

# Intro to Anglicanism

## *Part II: The Church Calendar*

**Discussion:** Why do we follow a Church Calendar?

### TIME MATTERS

Time is the inescapable medium in which we exist. All of life transpires within time. Humans cannot conceive of anything that isn't bound up within the constraints of time. It is embedded into everything we know about life. It is woven into the created order.

The Gospel of Jesus involves a redemptive act that would unfold within time. God does not ignore time, or take us out of time, or retreat to His timeless sanctuary in eternity. God enters time, Himself.

Time is, therefore, also a medium through which God can and does communicate himself for the sake of his creatures. In this way, time is *sacramental*. One of the primary ways the Church has entered into experiencing this kind of sacramental experience with God has been through the liturgical calendar. Time, therefore, can and should be understood in reference to Christ. He created it and it exists for us to enter into Communion with God.

### LITURGICAL COLORS

Liturgy has been described as “theology for the illiterate.” Colors communicate theology.

White / Gold	Christmas(tide) + Easter(tide) + Feasts + Weddings + Funerals	Symbolizes joy and purity resulting from faith, baptism, resurrection.
Green	Ordinary Time	Symbolizes hope, perseverance, growth, and life.
Purple	Lent + Advent	Symbolizes penitence, sorrow, lament, waiting.
Red	Holy Week, Pentecost, Ordinations, Martyrs	Symbolizes the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the Blood and Passion of Christ, the blood of the martyrs.

## THE CHURCH CALENDAR

**A definition:** Time as story / history being fulfilled through the story of Christ. We are progressing towards the fulfillment of Creation through time.

### Incarnation Cycle

- Advent
  - Advent means “arrival” – it is a season when we anticipate the arrival of Christ.
- Christmastide
  - 12 day season of feasting
- Epiphany + Epiphanytide
  - Starts with Day of Epiphany and Baptism of Our Lord and finishes with Transfiguration

### Pascal Cycle

- Ash Wednesday + Lent
  - Season of fasting, penitence, and almsgiving
- Holy Week
  - Palm Sunday and the Triduum
- Eastertide
  - 50 days of feasting
- Pentecost: birth of the Church

### Ordinary Time

- Begins with Trinity Sunday (the Sunday after Pentecost) and ends with Christ the King Sunday.
- This part of the liturgical year represents “the time in which the church is to live out its calling in the world, fulfilling the mission of God” (Chan, *Liturgical Theology*, 164). Guided by the rhythm of sacred time, Christians are called to go forth and love and serve the broken world that God has entered and over which He reigns triumphant.

**Conclusion:** We are immersing ourselves in a prayer-guided story that can inform our own story and the work that we’re doing throughout the year to keep in context with a story that is so much bigger than ourselves. It’s our individual stories being consumed into the Story.