

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO

the Holy Days

A WORD ON THE SYMBOLISM OF THESE HOLY DAYS

“What's with the odd colors, that weird wreath, and all of those peculiar ornaments on our Christmas tree?”

The traditional colors of these seasons symbolize various elements of the Christian faith, especially as it concerns the first and second coming of Christ. Among these are purple which reminds us of repentance and royalty, pink which reminds us of joy and festivity, white which reminds us of holiness and purity, and gold which reminds us of royalty and purity.

The circular shape of the wreath itself and the evergreen from which it is made remind us that God is eternal, without beginning or end. The light of each candle in the Advent wreath reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World and that His light, shining in the midst of darkness, is the light by which we see.

So... technically speaking, the tree on *our* stage is not actually a *Christmas* tree but is, instead, a *Chrismon* tree. Historically, Chrismons (short for “Christ monograms”) have been used to proclaim Christ in a variety of ways. In fact, some of these symbols are in themselves the most ancient of Christian creedal statements, while others have worked their way into Christian tradition throughout the centuries of the Church's worship and witness.