

## Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

*#2 What is the reason the priest wears a white stole for the Feast of the Transfiguration, but then wears a purple stole during Advent, and green or red stoles at other times?*

The priest wears a stole in the color that will match the event or the season. Each color points to one or more ideas about God or about God's work in the world:

**Purple** is the color of royalty, because it was the most expensive color to create in fabrics in the ancient world. We wear purple during Advent in expectation of the birth of the one we call the "Prince of Peace".

**White** is the color of joy. We wear white during the Christmas Season and during the Easter Season to express the joy of these seasons. We also wear white at baptisms to reflect the joy of welcoming a new person into the family of God.

Most interestingly, we also wear white at funerals and memorial services because, though these times may be times of grief for us, we understand that those who have died are raised to a new life in Christ.

**Green** is the color of growth and new life. We wear green during the season following the Epiphany (January and sometimes February) and during the season following Pentecost (summer and fall months).

**Red** is the color of the Holy Spirit. We wear red for the day of Pentecost (which often falls in May). We also wear red during Holy Week as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice of his life on Good Friday.