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church  (chûrch)

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n.

1. A building for public, especially Christian worship.

2. often **Church**

a. The company of all Christians regarded as a spiritual body.

b. A specified Christian denomination: *the Presbyterian Church*.

c. A congregation.

3. Public divine worship in a church; a religious service: *goes to church at Christmas and Easter*.

4. The clerical profession; clergy.

5. Ecclesiastical power as distinguished from the secular: *the separation of church and state*.

tr.v. **churched**, **church·ing**, **church·es**

To conduct a church service for, especially to perform a religious service for (a woman after childbirth).

adj.

Of or relating to the church; ecclesiastical.

[Middle English *chirche*, from Old English *cirice*, ultimately from Medieval Greek *kūrikon*, from Late Greek *kūriakon* (*dōma*), the Lord's (house), neuter of Greek *kūriakos*, of the lord, from *kūrios*, lord; see **κουα-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Church, Frederic Edwin 1826-1900.

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American painter and leader of the Hudson River School. His works include *Heart of the Andes* (1859).

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[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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