

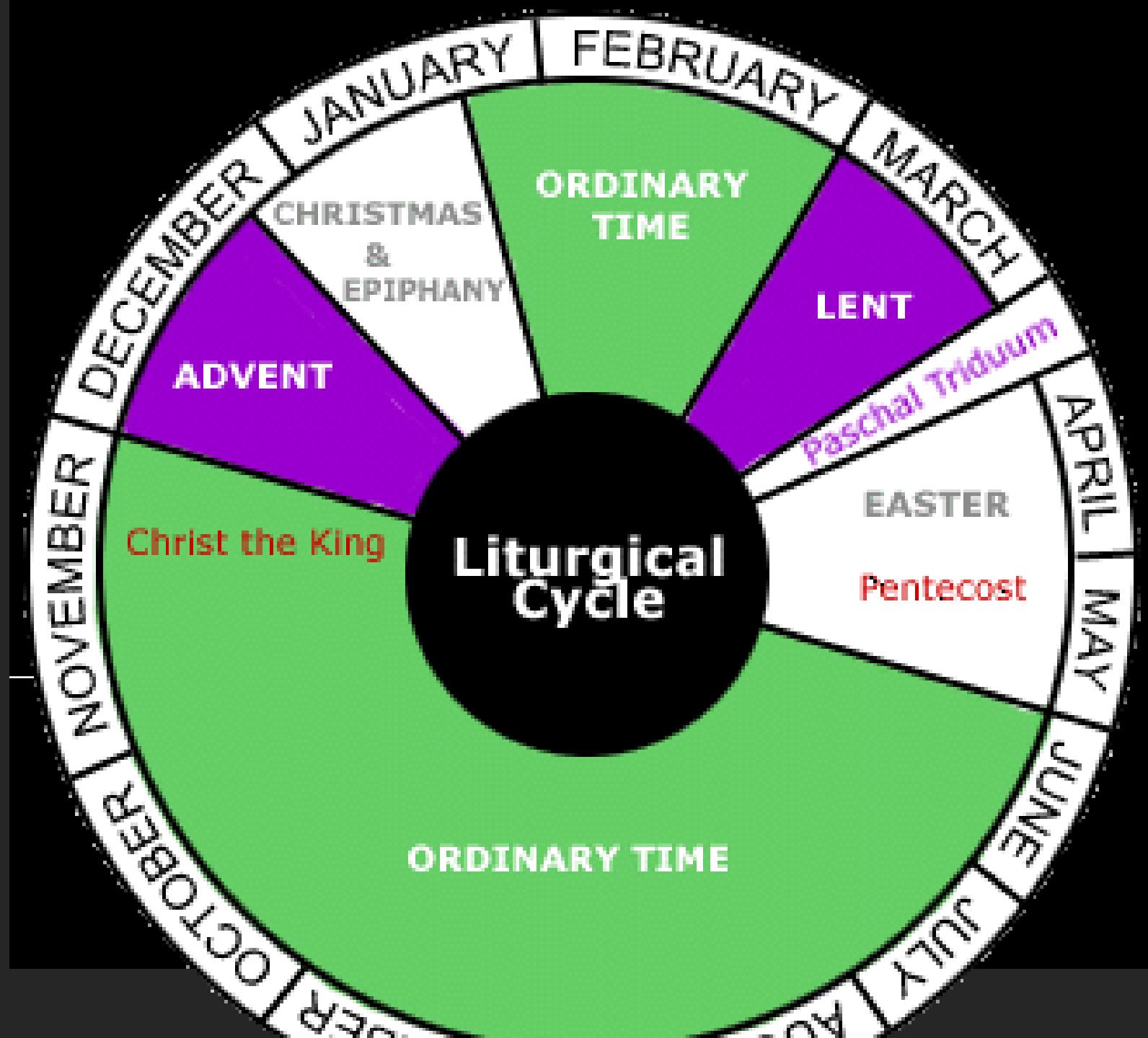
# Christian Symbols and Rituals

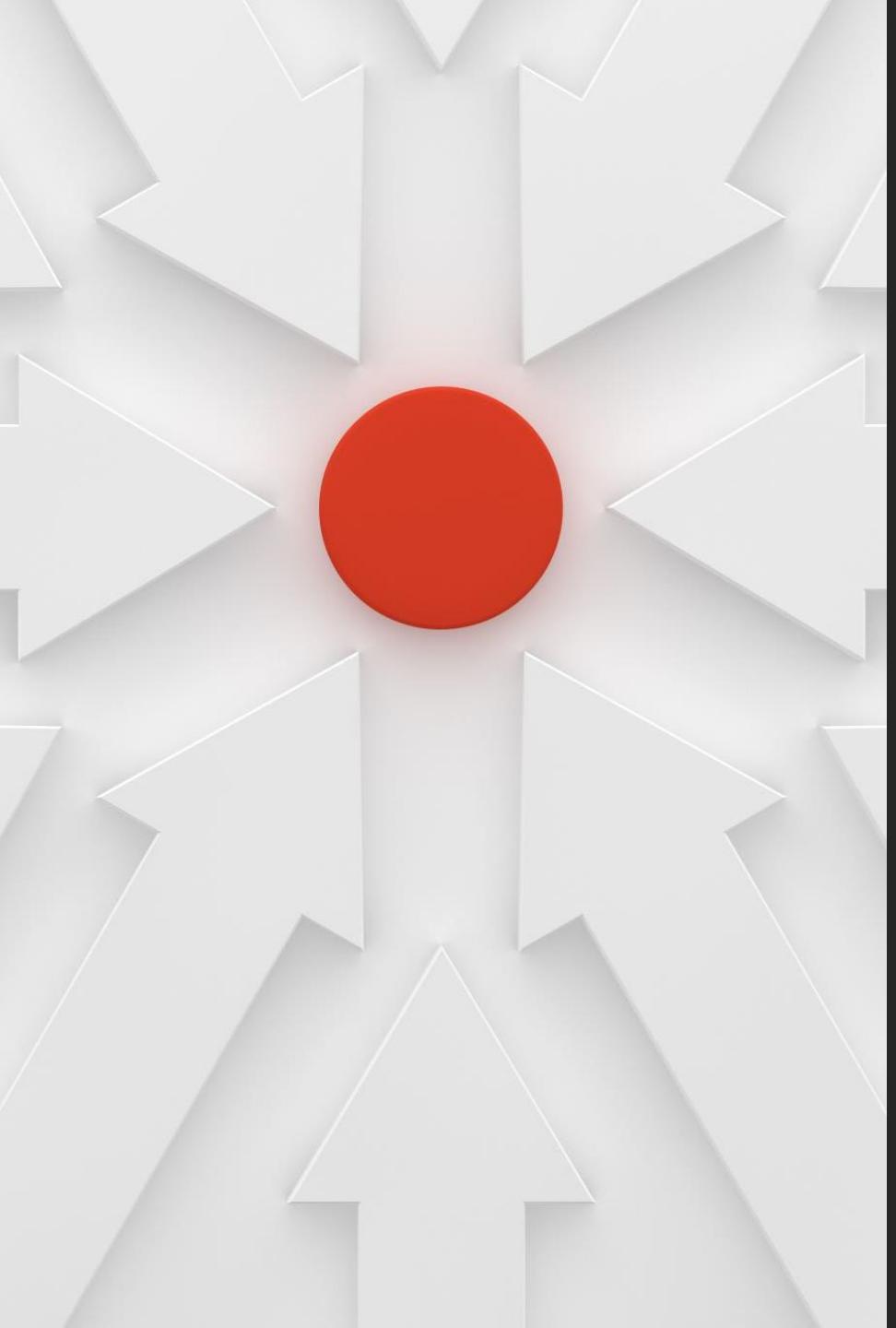
## Liturgical Calendar and Colors

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PRESENTER:

REV. DR. JO-AN L. OWINGS



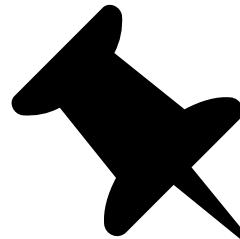
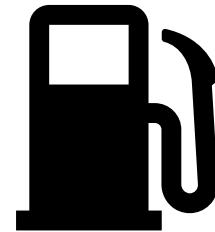
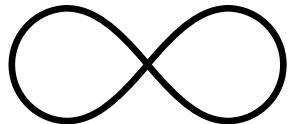
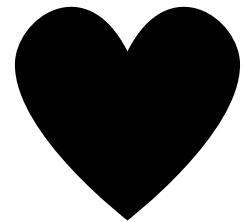


# SYMBOLS

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Symbols have many purposes; to identify, to describe or to create value. They are transcendent, transcultural and transmedia. Early symbols served to organize order from chaos. **It is visual communication.** The best symbols transcend time, place, and their maker, identifying, describing, or creating value for the thing they represent always bending towards the intersection of meaning and clarity.





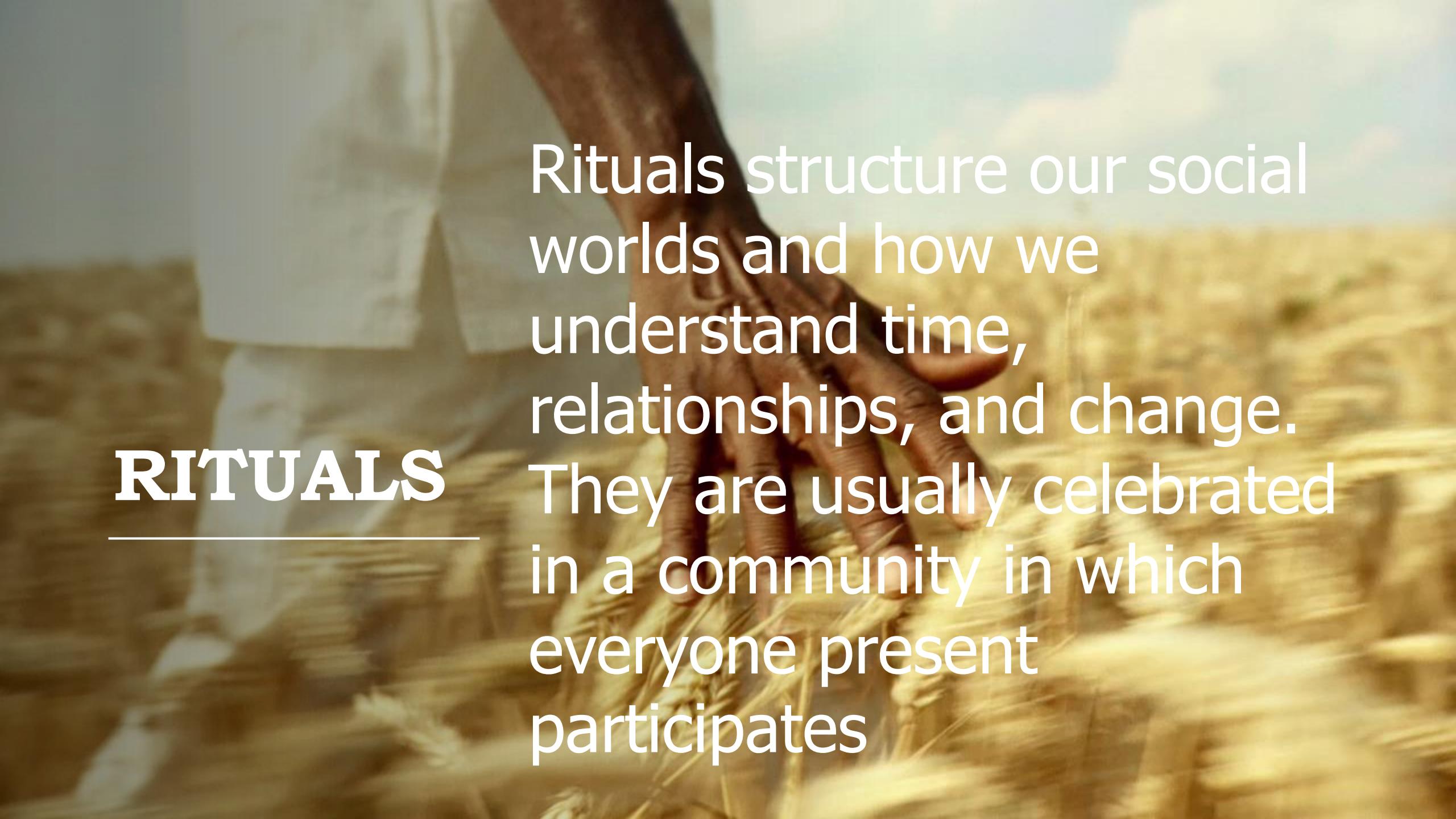
# COMMON SYMBOLS

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# RITUALS

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Rituals structure our social worlds and how we understand time, relationships, and change. They are usually celebrated in a community in which everyone present participates

# Liturgical Calendar

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The liturgical calendar is a yearly cycle that corresponds to the life of Jesus from his birth to His death and resurrection and then to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It includes major holy days like Christmas, Easter and Pentecost and the seasons of Advent, and Lent, which includes Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Trinity Sunday.

The term “Liturgy” is a formulary according to which public religious worship, especially Christian worship is conducted.

**The liturgical calendar provides a systematic plan to travel the scripture to learn of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the movement of the Holy Spirit.**

# HISTORY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

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Regular Christian corporate worship on Sundays goes back to the apostolic age but New Testament writings do not explain how the practice began.

Jewish Christians probably kept the sabbath at the synagogue then joined the Gentile believers for Christian worship after the close of the sabbath at sundown.

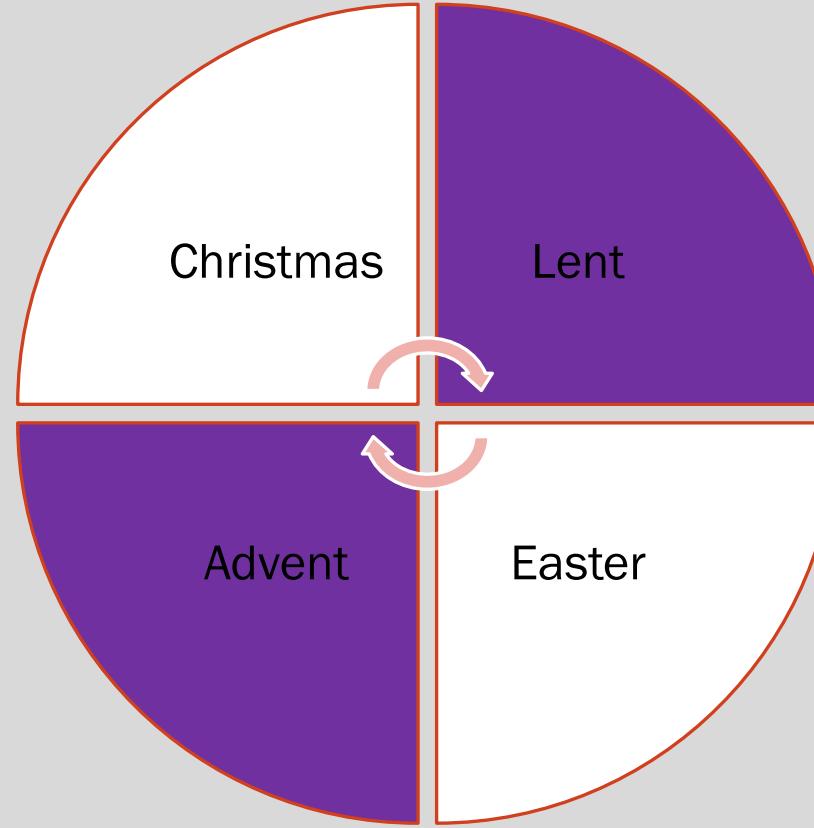
When the church became predominantly Gentile, Sunday remained as the customary day of worship.

In 321 the Roman emperor Constantine decreed Sunday to be a legal holiday and forebid all trade and work other than necessary agricultural labor.

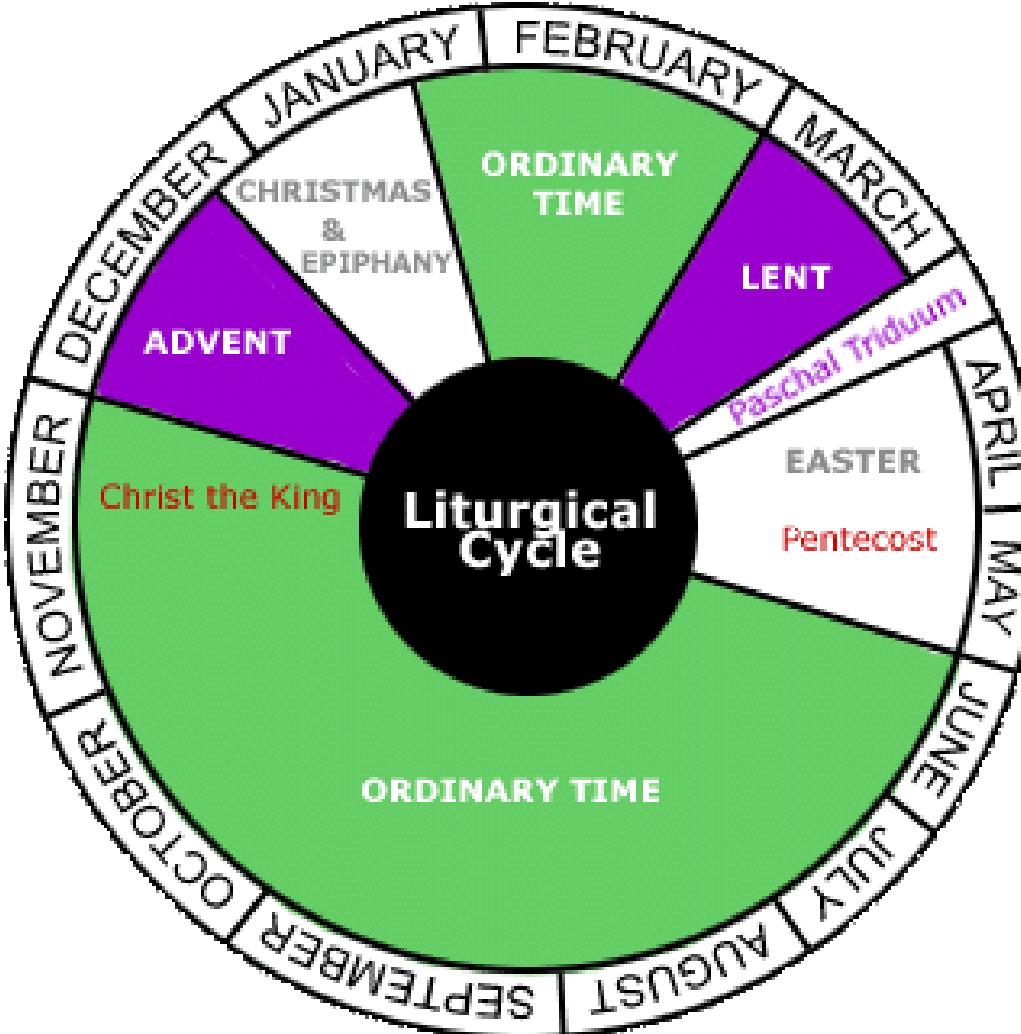
Around 430 A.D. the practice of fasting prior to Christmas was practice by the church.



The Christian Year contains two cycles; the Christmas cycle and the Easter cycle.



Each cycle is preceded by a season of preparation.  
Advent precedes Christmas and Lent precedes  
Easter



# ADVENT

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From the Latin word *adventus* which means arrival or coming.

It begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve.

Advent focuses on the coming of Christ, the celebration of his birth and the eschatological final coming.

Each Sunday is often marked by a theme; **HOPE, FAITH, JOY, LOVE**





## CHRISTMASTIDE

The season of Christmas is not just one day. According to tradition, Christmas is a 12 day celebration that begins December 25<sup>th</sup> and ends January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Epiphany is the revelation of God incarnate or in the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. The church remembers the coming of the Magi to worship the Christ child with gifts.

Epiphany means “appearance” It is the revelation of God incarnate. The church remembers the coming of the Magi to worship the Christ child.

# ORDINARY TIME

This is the time between Christmas and Ash Wednesday and Eastertide and Advent.

During this time, the scriptural readings reflect on Christ's ministry and preaching.

The liturgical color is green for this period.

The season of **Lent**  
begins with Ash  
Wednesday.

It begins 40 days plus 6  
Sundays before Easter.  
(Sundays were not fast days)

It is a season of fasting  
and preparation.

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## ASH WEDNESDAY

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Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent.

The ashes are from the burned palms of the previous Palm Sunday.

The sign of the cross is imposed on the forehead of the believer as a symbol of one's contrition.

# HOLY WEEK

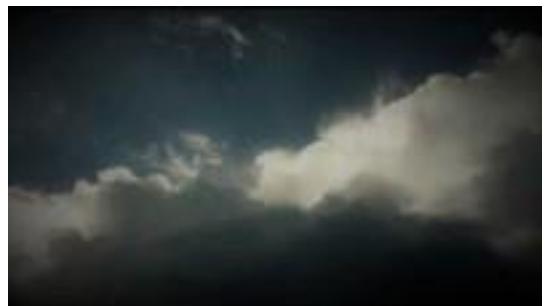
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Palm  
Sunday



Maundy  
Thursday



Good  
Friday



# RESURRECTION SUNDAY

THREE DAYS AFTER JESUS'  
CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL  
HE WAS RAISED FROM THE  
DEAD.

EASTERTIDE

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This season begins after  
Resurrection Sunday and  
continues until Pentecost  
(fifty days after Easter)

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The color is white

# PENTECOST

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Celebrates fifty days after  
Resurrection Sunday.

It is a day in which the church  
recounts the outpouring of the  
Holy Spirit recorded in Acts 2

The color is RED



# Liturgical Colors

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Each season is identified by a particular color.

The colors are to be used to dress the altar and for vestments worn by the clergy



# Liturgical Colors

Advent      Purple

Christmas      White

Lent      Purple

Easter      White

Pentecost      Red

Good Friday      Black

Ordinary Time      Green

**Purple:** Color of both penitence and royalty and is used for the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent.

Alternative colors of royal blue or violet are also used

**White and Gold:** These colors are joyous and festive colors used during Christmas and Easter. It is also used during Holy Communion and weddings

**Green:** The color of growth and is used during Ordinary time

**Red:** The color of fire, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Day of Pentecost. Red is also the color of blood; the blood of Christ and the blood of martyrs.

**Black:** The color of death used on Good Friday and Holy Saturday and for funerals. Gray is its alternative.

# LECTIONARY

A list of readings or pericopes from the Bible for use in Christian worship making provision for the liturgical year.

# Revised Common Lectionary

Released in 1994

Readings are prescribed for each Sunday

They include passages from:

- Old Testament
- Psalms
- Epistles or Book of Revelation
- One of the four Gospels

Runs in three-year cycles

- First year (Year A) scriptures are taken from the Gospel of Matthew
- Second Year (Year B) from Gospel of Mark
- Third Year (Year C) from Gospel of Luke

Portions of the Gospel of John are read throughout Eastertide and are also used for other liturgical seasons where appropriate.

The year begins on the first Sunday of Advent.

We are in Year C (2021/2022)

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

# SO WHAT!!

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The liturgical calendar provides a systematic plan to travel the scripture to learn of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

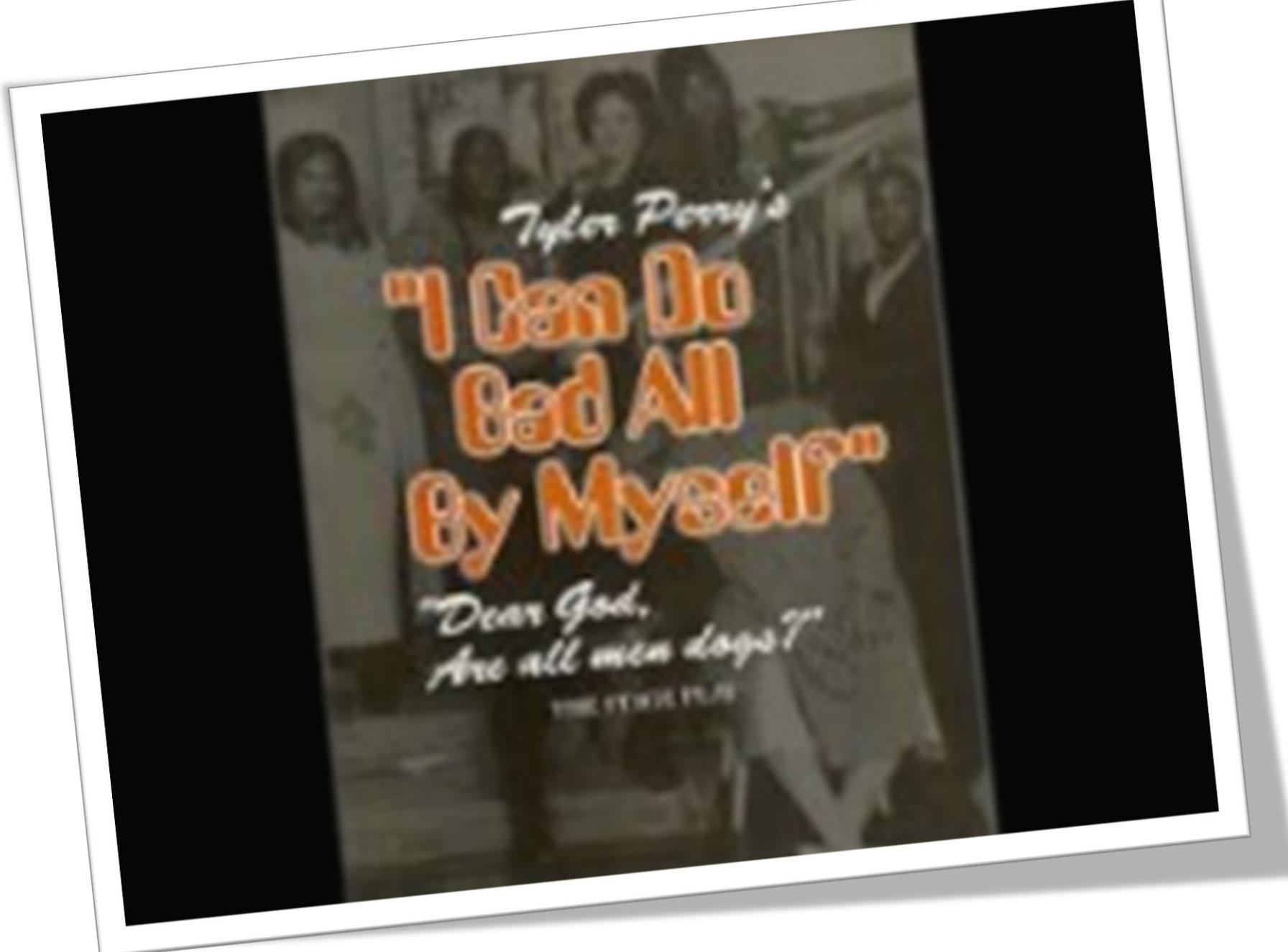


Taylor Perry's

# I Can Do Bad All By Myself

"Dear God,  
Are all men dogs?"

THE STUPID PLANS





# QUESTIONS

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