

Telling the Whole Story

United Churches Chapel — Stained Glass Windows

The three main panels of this window were designed and installed in 1910 at The United Churches building on Legion Way and Franklin. The artist of these windows is unknown. They were moved to our current location at 11th and Capitol Way in 1957. In 1979, the windows were moved from the original Chapel (now the library) to this wall and additional panels on each side of the originals were created by Mansion Glass of Olympia.

As The United Churches of Olympia walks the path of becoming an anti-racist church, we dispute the depiction of Jesus with blue eyes, blond hair, and white skin. We acknowledge that these windows reflect a characterization of Jesus that mirrors the time and style of religious art at its making and images of Jesus are portrayed globally to reflect local cultures. However, we understand that ‘white Jesus’ was more than likely created by people who believed in Manifest Destiny and the Doctrine of Discovery, which are based on beliefs that white people are superior to and should be elevated over other groups of people. We reject that narrative and acknowledge that these images do not reflect our journey to become an inclusive and anti-racist church.

We are looking into changing the skin color to reflect more realistic, darker tones. To date, a decision has not been made to alter the windows. Due to the value of the windows as a work of art and their historical value to the church, the windows will remain as is for now. The church is committed to displaying art that reflects our journey to become an inclusive and anti-racist church. In 2025, the church undertook a project to acquire more contemporary art to demonstrate our belief, as followers of Jesus, that all humans are created in the image of God and all humans deserve respect, love, and support. No group of humans is superior to another group. Love is Power.