

THE SANCTUARY MOSAIC WINDOW

The translucent mosaic window overlooking the Communion Table is said to be the first of its kind. It was installed when the Sanctuary was built in 1963.

It is composed of small glass cubes bonded to a heavy plate glass backing by epoxy cement. Jack Cartlidge, the Sarasota artist who designed the window, developed the process. The development of this process required three years of experimenting by Mr. Cartlidge. The window is 27 feet wide, 12 ft high on the sides and 16 feet in the center. It has over 100 shades of color.

The translucent color mosaics were manufactured in Mexico by Enrico Valderrama, a world famous mosaic glass artist. The mosaics were assembled on paper in Mexico and shipped to Sarasota where Mr. Cartlidge mounted them on the plate glass. The panels were then shipped to the Church where they were framed and assembled by The Pinellas Machine Company.

The left side shows figures from the Old Testament beginning with Adam and Eve at the extreme lower left. Above them is Abraham. Next, to the right, is Moses holding the two halves of the Ten Commandments high over his head after he had broken the stone in anger. The next figure is Ruth. To her right is David as a Shepherd. The last figure is David as the King.

The panels on the right side are all one scene with Jesus, after his Resurrection, showing the wounds in his hands to some of his Disciples and other followers, one of which may be Thomas.

Three small crosses and an empty tomb appear in an upper panel.

Originally the mosaic glass faced outside. The sun and moisture caused the mosaic glass to delaminate from the plate glass in several lower panels. This problem was repaired twice. When it happened a third time the Trustees Committee contracted with the artist and his son to reverse the application. Each cube of mosaic glass was removed, cleaned and the entire scene was reassembled facing inside. The window was then reinstalled inside the Sanctuary and the Amber glass window was installed outside to protect the mosaic from excessive heat.

