



Pastor's Notes

Dear Friends,

Today, the church is adorned in white, instead of Pentecost red or the green we will embrace in the coming weeks. It's the perfect time to talk about the colors and seasons of the church year! Specific colors are worn for vestments (robes, etc.) and paraments (altar coverings, banners, etc.) to enhance our worship and make it the finest sacrifice to our Triune God.

Advent is associated with the color blue, suggesting hope. Some churches use purple, a royal color, as we await the newborn king. Either may adorn the church in the four weeks before Christmas.

Christmas: White is typically used from Christmas Eve through the feast day of Epiphany. It calls to mind the purity of the newborn Christ, and to our light and joy in him. Gold is also sometimes worn on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Epiphany: The high feast day of Epiphany is celebrated in white, with the weeks after adorned in green.

Baptism of Our Lord: White, signifying purity and hope, as well as signifying a high feast day in the church.

Time after Epiphany: Green represents our growth in Christ. This "ordinary color" is used when a more festive or more somber color is not appointed.

Transfiguration of Our Lord: White, signifying a high feast day in the church as Christ reveals his divine glory to the disciples.

Ash Wednesday/Lent: Purple is the preferred color, suggesting repentance and solemnity. Many pastors and priests will wear black albs, cassocks, etc. as well.

Palm/Passion Sunday: Scarlet is the preferred color, of as it suggests the deep color of blood.

Maundy Thursday: As we celebrate the institution of the Lord's Supper, scarlet, red, or white may be used.

Good Friday: No vestments or paraments are used on this day. The altar is stripped the day before at the end of the service.

Easter: White or gold is suggested for Easter Sunday. The church remains adorned in white until Pentecost Sunday.

Pentecost Sunday: Red as the color of fire is used, calling to mind the work of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem that day.

Holy Trinity: White is appointed for the day, the expression of joy in the mystery of the Triune God. Also to recognize a high feast day.

Time after Pentecost: Green indicates our growth in faith as we hear the Gospel preached. This "ordinary time" color is used until Reformation Day, and the "ordinary" days until Christ the King.

Reformation Day: Red, symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit moving among the saints who challenged the church to corrective action.

All Saints Day: White is used to signify a high feast day and the remembrance of all who have joined the church triumphant.

Christ the King: The final day of the church year and a high feast day is adorned in white, suggesting light and joy.

Have you given much thought to church colors before? In keeping with the notion of "the way we worship is the way we believe," perhaps being more aware of them will enhance your worship experience at Immanuel.

Wishing you the Lord's peace,

 *Pastor Brian Moeller*