

Chrismon Symbols

Chrismons are "Christ monograms," each one representing God, the work of God, or of Christians and the Church doing God's work.

Symbols in **red** are the ones that we already have.

Symbols in **green** are additional ones that we are working on right now.

Symbols in black are the new ones that we plan to make in the future.

Our thanks to all the members of First Christina Church, past and present, who have given their time and talents to create this symbols. They are truly gifts of love!

1. **Alpha and Omega**- A symbol of divinity. First and last letter of Greek alphabet, since only God is BEFORE and AFTER all. Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end." Revelations 13; Isaiah 44:6, 48:12.
2. **Anchor with Cross**- An old symbol for Jesus. The early persecuted Christians used this symbol since they were able to see in such an anchor the Christian hope, while non-Christians saw only an anchor. The idea doubtless came from Hebrews 6:10, "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, an hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf." Hebrews 6:19-20
3. **Bible**- Gen. 1-Rev. 22 - The symbol of the Word of God which is given to all people to be a guide to knowing who God is, what God wants, and what we need to do to be saved.
4. **Butterfly**- Symbolizes our Lord's Resurrection; the resurrection of those who die in Christ. The Christian is first a mortal man and lives a lowly life; then he enters death, that which appears the end; but he is raised into the greatest gift God has to impart, eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 15:20-23
5. **Chalice**- Representing Christ's sacrifice, the Holy Communion. One of the finest of Christian symbols, standing for faith or worship or Holy Communion. The Disciples of Christ have taken this symbol for the church, with a Cross of St. Andrew on the Chalice. Mark 14:22; I Corinthians 11:23; John 4:14
6. **Chi Rho**- First letters for Christ in Greek; also refers to the Latin, Christus Rex, Christ the King. This is the most widely known Chrismon, and is the oldest known monogram for Christ. It was commonly used in the early church.
7. **Crowing Cock**- Because of its crowing early in the morning, the cock is used as an emblem of watchfulness and vigilance. The cock has also become one of the symbols of the Passion. This is based upon Christ's response to Peter's avowal of loyalty. John 13:38

8. **Crown of Righteousness** - Represents the victory He won for all, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. I Timothy 6:15; Revelation 14:14; Romans 8:34
9. **Crown and Cross**- The cross serves to remind us of Christ's death, and the crown symbolizes the rewards of the faithful in life after death. Revelations 2:10
10. **Crown of Thorns**- Our Savior's crown of suffering. Mark 15:17
11. **Daisy**- Symbol of the Christ Child's innocence.
12. **Descending Dove**- A symbol of the descending of the Holy Spirit of peace. All four gospels report that the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus as or like a dove from heaven. Mark 1:10; Matthew 3:16; John 1:32
13. **Dove**- A symbol of purity and peace. The dove by its nature symbolizes simplicity and gentle affection. In general usage, the dove is the symbol of the human soul.
14. **Dove with Olive Branch**- In the story of the flood, the dove, sent from the ark by Noah, brought back an olive branch to show that the waters had receded and that God had made peace with man. Genesis 8
15. **Fish with Chalice in his Mouth**- Used as a symbol to mark a house in which the Lord's Supper was to be secretly celebrated.
16. **Flames**- Pentecost Acts 2:1-4; I Corinthians 15:23
17. **Fleur-de-lis**- French for 'flower of the lily'. It is emblematic of the Trinity because of its threefold division. It is also an emblem of the Virgin Mary.
18. **Harp**- Symbol of all music that glorifies God. I Chronicles 13:8
19. **Ichthus**- The Greek word for fish forms an acrostic on the first letters of 'Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior'. One of the most ancient symbols for our Lord. Early Christians used the fish widely as an easily made and recognized secret sign. During the times of persecution of the early church, Christians could find one another by using this simple password. To the outsider, the fish was a mere decoration; to the Christians, it held deep significance. Centuries later, in 1963, a news story reported that Cuban Christians, when they found themselves in a situation similar to that faced by the first Christians, revived the use of the emblem. John 20:31
20. **IHS**- the monogram for our Lord's given name...based on the first three letters of JESus in the Greek alphabet. The American meaning is 'In His Service'. Matthew 1:21-25
21. **Lamb**- The lamb who takes away the sins of the world. John 1:29
22. **Lamp**- "I am the light of the World" John 8:12

23. **Lilies**- A symbol of purity, innocence, and immortality. It has become the flower of the Virgin Mary as well as the symbol of eternal life through resurrection.
24. **Manger**- The most famous Christmas symbol. Luke 2:7; II Corinthians 8:9
25. **Pelican**- The symbol of Atonement. A Lenten symbol for sacrifice and the Lord's Supper. In legend, the pelican fed her young with her own blood. Psalm 102:6; Matthew 26:27-28
26. **Phoenix**- Introduced into Christian symbolism as early as the first century, when the legend of this bird was related by St. Clement in his first Epistle to the Corinthians.
27. **Rose**- Symbol of the Messianic Promise, often combined with a cross. Gen. 49:10; Numbers 24:17,19; Jeremiah 23:5, Psalms 2, 45, 72 and 110
28. **Scallop Shell**- A sacrament of Holy Baptism. The baptism of Jesus by John. With the three pearl drops it means, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 3:13-17, Luke 3:21-22 and Mark 1:9-11
29. **Shamrock**- The Trinity. Matthew 3:16-17; II Corinthians 13:14; I Peter 1:2 Stars- formed by crosses set at various angles, show the close relationship between the birth and death of our Redeemer.
30. **Shepherd's Crook**- The equipment used by the shepherds for the purposes of supporting himself (as a walking stick) and managing the flock. Ps. 23:4 Christ declared Himself to be the good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep, who is known by his sheep, and who will someday be Shepherd over the united fold of all God's redeemed. John 10:1-14; Acts 20: 28-31; I Peter 5:1-4
31. **Ship**- Symbolic of the church as it was persecuted during the early days of Christianity.
32. **Three Interlocking Circles**- Emblem of Trinity. Suggests eternal nature of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The circle symbolizes eternity, completeness, perfection, eternal life with God in His Kingdom. Matthew 28:19
33. **Vine**- One of the most vivid symbols in the Bible and is used to express the relationship between God and His people. Isaiah 5:7
34. **Ankh Cross**- A variation of the tau cross with a looped handle. The Coptic Christians living in Egypt used it frequently and believed it to have special protective power.
35. **Celtic Cross** - A Latin with a circle at the crossing of the horizontal and vertical bars. It appears throughout Europe at crossroads and marketplaces, often handsomely carved with scenes of Passion.

36. **Cross of Passion**- A pointed cross with five red jewels symbolizing the wounds of Christ.
John 20:25-27
37. **Russian Cross**- Also known as the Eastern Cross, is the archiepiscopal cross with a short, slanted crossbar at the base, suggesting Christ's feet. In the Eastern Church, Christ was crucified with his feet together, not crossed.
38. **Maltese Cross**- Composed of four spearheads with points together, originated during the Crusades, when the Hospitalers used it as their emblem. It is the insignia of the Knights of Malta, the highest order of the Roman Catholic Church.
39. **St. Andrew Cross**- Consists of crossed arms which are not at right angles to each other. The origin of this form is attributed to St. Andrew, who, when condemned to be crucified, requested that he be nailed to a cross in a different form than that upon which Christ was sacrificed. In true humility, St. Andrew believed that, even in martyrdom, he was unworthy to approach the likeness of his Redeemer.
40. **Tau Cross**- An older form of the cross. This is known as the Old Testament Cross. According to legend, this form was used by the Israelites to mark their identity in blood on their doorpost during the Passover. Tradition says that it was upon such a cross that Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, foreshadowing the lifting up of Christ upon His Cross.
John 3:14
41. **Shield of Andrew**- Andrew was a fisherman and the first called follower of Christ. He brought his brother Simon (Peter) to follow Christ. Because of the effectiveness of his preaching, he is said to have been arrested by a Greek governor and martyred on an X-shaped cross.
42. **Shield of Bartholomew**- Bartholomew is credited with spreading the gospel in India and Armenia, where he was flayed alive. His symbol is the flaying knife.
43. **Shield of James the Great**- James was a fisherman and brother of John. He was selected by Christ to witness to the Transfiguration and Agony in the Garden. The first Apostle to be martyred. His symbol, the scallop shell, is the symbol of pilgrimage.
44. **Shield of James the Less**- According to legend he was a relative of Christ. The Epistle of St. James in the New Testament is attributed to him. He is believed to have been martyred by being cut in two thus the saw is his symbol.
45. **Shield of John**- John is considered the author of the Gospel that bears his name. John was the youngest Apostle, the brother of James the Great. In the Last Supper, he is the figure who leans his head on Christ's shoulder. It was John who comforted Mary at the Crucifixion. He helped place Christ's body in the tomb. Later he took Mary into his home, and cared for her for the rest of her life. It was also John who found the empty tomb on the day of Resurrection. After Mary's death, John joined Peter and preached throughout the Middle East. An attempt to poison him failed when the poison evaporated from the chalice in the

form of a serpent. He is the only Apostle to die of natural causes. His attribute is the snake in a chalice.

46. **Shield of Judas-** The Apostle who betrayed Christ. His job was to handle the finances. Judas accepted a bribe of thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave, to disclose Christ's presence in the Garden of Gethsemane. After the trial, Judas repented, threw the silver on the floor of the temple, and went out and hanged himself with a rope. His attributes are a rope or a money purse. He is also represented by a blank shield.
47. **Shield of Jude-** Jude is also known as Thaddaeus. He was the brother of James the Less. He preached throughout the Middle East accompanied by Simon. His symbol is the ship because of his missionary journeys.
48. **Shield of Matthew-** Matthew was present at the Ascension. He was a tax collector who left his post to follow Christ. He is the author of the first Gospel. His attribute is the money purse.
49. **Shield of Matthias-** After the Ascension, Matthias was chosen by lot to replace Judas. According to Greek legend, he converted the Cappadocians and others along the Caspian sea. He was martyred by a lance and beheaded. His symbol is the open Bible.
50. **Shield of Peter-** Peter was the major spokesman for the Apostles. He was chosen by Christ as he and his brother Andrew were casting their nets on the sea of Galilee. His symbol is the crossed keys, the keys to the kingdom.(Matthew 16:18)
51. **Shield of Philip-** Philip appears mainly in the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand in John 14. He is present at the gathering of the Apostles in Jerusalem after the Ascension. His attribute is the loaf of bread.
52. **Shield of Simon-** Often called the Zealot, Simon may have been one of the shepherds to whom the angels revealed the birth of Christ at the Annunciation to the Shepherds. His attribute is a book with a fish symbolizing a fisher of men through the Gospels.
53. **Shield of Thomas-** Doubting Thomas is best known for his skepticism in John 11. He was a man of great courage, and once of convinced of the faith, he is supposed to have spread the Gospel as far as India. While there, he was commissioned by the king to build a great palace, but instead he gave the money to the poor. The enraged king promised revenge. Gad, the king's brother, died and ascended to Heaven and there chose a great heavenly palace to inhabit. The angels denied him the palace, explaining that it had been prepared by Thomas for his brother the king. God related this to the king in a dream, whereupon the king set Thomas free. Thomas explained that by distributing faith and charity in this life one could build up a treasure in Heaven. Because of this legend, Thomas's attribute is a carpenter's rule or square.
54. **Shield of Paul-** Originally named Saul, a Jewish tent maker, he was violently anti-Christian. In route to Damascus to agitate anti-Christian feelings, Saul was struck blind by a heavenly

light and heard a voice cry, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:3). The greatest Christian missionary, he made trips to Asia Minor and Greece and is known as "The Missionary to the Gentiles". His activities are related in the Acts of the Apostles, and he is the author of the Epistles of St. Paul. His attributes are a book or a scroll.

55. Trefoil – This is another symbol for the Trinity. It has three joined semicircles.
56. Star of Epiphany – This 5-pointed star is another symbol of the birth and adolescence of Jesus.
57. Star of Nativity – This 4-pointed star represents the star which guided the 3 Magi to Bethlehem to find the new born Jesus!
58. Star of Redemption – This star has 8 points. Eight is a number referencing regeneration and baptism.
59. Star of the Spirit – This star has 9 points, each one representing one of the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5: 22.
60. Star of the Disciples – This 12-pointed star, representing the 12 Disciples, is also called the Star of the 12 Tribes of Israel.
61. **Cross of Victory** – This is a Latin cross placed on top of a globe which represents the world. It is a symbol of the triumph of Christianity.
62. **Cross inside Eternity Circle** – This cross, placed inside a large circle, represents Jesus crucifixion and resurrection as being the central redeeming/saving act by God for the entire world.
63. **Shepherd's Crook** -- This is a staff, curved at the end, which shepherds use to care for and defend their sheep. The symbol causes us to remember that Jesus is our "Good Shepherd" as well as to remember the shepherds who heard the angelic chorus.
64. Crosslet -- This type of cross is made from four Latin Crosses arranged at right-angles to each other, with their tops pointing north, south, east and west. The crosslet, like the Jerusalem Cross, is a symbol for world evangelism of the Gospels.
65. Cross with Flowers -- This symbol is a resurrection cross, making of the cross, a symbol of death, into a symbol of life.
66. **Latin Cross** – This cross, with 3 equal length arms and a longer bottom arm, is the universal symbol for the passion of Jesus Christ and is an attribute of all Christians.
67. **Triangle** – This equilateral triangle is another symbol for the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – all equal parts of the whole.

68. Three Fish forming Circle – The fish symbol elsewhere described is here transformed into a symbol of the trinity.
69. Russian Cross – Also called an Eastern Cross because it is associated with both the Eastern Orthodox and Russian Orthodox Churches. The upper crossbar represents the inscription placed on the cross over Jesus: INRI (Which means: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews) The meaning of the lower crossbar is uncertain – perhaps a physical connection to where Jesus’ feet were nailed to the cross.
70. **The Creator’s Star** – This 6-pointed star reminds us of the six days it took to create the world.
71. The Jerusalem Cross – This cross with banded ends has four smaller crosses between the arms of the main cross. It is sometimes called the Crusader’s Cross. It reminds us of where Jesus was crucified and where he rose from the grave.
72. Cross of Peter – This Latin cross is always presented upside down because when Peter was to be crucified he asked to be crucified upside-down because he was unworthy of being crucified as Jesus was.
73. Cross of Calvary – This is a Latin cross with three steps below the cross, which symbolize Calvary, where Jesus was crucified.
74. IX0YE (or ICHTHUS) – A fish made by two overlapping curves. In the middle of the fish shape are the Greek or English letters which make an acrostic: Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior.
75. Tongues of Fire – These fiery tongues represent the tongues of holy fire (The Holy Spirit) which came down at Pentecost and rested upon the heads of believers.