THE SEASONS OF THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

Advent: Anticipation

Christmas: Incarnation

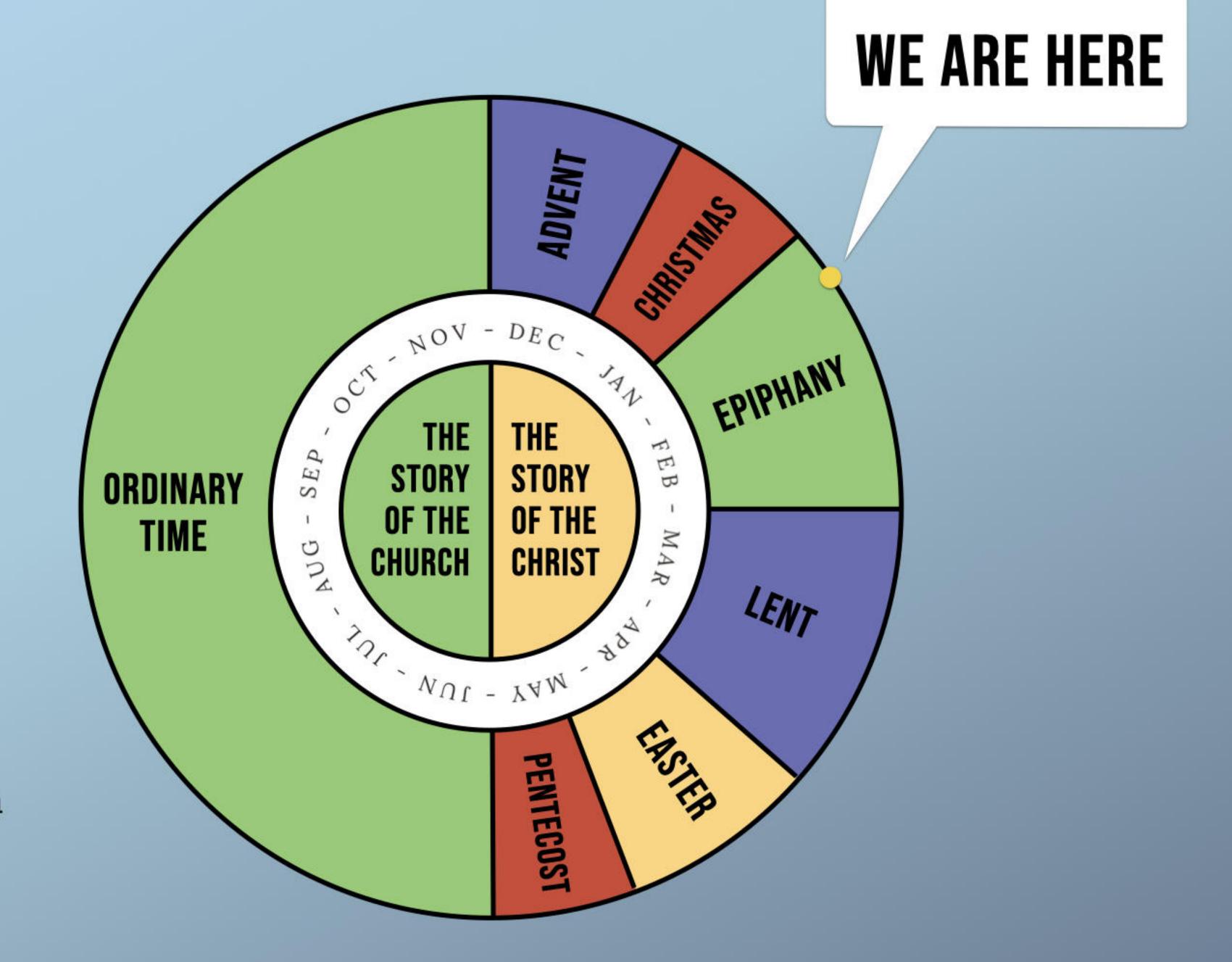
Epiphany: Revelation

Lent: Crucifixion

Easter: Resurrection

Pentecost: Ascension

Ordinary Time: Mission



# EXODUS 34:6-7

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

#### TWELVE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

- 1. YHWH, YHWH (repeated for emphasis)
- 2. God, who is
- 3. merciful
- 4. and gracious,
- 5. slow to anger,
- 6. and abounding in steadfast love

- 7. and faithfulness
- 8. preserving steadfast love for thousands
- 9. forgiving iniquity,
- 10. transgression,
- 11. and sin,
- 12. yet by no means clearing the guilty

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a young bull, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "This is your god, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the young bull and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord." So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a young bull. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'This is your god, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'"

### EXODUS 24:15-18

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

## JOHN 8:54-59

Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

## JOHN 8:54-59

"You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

This is the basis of all other good news: that the power behind the cosmos is not blind chance, nor yet brute force, but love.

N.T. Wright