

Chrismons

What are Chrismons?

Chrismons are Christian symbols. You can find chrismons on altar hangings, church banners, clergy stoles, church bulletins, etc. Just look around you!

The chrismons shown here are used as Christmas tree ornaments in many Christian churches.

The Scripture passage indicated after the picture is but one meaning that can be attributed to it. Chrismon symbols can mean many and different things to different people. Each chrismon ornament on the tree can tell a little story about who the Savior is and what He came to do.



ALPHA/OMEGA

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8) Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They teach us that our whole salvation from sin, from beginning to end was accomplished by Jesus.



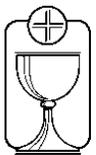
STAR OF DAVID

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." (Revelation 22:16) The prophets foretold that Jesus would be a descendant of King David, and that His rule would be everlasting.



THE VINE

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5) Jesus is the one true source of life and good works. Without faith in Jesus it is impossible to do good works.



COMMUNION CUP/BREAD

"Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19). In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His true body together with the bread as a seal and assurance of the forgiveness of our sins.



IHS

IHS are the first three letters of JESUS in Greek. In Latin: "**I**esus **H**ominum **S**alvator" (Jesus, Savior of Mankind). *"You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:21)



A CHURCH

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)



A LAMP

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105) The Bible teaches us the way of salvation and instructs us in Christian doctrine and life.



SERPENT ON A POLE

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up.” (John 3:14) In Numbers 21 we read about the poisonous snakes that killed many people. But in mercy the Lord provided the cure. Just look and believe. In the same way Jesus is God’s true solution to the penalty and punishment of sin. Just look and believe.



THE CROWING COCK

Symbolizes denial: *Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!”* (John 13:38) and forgiveness: *The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”* (John 21:17)



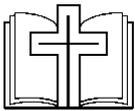
THE FISH

The Greek word for “fish” is “IXTHUS” (ichthus). Those letters are also an acronym for Jesus Christ Son of God Savior. The fish is one of the most ancient of Christian symbols.



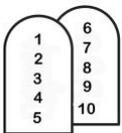
THE BUTTERFLY

A symbol of Resurrection, both Christ's and ours — *“He is not here; he has risen!”* (Luke 24:6) *“Because I live, you also will live.”* (John 14:19)



BIBLE

“Whoever hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24) The Bible is God’s holy Word, given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.



THE TABLES OF STONE

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30,31)



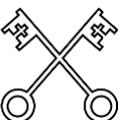
DOVE AND CROSS

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15). The gift of the Savior and the Holy Spirit.



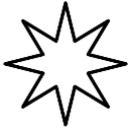
CANDLE

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)



KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. (Revelation 1:18)



EIGHT-POINTED STAR

The eight-pointed star symbolizes the eight survivors after God destroyed the world by a flood. *Long ago God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water.* (1 Peter 3:18-21)



FIVE-POINTED STAR

The five-pointed star is usually associated with the star that the wise men saw: *Magi from the east came and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."* (Matthew 2:1,2)



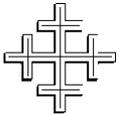
CHI-RHO

Chi and Rho (c r) are the first two letters of the word **CHR**ist in Greek. *Andrew found his brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).* (John 1:40,41)



HAND OF BLESSINGS

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (Revelation 4:11)



FOUR-DIRECTIONS CROSS

Symbolizes the gospel of the cross taken to the North, South, East, and West — *"And you will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8)



THE SHELL

The shell is a symbol of baptism — water and the Trinity (the three drops): *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* (Matthew 28:19)



ANCHOR

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. (Hebrews 6:19)



DESCENDING DOVE

The most common symbol of the Holy Spirit — *"As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove."* (Mark 1:10)



VICTORIOUS LAMB

John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) *"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"* (Revelation 5:12)



HEART AND CROSS

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

**LATIN CROSS**

There is . . . one Lord, one faith, one baptism. (Ephesians 4:5)

**HEART**

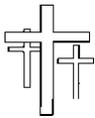
Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8)

**CROSS AND RINGS**

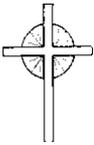
A symbol of Christian marriage: "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve . . . but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15) "Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Mark 10:9)

**CROSS WITH ORB**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . . and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18,20)

**TRIPLE CROSSES**

They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. (Mark 15:27,28)

**CROSS IN GLORY**

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." (Matthew 28:5,6)

**TRIANGLE**

A symbol of the Holy Trinity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18)

**INTERLOCKING RINGS**

Build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. (Jude 1:20,21)

**SHEPHERD'S STAFF**

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. (Psalm 23:1) . . . I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)

**CROSS AND CROWN**

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)



BELLS

Symbol of joy and call to worship — *I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”* (Psalm 122:1) Also a symbol of joy — *Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.* (Psalm 98:4)

Compiled by Rev. Robert O. Balza