



**WHY DID I RECEIVE THIS?**


You received this package because you are connected to First Christian Reformed Church (CRC) Toronto somehow - perhaps as a current or past member, a friend of the congregation, or you know someone who is! We hope you will find meaning with this project in some way.

**WHAT IS THIS FOR?**

Seasons of Being is the initiative of Lynnette Postuma & Karen Zwart Hielema of First CRC who received a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (generously supported by the Lilly Endowment Inc). This year-long project seeks to explore colours of the liturgical calendar in order to enrich our worship. Originally conceived as an artwork within the church sanctuary, this package is an "at home" version which hopefully serves to provide a connection to our congregation during the current pandemic.

 **ORANGE** signifies endurance, strength, and the colour of a flame. It represents the red of passion tempered by the yellow of wisdom. Orange is an alternative colour to Pentecost.

 **YELLOW** is the symbol of light and purity. It speaks of happiness, the harvest, hospitality, and love. Yellow (or Gold) is an alternative colour to Christmas and Easter.

 **WHITE** symbolizes purity, innocence and birth. White is the liturgical colour of Christmas and Easter.

**WHAT DO I DO WITH IT NOW?**

Place all of the plexiglass pieces into the wooden base with the colours of current liturgical season in front (eg green/yellow for Ordinary Time). Put it on your windowsill and watch the sunshine illuminate the colours; place it on your mantle (or fridge!) and light a candle behind it. Observe the new colours that emerge when transparent colours overlap. Play with it by adding natural materials or removing certain colours. Have fun!

**Rearrange the coloured pieces at each seasonal change in the liturgical calendar. Allow colour to be your visual connection to a particular Sunday within the church year.**

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

Stayed tuned for an online Sunday workshop in mid-November which will explain more about this initiative.

Feeling inspired? Think of ways that these ideas can translate creatively into your own life... perhaps through poetry, music or artwork. Snap a picture and send, we'd love to hear about it!



# SEASONS OF BEING


First CRC Toronto 2020


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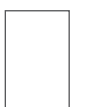
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# SEASONS OF BEING

First CRC Toronto 2020

# WELCOME TO THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF THE SEASONS OF BEING PROJECT!

Seasons of Being is an initiative which explores the connection between colour and the liturgical calendar with the design of artwork for First Christian Reformed Church (CRC) Toronto. The installation is rooted in Biblical explorations of liturgical practices, reflective of the congregation's statement of faith and supported by church's motto of **discern - rest - connect**.

## OBJECTIVE

The intent of this project is for colour to act as a visible cue to our understanding of a particular Sunday within the larger Biblical narrative and liturgical calendar.

## TIMELINE

To help us understand this, we will embark on a Learning Journey together which will consist of: times to **receive** information, times to **reflect** individually, followed by opportunities to **gather** and **share**.

**RED** signifies action, fire, charity, spiritual awakening. It also represents the sun and the joy of life and love. In Christian symbolism it denotes the Holy Spirit. It is the colour of Pentecost.

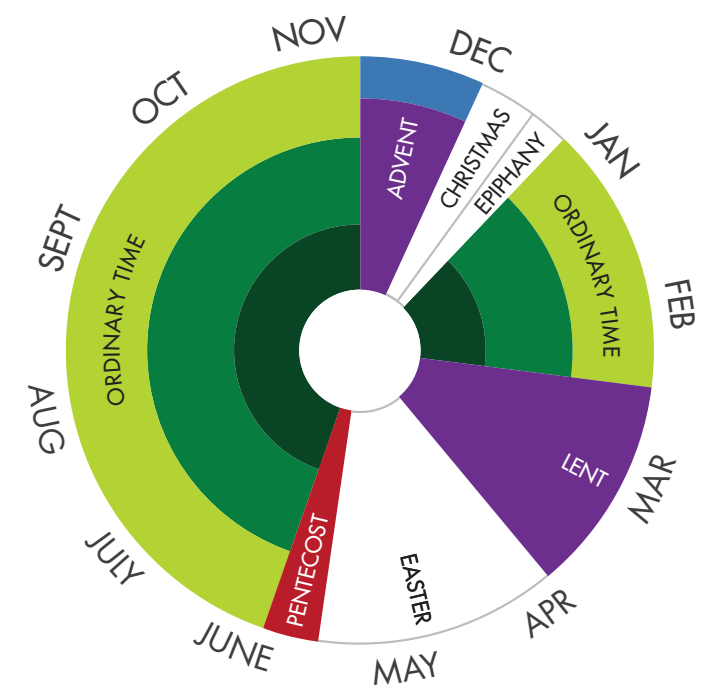
**PURPLE** represents penance, preparation and times of great anticipation. It speaks of fasting, faith, patience and trust. It is used during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

**BLUE** signifies the blue skies or the life-giving air and often signifies hope or good health. It is an alternate colour for the season of Advent.

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR BACKGROUND:

First CRC follows the liturgical or church year by celebrating Biblical events or seasons and through distinct Scripture readings. The use of colours to differentiate liturgical seasons became a common practice in the Western church in about the 4th century. At first, usages varied considerably but by the 12th century these five colours became standard: Violet, White, Black, Red and Green. While use of colour (and other rituals) faded for many years in the Reformed church, the ecumenical Liturgical Movement in the 20th century prompted the rediscovery of ancient Christian ritual - including the traditional colours of the Western church. To these have been added Blue and Gold - colours that were used in some Western rites before the 12th century. Briefly, the colours express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year, as illustrated below.\*

**GREEN** symbolizes the breaking of shackles, freedom from bondage. It is the colour of fertility and growth. It represents long periods of "Ordinary Time" in the liturgical calendar, meaning a focused time for spiritual growth and maturity.



\*<https://wou.edu/wp/exhibits/files/2015/07/christianity.pdf>

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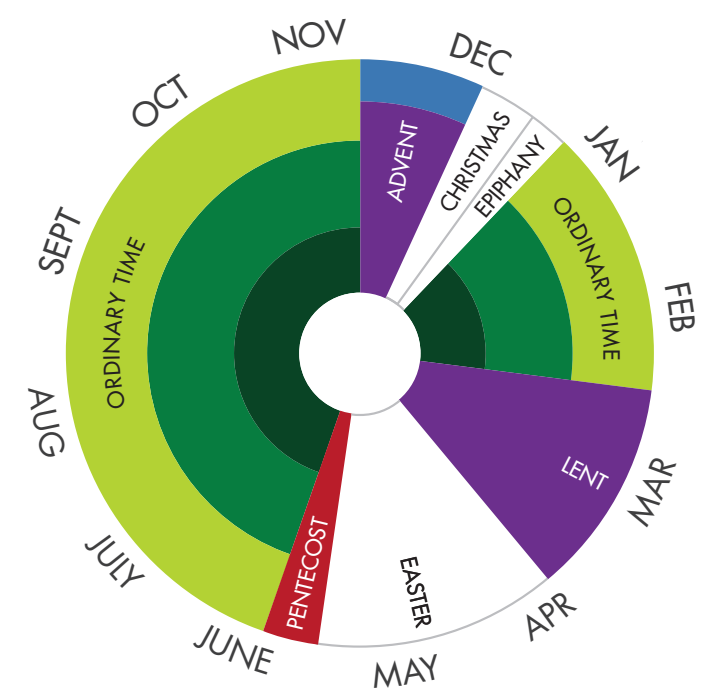
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