

Liturgical Ministries -Christ Church, Ridley Park

Liturgy is the work of the people and all of God's faithful are called to service and in prayer. It takes a community to perform orthodox "right praise" liturgy. All are welcome to be a part of the liturgy by right of their baptism. All liturgy is under the guidance and supervision of the priest who is the primary keeper and guardian of the liturgy on the parish level. All liturgies will conform to the liturgical norms of The Episcopal Church.

Lectors (Readers) read the lessons and the Prayers of the People

- One, but preferably more than one people are involved in a Sunday
- Please do sign up before Sunday or avoid confusion
- Come up after the Opening Prayer (Collect) and reverence the altar with a bow
- Introduce the reading by how it is written (A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah), there is no need for a secular greeting "Good morning" or "This morning's reading is from X". There is no need to announce chapter and verse.
- If the Psalm is recited, please do so standing from the lectern. If this psalm is sung, please sit down at the small pew by the altar.
- If ever there is a mispronunciation or mishap with the readings, no worries keep on going and no need to excuse yourself. Say it with confidence and try not to draw attention to yourself.
- After both readings, please reverence the altar and return to your pew.
- After the Creed please again reverence the altar and return to the lectern. Please give time after each invocation for people to prayer. There is a tendency to turn the Prayers of the People into a laundry list, try hard to avoid it.
- Return to your pew after the priest concludes with a closing prayer and not before.

Ushers, help welcome people and help with the collecting of the offering of the people.

- Welcoming a guest as Christ is essential evangelism. People feel awkward and often frightened in coming to a church for the first time. You are the first face of the church.
- If they are new, please welcome them, give them a bulletin, show them where the restrooms are located. If they have children show them where Sunday School is located.
- While welcoming people is essential, we also do not want to smother or overwhelm them.
- Collecting the Sunday offering is an awkward, but holy act.

-We are asking folks to give a little of themselves in the collecting of money and other resources to make ministry happen in the name of the church.

-We need to always be respectful in this relationship of money and God. Particularly in this time when many give online or monthly.

-After the money is collected immediately take the money to the altar. No need to wait for the end of the hymn or anthem. The money should not be treated any differently than the bread or wine offered and any way of "money worship" should be avoided. The climax of the liturgy is the offering of bread and wine, not the money. This comes from a time when Morning Prayer was the normal Sunday service and there was a need for a climax.

-After bringing the gifts to the altar, reverence the altar and return to your pew.

Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) helps distribute Communion during the liturgies.

-Come to the altar during the Fraction Anthem (Lamb of God), reverence the Altar and stand behind the priest.

-After the priest gives the invitation to communion, he will give you the chalice.

- Since we are the servants of the community, we receive last and not first just like any good host.

-The chalice follows the priest in distributing communion. We will be doing a full circle around the altar. Do give some space between yourself and the priest. No need to rush and take your time.

- Give the Eucharist is a very private and holy event. Many unique events occur, and you need to be pastorally sensitive to the needs of the people.

-Look into their eyes and say the "The Blood of Christ" and give them the chalice. Some folks like the "bird feeding" approach but it is many times easier just to hand them the chalice and for them to drink from it.

-Wipe the chalice with the inside of the purificator (without the cross) it makes it much easier to clean.

-If they intinct (dip) tilt the chalice towards them and use the purificator to guard against any dripping.

-If the host falls into the chalice, notify the priest to deal with the situation.

- With children try to get down to their level if physically possible

-If a person chooses not to receive the Blood of Christ, still give the invitation (The Blood of Christ), so not to make them feel slighted.

-Once all have received, come to the center of the altar and receive Communion. You in turn will give Communion to the priest. He will be the last to receive and will also consume the remainder of the wine.

-Reverence the altar and return to your pew

Sacristans (Altar Guild) help prepare the church for the Sunday liturgies.

-It is a holy and wonderful ministry to help prepare for the prayer of the community.

-The credence table (side table) contains all which is needed to offer the Eucharist

Included on it is the chalice, with purificator, paten, and corporal. The cruets contain water and wine. To keep the liturgy simple, we will not be using the burse, veil, pall or bread box. The number of hosts needed can be placed directly on the paten (Only exception would be Christmas and Easter) when a ciborium might be used.

-Only wine in the chalice will be consecrated, so there will be none in the aumbry and extra wine in the cruet can be used for another liturgy. No need to empty the unconsecrated wine cruet, it can be refilled for the next Eucharist.

-All hosts can be placed on the paten. One priest host and the needed number of smaller hosts.

-When we move to the larger hosts, please take into mind it breaks into 12 or 15 pieces.

-Once we move to individually wrapped gluten free hosts, they too can be placed on the paten and not in the pyx. This too will make things simpler.

-The priest will do the first ablution (washing) of the chalice at the altar. The second one will be done by the sacristan, and it can be poured into the piscina. ONCE THE WINE IS CONSECRATED IT NEEDS TO BE CONSUMED AND NOT Poured DOWN THE PISCINA.

-Once hosts are consecrated there is no need to count how many there are in the aumbry. We have more than enough hosts in stock. The fewer folks handling them the better. Also please do not add the paper with the number to the paten. It creates another item to address on the altar.

-The Gospel Book lives on the altar no need to take it back and forth. Please double check to see if the marker is in the right place.

Liturgical Environment-Enhance the liturgy through seasonal décor.

-The Liturgical Environment is charged with enhancing the Liturgy and not distracting from it.

-It should follow all the liturgical norms of The Episcopal Church and embrace the Anglican aesthetic of noble simplicity.

-Some good resources

Times and Seasons

Creating Uncommon Worship

Repitching the Tent: Reordering the Church

All by Richard Giles, former dean of the Philadelphia Cathedral

Celebrating the Eucharist by Patrick Malloy, dean of St John the Divine Cathedral, New York

Consult other Episcopal Churches for inspiration and guidance

Washington National Cathedral

St. Luke in the Field, New York City

St John's in the Village, New York City

Trinity Church, Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia

St. Mark's Church, Locust Street, Philadelphia

Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr

-