

Peace Cross



Location: Between St. Alban's Church and St. Alban's School

The twenty foot tall Peace Cross is a Celtic cross formed from two pieces of limestone. It was designed by the architect, Robert W. Gibson (who also designed National Cathedral School's Hearst Hall), and donated by Cathedral Trustee Dr. William Cabell Rives. It bears on its front the litany for unity, peace, and concord.

The Peace Cross was erected on October 23, 1898, at a memorial service at which President McKinley spoke, denoting that this land be set apart for sacred purposes. Mr. Nourse, senior warden at St. Alban's church and a descendant of Joseph Nourse, the original owner of the land on Mount St. Alban, pulled the cord that held the flag enveloping the Peace Cross.

“It was raised on Sunday, October 23, 1898, not only to mark the sign of the Cross, the site of the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, but also to commemorate the ending of the war between Spain and the United States and the first meeting of the General Convention in the Capitol. Here for three decades open air services of public worship have been held on Sabbath afternoons from May to September.”

Cathedral Age, Michaelmas, 1928

Inscription: This Cross is raised in the Historic Year A.D. 1898 to Mark the Founding of the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul That it may please Thee To give to all Nations Unity Peace and Concord We beseech Thee to hear us Good Lord
JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE