

The GCI Worship Calendar

Experience the Fullness of Jesus Across Every Season

Why follow the worship calendar?

Jesus is at the center of our worship — and the worship calendar helps us experience his story all year long. Rather than centering our church gatherings on random themes or trends, the GCI Worship Calendar invites congregations to be formed by the life and ministry of Christ in real time. Following this calendar:

- Centers us on Christ's story, not our preferences
- Unites our Avenues around a shared spiritual rhythm
- Helps us align our worship with seasonal movements of Jesus' mission

When Hope Avenue teams intentionally shape worship gatherings around the calendar, church services become more than weekly routines. They become immersive experiences that reflect the person, work, and ongoing ministry of Jesus.

HOW THE WORSHIP CALENDAR FORMS US

A Year In The Life Of Jesus



SEASON	DESCRIPTION	JESUS IS...	MINISTRY THEME
Advent	Waiting on the Savior <i>A season of hopeful anticipation</i>	Coming	Hopeful anticipation
Christmas	God with Us <i>Celebrating the incarnation of Christ</i>	Born	Incarnation and joy
Epiphany	Light for the Whole World <i>Jesus is revealed to all nations</i>	Ministering	Light to all people
Easter Prep	Naming Our Deaths <i>A season of letting go, fasting from idols</i>	Saving	Repentance and surrender
Easter	Naming Our Births <i>Resurrection and celebration of new life</i>	Risen	Resurrection life
Pentecost	Empowered to Participate <i>Celebrating the Spirit's work in and through us</i>	Sending the Spirit	Empowered participation
Ordinary Time	Participating in the Mission <i>Living the Gospel in everyday life</i>	Building His Church	Everyday discipleship

These seasons form a **cycle of remembrance, response, and renewal**. They also align naturally with cultural seasons (e.g., Easter and Christmas) and provide **entry points for new guests** and missional efforts.

BEST PRACTICES FOR HOPE AVENUE TEAMS

1. Plan Seasonally, Not Just Weekly

Before each new season begins, gather your team to explore:

- What does this season say about who Jesus is?
- What does our congregation need most right now?
- How might our order of service reflect that?

2. Collaborate Prayerfully

Don't just assign tasks — share stories, pray together, and listen to the Spirit's lead as a team.

3. Stay Creative Within the Framework

The calendar isn't rigid — it's responsive. Feel free to adapt with your culture in mind:

- Use modern elements (videos, spoken word, art)
- Adjust styles while honoring the season's theme
- Build congregational ownership by involving others

4. Align Across All Avenues

Use the calendar to foster synergy:

- **Love Avenue:** Schedule outreach and connect groups around major seasons (e.g., invite new guests at Easter)
- **Faith Avenue:** Create resources that deepen the season's themes in discipleship groups



THE ESSENTIALS

Following the worship calendar helps your congregation remember, reorient, and participate in the life of Christ. It offers a shared story across generations and ministries. Don't try to implement it all at once — start with one season, reflect together, and build from there.

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

- Worship calendar overview: gci.org/articles/the-churchs-worship-calendar
- Planning guide: [Hope Avenue Tools PDF](#)
- Practical examples: resources.gci.org/media
- Spiritual practices for each season: [CH2-Calendar.pdf](#)

