

The vision of *Seasons of the Spirit* is to provide faith communities with resources that empower all ages to be transformed in Christ as they

- » explore meaning and mystery in the Bible
- » celebrate in worship, sacraments, education, and service
- » engage in ministries of love, justice, and witness
- » live in inclusive communities of faith, shaped and led by the Holy Spirit

(The full text of the *Theological and Educational Foundations Paper* is available at www.seasonsonline.ca.)

Seasons of the Spirit...

- » follows the **Season of Creation** cycle of readings in the first four weeks in September, and the semi-continuous stream of the **Revised Common Lectionary** (see back page)
- » integrates the ministries of Christian education, worship, and service
- » is created in community with congregations from different denominations and communities around the world
- » is used by faith communities around the world, including Australia, North America, and the United Kingdom
- » offers rituals and resources that nurture the imaginative spirit
- » follows the **seasons of the Church year** (see back page)

Seasons family of resources...

- » **SeasonsFUSION...** for Congregational Life: A weekly leadership resource for worship, faith formation, and service
- » **SeasonsENCORE:** Weekly Age-Level resources to help nurture actively growing faith
- » *Seasons Growing Faith:* products for ministry with infants and toddlers
- » *Seasons Music:* music volumes that include a variety of styles, cultures, and traditions
- » *Seasons Art:* fine art posters selected from diverse cultures, eras, and media; Laminated Teaching Posters

Supplemental resources on the *Seasons* website support and enrich worship and learning...

- » *Planning:* Certificates, forms, and planning charts
- » *Library:* includes Age 3 supplement, articles, clip art, prayer and poem gallery, *Ask the Rabbi* (background on Jewish traditions and practices), *Virtual Resource Booklet* (includes crafts, recipes, and patterns), and more...
- » *Links:* websites referenced in the weekly materials to enhance the session resources
- » *Spirit Sightings/Screenings:* weekly connections between the scripture readings and current events or films
- » *SeasonsFUSION BLOG:* share your experiences, tips, and ideas with the entire *Seasons* community.
- » *Tip of the Week:* free e-newsletter for all leaders

SeasonsFUSION ...for Congregational Life

Your congregation can combine time, space, adults and children to create **new energy** through weekly **Christian practice** in **community** and **worship experience**. Based on the semi-continuous stream of the **Revised Common Lectionary**, these adaptable resources will fit your congregation, no matter how you are “doing church.”

SeasonsFUSION is designed for:

- » large and small congregations looking for resources that integrate or fuse worship, learning, and service, and that support the many ways they practice Christianity
- » congregations where age range and numbers make age-level faith formation programs difficult to maintain
- » vital congregations committed to faith formation and living their lives together in ways that embody and nourish faith
- » congregations that look to lay worship/preaching teams and need study helps
- » congregations that want to experiment with reshaping their lives together as a worshipping and learning community
- » congregations that are looking for support for growing faith and discipleship at home



included WEEKLY

- » A *Planning page*
- » A *Biblical Background page*
- » A *Reflection and Focus page*
- » Three-page *Worship Outline*
- » A *Poetry and Prose page*, containing articles, poems, and stories
- » A *Bible Story page*
- » *Stations pages*
- » A *Resource sheet*, for use at one of the stations
- » An *Activity Sheet* for very young children

included QUARTERLY

- » One *Music Booklet* with sheet music lyrics only for copying
- » *Six posters*
- » *Articles* – including *About this Season*, *About the Art*; Communion Prayers for the season; and articles that support the theme of the season(s)
- » *Living the Seasons* – connects congregation members to what is happening in church
- » *Gatherings for All Ages* – outlines for all-ages worship events
- » *Special Worship Outlines*
- » One *Data CD*, which includes the resources in Word format, poster images for projection, the Bible Stories in MP3 format, and song lyrics for the quarter

SeasonsENCORE

SeasonsENCORE offers the tried and much-loved Age-Level resources congregations around the world have come to appreciate so much! It makes the best use of the innovative work that has gone into creating the nine-year archive of *Seasons of the Spirit* materials.

SeasonsENCORE follows the semi-continuous stream of the **Revised Common Lectionary** and the familiar, easy-to-lead pattern of Prepare, Gather, Engage, Respond, Bless and Reflect.

SeasonsENCORE shares the same Art Posters, Articles, Music Suggestions, and Biblical Background pages (written new each year) as **SeasonsFUSION**. Congregations can use **SeasonsFUSION** and **SeasonENCORE** together perfectly.



included WEEKLY

- » One *Biblical Background page*
- » One *Prepare page*
- » Two pages of *Weekly Sessions* (Three in the Multiage resource)
- » Two pages of reproducible *Resource Sheets* (Three in the Multiage resource)

included QUARTERLY

- » *Six Posters*
- » *Articles* including *About This Season*, *This Season* for the particular Age-Level, and *About the Art*
- » *Six extra Resource pages*
- » Two-page *Evaluation Form*

What is the lectionary?

The *Revised Common Lectionary* (1992) is based on a three-year-cycle of Bible readings, arranged to include foundational stories in a schedule following the cycle of the church year.

- » four readings for each Sunday: two from the Hebrew Scriptures (one being a Psalm) and two from the New Testament (a gospel reading and a reading from an epistle/letter)
- » each year focuses on one of the first three Gospels: Year A – Matthew, Year B – Mark, and Year C – Luke

Seasons resources are based on the “semi-continuous stream” of readings. (See “One Lectionary—Two Streams” and “Being Led by the Lectionary” in the EXPLORE SEASONS tab at www.seasonsonline.ca.)

What are the seasons and colours of the church year?

The journey through the church year follows a path begun 1500 years ago, focusing on the life of Christ.

- » **Season of Advent** (4 weeks): exploring readings about the promised Messiah and God’s realm (colour: purple or blue, symbolizing hope and anticipation)
- » **Season of Christmas** (12 days): celebrating Jesus’ birth and the visit of the magi (colour: white or gold, symbolizing light and gift)
- » **Season after the Epiphany**: called “Ordinary Time”; exploring stories of call and Jesus’ ministry (colour: green, symbolizing growth)
- » **Season of Lent** (40 days, not counting Sundays): focusing on Jesus’ life and stories of covenant and prophecy (colour: purple, symbolizing penitence); ends with Palm/Passion Sunday (colour: red) and Holy Week
- » **Season of Easter** (50 days): celebrating Christ’s resurrection and the witness of the disciples (colour: white or gold, symbolizing joy and holiness); ends with Pentecost Sunday (colour: red), celebrating the birth of the church
- » **Season of Creation (see back panel) and Season after Pentecost** (about half the year): also called “Ordinary time”; exploring stories of faith ancestors, Jesus’ teachings, and the witness of the early church (colour: green, symbolizing growth and renewal)

(See “The Symphony of the Church Year” and “Being Led by the Lectionary” in the EXPLORE SEASONS section at www.seasonsonline.ca.)

For the first four weeks in September *Seasons* users can choose to follow the **Seasons of Creation** cycle of readings OR the **Revised Common Lectionary**.

What is the Season of Creation?

Many congregations have begun to think deeply about the kind of message they want to convey through their worship, Christian education, and outreach practices, to a world facing significant environmental challenges.

To meet this desire, *Seasons of the Spirit* includes resources for the **Season of Creation, during the first four weeks of September**. This season has been observed in many countries for the past several years. While the Season of Creation has its own set of lectionary readings, the readings are designed to provide a three-year cycle that broadly corresponds to the pattern of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, with each year centred on one of the synoptic gospels: Matthew (Year A), Mark (Year B), and Luke (Year C).

The readings for the Season of Creation invite congregations to join with all members of Earth’s community to “celebrate Earth as a sacred planet filled with God’s vibrant presence” (from *Season of Creation* charter). In 2012, the Sundays in the Season of Creation focus on Planet Earth, Humanity, Sky, and Mountains.

The *Seasons of the Spirit* resources provide leaders and participants with the opportunity to engage in theological reflection, be transformed in faith, and live out their faith in the contemporary world.

To learn more about *Seasons of the Spirit* and view a price list go to www.seasonsonline.ca or call 1.800.663.2775



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Lectionary resources
for worship, faith formation,
and service



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