



The Circle of Seasons:  
Meeting God in the  
Church Year  
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Kimberlee Conway Ireton has written for *Weavings: A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life*, Thoughtfulchristian.com and *Relevant* magazine's *Deeper Walk* blog. She and her family worship at a Presbyterian church in the Seattle, Washington region.



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## Christians Have More to Celebrate Than Just Christmas and Easter

**“Only rarely does an introductory volume on Christian liturgy manage to cover its assigned subject with both detail and grace, but this one most assuredly does just that. In her deftly written book, Conway Ireton provides all of us a very accessible and enormously appealing overview of the church’s liturgical year.”** —Phyllis Tickle, compiler of *The Divine Hours*

Kimberlee Conway Ireton didn’t really understand the Christian year until she was in her twenties, when she began worshiping at a Benedictine chapel. Up until then words like *Lent*, *Pentecost* and *Advent* seemed like parts of a distant story that she had no way to interpret, much less become a part of. Today, Kimberlee (along with her family) follows the church year in her worship as well as in her day-to-day life. She has a “heightened awareness of the change in mood, color and music that reflect[s] the changing seasons of the year.” And that awareness “has deepened [her] faith, grounding [her] life with Christ in time, in Scripture and in community.”

In *The Circle of Seasons*, Kimberlee explains each part of the church year, including Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Throughout the book, she brings readers to a more complete understanding of God’s story and our place in it, explaining such topics as

- why Christmas is ultimately about waiting for Christ’s return, and how, like Mary, we are called to “bring the Light of the world into the world”
- how the Epiphany story of “following the star” can mean for us today paying attention and ministering to the people around us
- how to find and celebrate God in Ordinary Time

Readers new to liturgy as well as those who have been following the church year all their life will benefit from Conway Ireton’s careful explanations, personal insights, and fresh take on the meaning and impact of each of these times of year. At the end of each chapter is a “Living the Season” section that gives questions for reflection, Scripture to read and practical ways to incorporate celebration of each season into daily life.

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