

## Children's Message: Church Calendar Epiphany

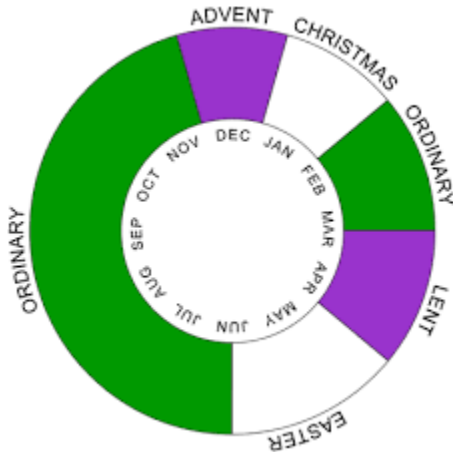
How do you remember when you are born every year?

Why do we celebrate it?

It's to remember a significant event in the life of our family.

We celebrate anniversaries, birthday, and other significant events.

Likewise, the church celebrates certain things every year so we can remember important things.



There are 5 Seasons

Advent - 4 weeks before Christmas

Christmas - Christmas Day until the First Sunday after Epiphany (January 6th)

Ordinary Time - Which means counted or "ordered" time between the other seasons.

Lent - 50 Days before Easter (excluding the Sundays)

Easter - From Easter Sunday until Pentecost (50 days after Easter)

We gather weekly on Sunday to remind ourselves that God loves us.

That is why we sing and pray and learn and think.

There are truths tend to forget and take for granted.

So let us remember God's love together!

## Jeremiah 1

<sup>1</sup> The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, <sup>3</sup> and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

<sup>4</sup> The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> "Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

<sup>11</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?"

"I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching<sup>[b]</sup> to see that my word is fulfilled."

<sup>13</sup> The word of the LORD came to me again: "What do you see?"

"I see a pot that is boiling," I answered. "It is tilting toward us from the north."

<sup>14</sup> The LORD said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land. <sup>15</sup> I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the LORD.

"Their kings will come and set up their thrones  
in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem;  
they will come against all her surrounding walls  
and against all the towns of Judah.

<sup>16</sup> I will pronounce my judgments on my people  
because of their wickedness in forsaking me,  
in burning incense to other gods  
and in worshiping what their hands have made.

<sup>17</sup> "Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. <sup>18</sup> Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. <sup>19</sup> They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

## God's Messengers



## The Role of the Prophet

To stand outside the system and speak truthfully to it

Among the Priesthood (Represent the People to God) & Court Classes (Stewardship of the People)



## Perilous Prophecy

Warning of Judgement & Invitation to Repentance.

Their work is salvation.



Unfaithful prophets - False Prophets

Either to maintain the status quo or condemn people.



"God Knows," "God Sees,"  
"God Acts" - Judgement & Salvation  
Warning & Comfort

### **The Character of Faithful Prophets**

#### Truthful



Radicals - Meaning Rooted  
Counter-cultural  
Non-conformist  
Courageous  
Unexpected direction

#### Compassionate



They love those whom they warn

Love & Mercy Trump Justice

Grief

Trust God

They trust God is in control and will work things out.

They are also honest with God about what they feel and who they are.

Jesus full of grace & truth

### **Modern Day Prophets**

#### The Church as Prophet



#### False Churches

Complacency (Health & Wealth)

- Unreflective, non-critical in thought, reinforces the status quo.

Condemnation (Westboro Baptist)

- Critical in spirit but not in mind, demonizes people.

Power Over Others

- Grows own power and influence over others to control.

#### True Churches

Compassion

- There is true love and affection which leads to truth-telling.

Conviction

- draws people towards Christ's person and forgiveness
- repentance and transformation.

Friendship - that brings freedom from darkness and sin. Freedom from evil within and without.

#### Individuals as Prophets



### Trust God

The individual relationship with God must be a trusting and growing one.

Much like the character of Jeremiah

### Humble

No one should ever assume they are a prophet as this can be a cause of egomania and delusion.

Condemnation or Complacency vs. Compassion & Conviction

### Obedience & Courage to carry out their role.

Must continue to follow the aspects of Grace & Truth.

The truth is spoken in love, not compulsion.

It is a trained gift & role.

### In Community

A Individual prophet must be embedded in a healthy stable discerning community and have directors

Identified as prophets by community.

Accountability.

Our church has directions for prophets with the specific prophetic gifts

(visions, dreams, knowledge, interpretation of tongues)

Trust God - This is not to harm you or someone else.

Be Courageous - risk being wrong and speak up.

Discernment with pastors/elders - Get backup so you can confirm.

Be Obedient - deliver the message personally or by a wise means - the result is not yours to control.

Be Free

### Jesus as fulfillment - Prophet, Priest & King



### Full of Grace & Truth

Do you know what the Greek name for a messenger is?

Angelos

We are the messengers of God.

His ambassadors to a world that desperately needs him.

Will you heed your call?