

*Trinity Sunday Banner - an Explanation of our Presbyterian Church
U. S. A. Seal Source: Appendix E - Book of Order PCUSA*



While these are our Trinity Sunday banners, the purpose of this message is to explain the meaning of the seal of the church, as a registered trademark. The seal has many symbols, including the cross, scripture, descending dove on the upper part of the cross, and flames on either side of the cross.

The cross is the dominant figure, as the universal symbol of the Christian church, representing the love of God in Jesus Christ, his passion and resurrection. It is modeled after the Celtic cross, with the two top lines resembling a book (Bible), and pulpit.

The upper part allows for the descending dove, as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, inspiring and interpreting Scripture in the life of the church. The dove also symbolizes Christ's baptism by John the Baptizer. In the descending body of the bird, there is a shape of a fish, which was an early-Christian sign for Christ, recalling his ministry to those who hunger.

Included in the lower part of the design are flames, implying a triangle, symbol of the Trinity. Flames have a double meaning; in the Old Testament, God spoke to Moses from a burning bush, and in the beginning of the Christian church when Christ empowered his apostles at Pentecost and charged them to be messengers of the Good News.

In Corinthians, Paul reminds us that the church has many members, with different gifts - this scripture is used as an analogy for the seals individual parts, when taken together, for visual and symbolic unity.

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