A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ’s mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

A period of preparation and discipline that begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the Church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship. The season is the traditional time for prayer for baptism and confirmations to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday, or during the season of Easter.
Lectionary Notes — Preaching in the Year of Matthew

The Revised Common Lectionary focusses on a different one of the three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary on an opportunity for preachers to focus on the very first book of the New Testament — the gospel of Matthew. Most scholars believe that despite its position in the usual order of books within the gospels, Matthew is not just a cobbling together of other sources. Instead the author of the gospel has their own take on the Jesus story that is important for their audience — a unique perspective on the meaning of Jesus' life, teaching, death and resurrection. This particular approach is important to keep in mind when reading Matthew's gospel, as it is not just a historical account but a commentary on the Jewish tradition of that time.

Matthew's gospel includes. Many commentators point out the fact that of all the gospels, Matthew seems the most interested in addressing the Jewish tradition in which Jesus lived and taught, and in linking his life and death with the writings of the Jewish scriptures. It is Matthew who records Jesus' claim to be fulfilling the law, rather than abolishing it. (Matt 5: 17) At the same time Matthew includes an extensive critique of "the scribes and the Pharisees", culminating in the chapter long oracle of woes in Matt 23. Matthew also includes a number of stories that are unique to his gospel and that add to the understanding of Jesus' message.

Some 2000 years later, a focus on Matthew's gospel enables us to engage with the same questions and issues. In 2009, the Uniting Church Assembly made the statement: "Jesus of Nazareth cannot be understood apart from the Judaism of his time as he was born, lived and died a faithful Jew, looking to the establishment of God's kingdom as the fulfilment of God's promises". And further, "The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church has received the Scriptures, [and] commits its ministers to preach from these..." Obedience are nourished and regulated..." The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church has received the Scriptures, [and] commits its ministers to preach from these..."

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Calendar and Lectionary of the
UNITING CHURCH
Year A 2019 - 2020

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The Uniting Church lays upon its members the serious duty of reading the Scriptures, [and] commits its ministers to preach from these...

Basis of Union (1992 Edition), paragraph 5