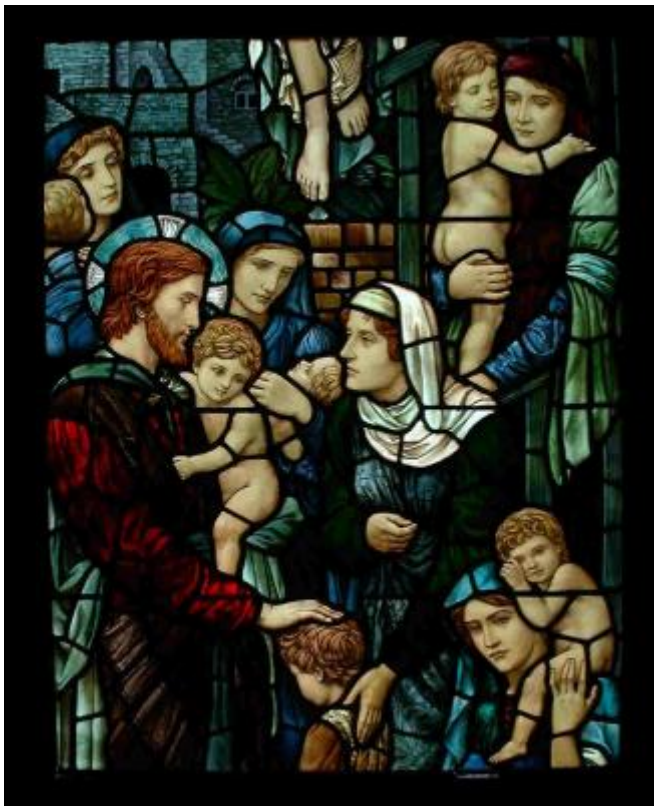
Suffer the Little Children



Brief description: Jesus healing the sick, with women and nude children. Stained glass panel from the centre light of a three-light stained glass window depicting scenes from the Ministry of Christ by Henry Holiday, 1907.

Â‘Suffer the Little ChildrenÂ’, or Â‘Christ Blessing the ChildrenÂ’ was a popular biblical subject, demonstrating ChristÂ’s benevolence towards children. This stained glass panel was part of a large three-light window depicting scenes from the Ministry of Christ, with the good works of saintly figures below. This panel shows Jesus amongst a group of women and their children. Jesus is dressed in a red robe, and has a turquoise cruciform halo. Jesus carries an unclothed infant in his left arm, and has his right hand placed on a young boy's head in an act of blessing. The infants are carried by their mothers and appear unclothed. This panel and the original window was previously installed at the Essex Unitarian Church in Notting Hill, London. The Unitarians had long suffered religious persecution, but during the late 19th century they emerged as a Nonconformist denomination that attracted some of the wealthiest, most successful and best-educated patrons of the arts. Henry Holiday was a superb figure draughtsman and one of the leading stained-glass artists of his time. In 1861 he became chief designer for James Powell and Sons, taking over from Edward Burne-Jones. Inspired by his travels in Italy in 1867, his style became increasingly classical. He set up his own studio in Hampstead in 1891.

Object type: panel

Number of objects: 1 (of 5)

Production date: 1907

Production period: 20th century, early

Designer: Henry Holiday

Manufacturer: Holiday, Henry 1839=1927

Dimensions: Height: 1075 mm, Width: 840 mm

Dedication: dedicated to Durning-Lawrence memorial window

Acquisition: gift 1973

Acquisition source: Essex Unitarian Church Essex, Notting Hill Gate, London

Accession number: ELYGM:1973.3.1

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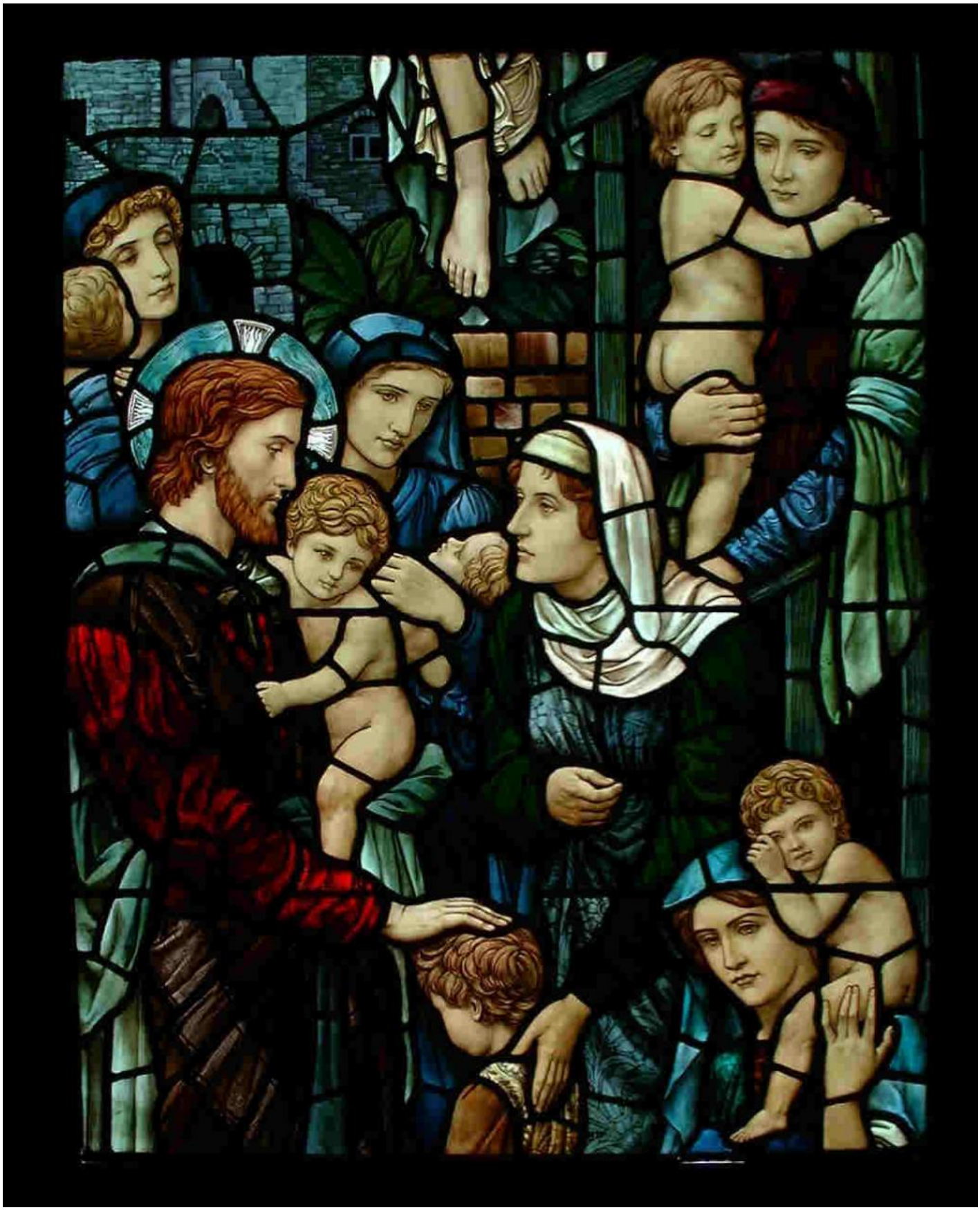

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