saints – Margaret, Columba, Ninian, Machar, Mungo and Cuthbert.