



Christian Calendar Liturgical Year 2020-21

The Colors:

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

"Lord, you began to rule a long time ago. You have always existed."
Psalm 93:2

Gold: The deep color of getting ready becomes the bright color of celebration! Jesus is our treasure; his words are more precious than gold.

"They will know the mystery of God. That mystery is Christ. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in him." Colossians 2:2-3

Red: Red is a hot color. The Holy Spirit came as tongues of flame; this fire burns but does not consume.

"So the cloud of the Lord was above the holy tent during the day. Fire was in the cloud at night. All the Israelites could see the cloud during all their travels."
Exodus 40:38

Green: Green is the color of growing things. These are the days when we practice growing into God's story in ordinary ways every day.

"In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace." Colossians 1:6

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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:

November 29-December 24: Advent

We begin the Christian year with waiting and expectation. We wait with all God's people for the day when our Messiah comes.

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 Magi who brought gifts to Jesus. And we remember how Jesus, like the gift of oil, is a blessing poured out for the whole world.

January 7-February 16: Ordinary Time

This is a growing time when we hear stories about when Jesus was here with us on earth. Whether Jesus feels close or far away, as Jesus followers we follow Jesus wherever he goes.

February 17: Ash Wednesday

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

February 17-April 3: Lent

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

March 28-April 3: Holy Week

This week we remember the very end of Jesus' life. We follow Jesus to his death and to his glory.

April 4: 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 4-May 22: Eastertide

Easter is the central celebration of the Christian year. From Ezekiel 36:26 and Jeremiah 31:33, God says, "I will remove your hearts of stone and give you hearts of flesh — I will write my commands there. I will be your God, and you will be my people."

May 16: Ascension Sunday

Jesus returned to heaven where he was at the beginning. From there, Jesus works and prepares on our behalf. Jesus promises that he will come again.

May 23: Pentecost Sunday

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.

May 30: Trinity Sunday

This is the Sunday that we wonder together at the mystery of the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit; three persons yet one God, pouring into each other and into the world.

May 24-Advent 2021: Ordinary Time

This is the time we live out God's story in ordinary ways every day. In desert times or lush times God sustains us and gives us what we need to grow more like Jesus every day.

November 7: All Saints Sunday

The stories of God's family don't end with the Bible and neither do God's promises!

November 21: Christ the King Sunday

This is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. We wonder about the present and future reign of Christ, and how Christ as King uses his power.