

- Ark of the Covenant symbolised God's presence with the people
- (Note - this Ark has no connection with Noah's Ark or Moses' ark of bulrushes)

1. Above it – God's Presence

- The cloud of glory appeared between the cherubim—signifying God's presence
- "I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover" – Lev 16:2
- The ark is a symbol of God's Heavenly throne room
- "The LORD reigns... he sits enthroned between the cherubim" (Psalm 99:1)
- It is also a Holy presence—no-one allowed to touch the ark.

2. In It – God's Law

- Ark holds the stone slabs with the 10 Commandments inscribed - Ex 25:16
- Two copies of the covenant stored in presence of God as a reminder
- Covenant breaking carried a penalty of death
- The Law acts as a record of our failure before God
- The terrifying fact that our failure is always in the sight of a Holy King

3. On it – God's Blood

- On top of the chest was a lid known as the 'atonement cover' ('mercy seat' KJV)
- "He shall ... take its blood behind the curtain... He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it." Lev 16:15
- Blood of the sacrifice comes between God and the Law, covering his people's failure.
- The Cross is our 'atonement cover' – "God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood." Romans 3:25
- Ark never washed – The blood is permanently there covering our sin
- For those who come to the Cross there is always a covering for their sin at the throne of God.
- Now the one who was slain sits on the throne – Rev 5:6
- Angels looking down at atonement cover—in amazement? (see 1 Peter 1:12)

4. In front – God's People

- The Ark was not just a place of forgiveness, but also a place of meeting God
- "There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you" Ex 25:22
- Now it isn't limited to the High Priest, but to all Christians - Heb 4:16
- This throne is now a 'throne of grace', not simply of a king, but of our Father.
- We can come with confidence into the very presence of God to find help in our time of need
- The Christian not only gets to come into the throne room, but on to the throne! – "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus" - Eph 2:6

Notices

Sunday	Evening service at Trinity Hall	8pm
Tuesday	Pre-comunion @ May's	8pm
Sun 18th	Communion - Please speak to Mark or one of the elders if you wish to take part and havent done so before.	
Thur 22nd	United Prayer Time - Lecture Hall Letterkenny Presbyterian Church	
Fri 23rd	Relief Fund information evening on work in Romania @ Bready	8pm

The Ark of the Covenant

The ark of the covenant was the only piece of furniture in the Most Holy Place; the ark and its contents were kept hidden from view at all times. The ark itself was a wooden chest, overlaid with pure gold, measuring 3.75 feet long, 2.25 feet wide, and 2.25 feet high.

Inside were the two stone tablets of the Testimony (the Ten Commandments). The author of Hebrews adds that it also contained "a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded" (Heb. 9:4).



The ark was not to be touched by human hands. Two wooden poles, overlaid with gold, were used to transport it and were not to be removed from the ark. The mercy seat, or atonement cover, was a solid golden slab that fitted perfectly on top of the ark. The golden cherubim, hammered out of the same piece of gold, had wings outstretched over the mercy seat and faces that looked downward (in reverent awe).

It was here, from between the cherubim, that God spoke to Moses, the representative of the people of Israel.