

FIGURES OF THE GODHEAD

In our sanctuary, we are surrounded by symbols---images whose messages are reminders of *our faith*. Ever since the days when people began to think about their relationship to the Creator God, they have used symbols and imagery to speak of that experience. For the early church, these symbols became reminders of the story. For people of faith through the centuries, they are both devotional and educational. It is, for instance, a little easier to understand the concept of the Trinity when you can see it.



In the center of the apse are the **Figures of the Godhead**.

The Cross, created in cherry wood, is the work of *Richard Ward Baxter*, a timberwright and boatbuilder. On the side sections are the **shields of the twelve Apostles**, which, along with the symbols of God and the Holy Spirit, are rendered in stoneware clay reliefs by the artistic and inspired hands of *GRACE POWERS FRAIOLI*, a member of this congregation. The cut-out image of each relief usually represents the means by which each Apostle's life was taken. The symbols of

the Apostles, whose life stories and martyrdom we all know, serve to remind us of our heritage and to lift our faith.

The Eye, symbol of God's "all-seeing eye." "Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him."



The Dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit. Mark 1:10 reminds us that at Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descended as a dove. Notice the three-rayed nimbus around its head. A nimbus is a luminous emanation believed to envelop a deity. This flame is also a reminder of the Holy Spirit's anointing of the disciples with tongues of fire in the Pentecost story (Acts 2:3-4). The



dove image also reminds us of peace and salvation. "O that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest" (Psalm 55:6). Jesus also said, "So be wise as serpents and as innocent as doves." (Matthew 10:16)

The Cross, this simple cherry wood Latin cross is the centurys' old symbol of Jesus' ultimate act of love.



All Tours:

- ❖ TOUR OF APOSTLES SYMBOLS
- ❖ TOUR OF SIGNPOSTS ALONG THE WAY
- ❖ TOUR SYMBOLS OF THE GODHEAD
- ❖ TOUR OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
- ❖ HISTORY OF GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE

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