

Communion Serving Instructions



"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
~ 1 Peter 4:10

- If you are interested in serving communion, please take a lanyard located in the narthex on the wall across from the elevator.
- During the service, once the Pastor has prepared Communion and stated "all is prepared," quietly approach the altar. Communion servers will comprise the first group to commune.
- The order in which each Communion server will be stationed is as follows:
 - Bread
 - Tray of wine/juice
 - Chalice of wine
 - Basket for discarded cups.
- The distributor of bread (usually the pastor and the worship leader) should tear off a bite-size piece of bread and place it in the communicant's hand, make eye contact and say "*The body of Christ, given for you.*" Do not be afraid to smile at each communicant as this is the celebration of the Lord's Supper! Little children who come forward should receive a blessing. The distributor of the bread should say a blessing ("The Lord bless and keep you," "Jesus loves you," etc.) If a child is frightened or pulls away don't force the issue.
- The distributors of wine/grape juice should offer the wine/juice (in tray, or wine in the chalice), make eye contact and say "*The blood of Christ, shed for you.*" Again, do not be afraid to smile at each communicant as this is the celebration of the Lord's Supper!
- For the distributors of the wine in the chalice, carefully use the napkin to wipe the surface of the chalice from where the communicant drank and slightly rotate the chalice to offer a clean surface to the next communicant. **Important:** watch the tray of wine next to you and when you see that they are running low on wine/juice, help the server by replacing their tray with a fresh one from the altar.
- If someone accidentally drops the bread or spills the wine, quietly offer another trying not to embarrass the person. Pick up dropped bread and place it on the edge of the altar.
- The Pastor may inform you that a worshiper may not be able to come forward but wishes to commune. Quietly walk back with the Pastor and share communion with them.
- After all have communed, return the bread, wine and baskets to the altar. Cover the bread and wine with the Communion cloth and quietly return to your seat.
- After worship, please return your lanyard to the wall for the next service and:
 - **9:00 AM service** – help the person who is doing communion set-up by bringing the communion trays & bread back to the sacristy so they can refresh for the 2nd service.
 - **10:30 AM service (or last service of the day)** – serve communion to the ensemble, then help bring everything back to the sacristy. Ideally, communion should be cleaned up at this time: trays, chalices washed, bread and wine properly disposed of (refer to the instructions in the sacristy on how to do this). However, we know there are times when people will need to leave immediately following the service and we do not want anyone stuck there cleaning up communion alone. If this is the case, please just leave it and Hugh and Julie will clean it during the week.