

Lotus Cross



The Lotus Cross is a symbol used by Chinese Christians, when the faith first arrived in China in the early 600s. Christianity was brought to China by a group of Syriac Christians and this cruciform is from that tradition. After obtaining the approval of the emperor a monastery was established in Xi'an, China. Buddhism was also re-emerging in the region, and the emperor built a monastic settlement to be shared by both religious groups. Chinese Buddhism and Chinese Christianity grew up together for a time. Both shared the cultural wealth of China. When Buddhism became Zen Buddhism, as it spread to Korea and Japan.

The Lotus Cross became a common iconic feature of this early Chinese Christian community. In addition, some documents from this early period have been found, these include the "Jesus Sutras." (Sutras are a type of teaching unique to the East and the cultural influence is astounding.) The Lotus Cross image was brought to us from the Xi'an Monastery by The Rev. Peter McGinnis, a group member, who served the Church in China

The Cross was carved by Karen Hattman, an American wood sculptor. Karen used Koa wood, which only grows in Hawaii. It had been the sacred wood only used for the ruling families. It is extremely hard and buoyant. Perfect for the boats of the royal family. Today the tree is protected. It is illegal to cut the trees; only trees that have died naturally in the forest can be harvested for wood.