

## **A Handbook for Chalice Bearers** ***Church of the Holy Spirit Anglican***

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.” (Romans 12:1 NIV)*

### Purpose

The chalice bearer plays a vital role in helping their ministers cultivate an environment in which worship may be celebrated with reverence and awe, allowing for full participation by the gathered assembly.

### Responsibilities

A few reminders for Chalice Bearers:

- ⤴ If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, please find your replacement.
- ⤴ Please call Brenda Price and let her know of the replacement or trade of service dates. Please do not call the church office. Brenda will notify those involved.
- ⤴ If you are ill or facing a travel emergency and are unable to find a replacement, please call Brenda as well, but remember that, under normal circumstances, making an effort to find replacements is your responsibility.

### Preparation

The chalice bearer is to regard their office and assignments seriously, a commitment of time and talent in service to the Lord; a holy responsibility. It is important to learn the order of the service and liturgical terminology, understanding that in the Eucharist, God becomes present to us in the elements by the power of the Holy Spirit, making one a part of the working of this sacred time.

### Dress

Serving in this highly visible role, please dress appropriately, by this we mean professional (basically business casual in our parish) with dark colored dress shoes (dark suede comfort shoes are fine – never appear in tennis shoes, flip-flops, jeans, shorts, etc.).

## Mechanics

The chalice bearer should arrive 20 minutes prior to the service and vest at once in an alb (robe) with a cincture (rope), and a cross (turn off cell phones before vesting). There are crosses available to wear or you may wear your own. Once vested, go to the children's education room for prayer with the worship team led by the priest. Prayers generally begin 10 minutes prior to the service. After prayer, return to the narthex in order to "line-up" for the procession. At that time, *all talking should end among members of the worship team. Voices easily carry into the nave where an atmosphere of quiet worship is being maintained, so if you have any comments or questions for others in the team, please bring them up in the education room.*

During the service, personal piety is invited, not required, and may be expressed through reverencing the altar, bowing at the passing of the cross, crossing yourself, etc. at the appropriate places throughout the liturgy.

To maintain good hygiene, please take the time to wash your hands in the sacristy after the exchange of the peace.

When the celebrant offers the Invitation ("The gifts of God for the people of God..."), all eyes should be on the gifts of Christ's body and blood. Then, the chalice bearers will step forward to receive the elements. The one closest to the altar (last one served) will accept the first chalice and purificator from the priest. If the priest serving that day does not offer the second chalice in a timely fashion, you may approach the altar and pick up the chalice and purificator. The chalice bearer standing closest to the altar follows the priest to serve the acolytes, the other is to go to the Gospel side to serve the prayer team first (not the music ministry).

The chalice will be offered by holding it by the stem in one's dominant hand, lifting it to the level of the lips (this will differ based on the height of the person being served) while saying the following words of choice:

- The blood of Christ, the cup of Salvation.
- The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.

Sometimes it is difficult to tell if someone is actually receiving the wine. Thus, a good rule of thumb is to never let go of the cup, but allow the person receiving to guide the chalice to their lips. If someone new to the church doesn't help guide, there is nothing wrong with asking the person to assist you. Gently wipe the chalice with the purificator and turn the chalice one-quarter turn so that the next person does not drink from the same spot. The altar guild appreciates it if you do your best to keep wine from getting on the embroidery (usually a cross) of the purificator. If a person partakes by intinction, take the wafer, intinct, and place it on the person's tongue. If a person seems uncertain about this, simply take it or quietly say, "Please let me have the wafer."

Some children may receive the cup if they are baptized and their parents so desire. Administer the chalice typically, but control the chalice so they get a small sip.

If you notice someone approaching with their hands crossed over their chest, please pray a simple prayer of blessing over them.

After the congregation has received Communion, a priest may ask you to accompany him in taking the elements to a person unable to leave a position due to a physical impairment. Be ready to be asked and distribute the wine as usual.

Above all, remember, YOU are to control the chalice. Should the chalice become depleted, approach the chancel, but remain at the bottom of the steps. The crucifer (head acolyte) will bring the reserved sacrament to you to refill the chalice, then, return to your station.

After the last person has been served, return to the sanctuary and proceed to the credence table, consume as much wine remaining in your chalice as you are able or ask another chalice bearer or priest to help. The head acolyte should pour some water in the chalice for you to swirl around in order to remove some of the wine and drink it, then wipe the inside of the chalice gently, return the chalice to the credence

table, and drape the purificator neatly over your chalice (not balled up or folded and placed in the cup).

At the start of the exit processional hymn, the acolytes will lead out. Stop and bow at the altar (if the choir is in attendance, please remember that you will follow them). Once the back of the nave is reached, return to the vesting room and devest, replacing all items worn.

When processing, always leave space between you and the person in front of you. In the sanctuary, sit with both feet on the floor. Give strong verbal liturgical responses. When you move or stand, don't allow arms to dangle, simply clasp your hands at the waist.

While in the sanctuary, remember that all eyes are looking in your direction. It is easy to become a distraction from the worship. While you may approach the celebrant at any convenient time (usually during music) with questions. We ask all members of the worship team to avoid unnecessary chit-chat from the time they enter the nave until the service ends.

We thank you for your dedicated service to our Lord through the chalice bearing ministries. Your ministry represents powerful witness to our congregation. We hope that you will see your service to Christ and His church as an act of worship, that you will sense the Lord's presence, that you will develop the gifts God has given you for service in his church, and be as blessed by your time and preparation as we are for having you serve with us.