



Christian Calendar Liturgical Year 2019-20

The Colors:

Purple: Purple is the color of royalty. The purple times are when we prepare for the coming of the king. But Jesus doesn't come as the kind of king people expect.

"Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in." Psalm 24:7

White: The color of getting ready becomes the color of celebration! White is the light that Jesus brought into the world.

"The people who are now living in darkness have seen a great light. They are now living in a very dark land. But a light has shined on them." Matthew 4:16

Red: Red is a hot color. The Holy Spirit came as a flame. This fire burns but does not consume.

"But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Luke 3:16

Green: Green is the color of growing things. These are the days when we focus on how God helps his people to grow.

"You have been born again by means of the living word of God. His word lasts forever. You were not born again from a seed that will die. You were born from a seed that can't die." 1 Peter 1:23

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What is the Christian calendar?

From the earliest days of the Christian church, the people who followed in Jesus' way began to order their time around Jesus' death and resurrection. Those two things had turned the world upside down! Each season of the Christian year helps us remember the story of Jesus, and to live out that story as we draw close to him.

The Days:

December 1-December 24: Advent

We begin the Christian year with waiting and expectation. We wait with God's people for the day when the Root of Jesse will come and make all things new.

December 25-January 6: Christmastide

Christ has come! The Light of the World has come as a little human baby.

January 6: Epiphany

This is the day when we remember the three kings who found Jesus, the one who brings light for the whole world.

January 7-February 26: Ordinary Time

This is a growing time. We grow closer to Jesus, our Good Shepherd, and more like him every day.

February 26: Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is when we are marked with the cross and remember that without Jesus we are like dead ashes.

February 26-April 11: Lent

Lent is forty days long. It is our annual journey from death to new life. We wait and get ready for our king to come.

April 5-April 11: Holy Week

This week we remember the very end of Jesus' life. We gather with him for the Last Supper, we sit at the foot of the cross, and we keep vigil at the tomb as we wait for him to rise again.

April 12: Easter Sunday

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! God showed that he is more powerful than sin and death when Jesus rose from the dead.

April 12-May 30: Eastertide

Easter is fifty days long and is the central celebration of the Christian year. From Ezekiel 47: from the place where God dwells with his people a river will flow into all the world bringing new life, provision, and healing to the nations.

May 24: Ascension Sunday

Jesus returned to heaven where he was at the beginning of creation. He promises us that he will come again.

May 31: Pentecost

Jesus did not leave us alone! He sent the Holy Spirit to live in us. The Holy Spirit helps us grow closer to Jesus and become more like him every day.

June 7: Trinity Sunday

This is the Sunday that we wonder at the mystery of the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit, three persons yet one God.

June 8-Advent 2020: Ordinary Time

This is the time when we get to live out God's story in ordinary ways every day. This time is after Pentecost because we need the Holy Spirit's help to grow more like Jesus.

November 1: All Saints Sunday

Every year we remember how others followed Jesus in their times and places. The stories of God's family don't end with the Bible and neither do God's promises!

November 22: Reign of Christ Sunday

This is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. We remember the reality of the present and future reign of Christ. And we consider the unique way Christ reigns and uses his power.