



# ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

## THE CHALICE

The chalice is the symbol of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and represents the centrality of communion in our worship. The X-shaped cross of St. Andrew emphasizes that every Christian has a role to play in the church's mission.

## THE CANDLES

The candles represent the light of Christ. We light them at the beginning of worship to signify Christ's spiritual presence among us. We extinguish them at the end of worship and carry out a lit candlelighter to signify the light of Christ leading us into the world.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

This short prayer was Jesus' answer to the request, "Teach us to pray," found in the Bible in Matthew 6:9–13 and Luke 11:2–4, each phrase shows us a different way to approach God, such as praise, confessing our sins, or asking God to meet our needs.

## THE GLORIA PATRI

One of the oldest Christian prayers, Christians have been praying and singing the Gloria Patri since the 3rd century. Churches of many kinds incorporate this hymn into their worship. Its antiquity makes it an apt reminder of the unchanging glory of God.

## PASSING THE PEACE

Churches practice this tradition of greeting in different ways, but the meaning is the same: to remember that we are called to live in peace with one another. Church isn't a building or even a worship service - church is a community.

## THE OFFERING

Christians believe that God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. Each week we pray over the church's offerings of "tithes, time, and talents" as a reminder that all of life is an act of worship to God. Financial gifts are not required for membership and support the ministries of our church.

## COMMUNION

In communion we remember God's covenant of love with humankind. The bread represents Christ's body, the cup his blood, which was shed upon the cross. As we remember Jesus, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to draw us closer to him.

## THE INVITATION

The invitation is a time of public and private commitment to Jesus and the church. It allows each person a chance to reflect upon God's work in their life and provides a context in which to welcome new members into our church.



# SEASONS AND HOLIDAYS

## EPIPHANY

(WHITE)

From a Greek word that means, “Revealing,” Epiphany is celebrated each year on Jan. 6th to commemorate the infant Jesus’ visit by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12). The time between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday is marked with the color green.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

(VIOLET)

The beginning of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads and repeat the phrase, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return,” as a reminder of the human condition and the common destiny we all share.

## LENT

(VIOLET)

A time of humility and repentance leading up to Easter, a spiritual “reset” as we reflect on our lives. Many Christians give something up to commemorate Jesus’ 40-day fast in the wilderness as he prepared to begin his public ministry.

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

(WHITE)

Commemorates the last week of Jesus’ life: his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, and his crucifixion on Good Friday, all concluding with the joy of his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Jesus’ death and resurrection are the central events in the Christian story.

## PENTECOST

(RED)

Fifty days after Easter, Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first Christians (Acts 2). In the season after Pentecost, we renew our commitment to the church’s mission of hope and love. The time between Pentecost and Advent is marked with the color green.

## ADVENT

(VIOLET)

The beginning of the traditional Christian liturgical year (i.e. worship calendar). Advent is a time of anticipation and longing as we wait for Christ to come and bring redemption to the world. We celebrate Advent on the four Sundays before Christmas with candles and special symbols called “Chrismons.”

## CHRISTMAS

(WHITE)

A celebration of the birth of Christ. On Christmas Eve, we light the final Advent candle which represents the light of Christ coming into the world. The Twelve Days of Christmas begin on Christmas Day and conclude the day before Epiphany. Christians celebrate Christmas as a season of hope, love, and generosity.