



## CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTIANA HUNDRED

### 9 AM Instructions for Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers

Thank you for saying yes to participating as a member of the 9 AM Worship Support Team for The ARK. Your role is integral to Christ Church's ability to welcome all people into a loving and joyful community that serves others and seeks to grow deeper in relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

You will assist the clergy and staff by fulfilling the weekly ministry roles and encouraging children and youth as ministers in the services of Holy Eucharist held in the Chapel as we inspire, form, and bless all ages.

#### **Before the service:**

For all roles, please arrive 10 minutes before the service begins and check in with the clergy.

- Acolyte
  - The cross should be in the back of the chapel, close to the chapel doors.
  - Hold the cross with the inscribed letters/symbol facing forward.
  - Depending on the age/height of the child who is the acolyte, the parent may want to assist with carrying the cross to the front.
- Eucharistic Minister/Sacristan
  - Confirm all eucharistic elements are on the altar and the credence table (this is the small table to the left of the altar, next to the side door of the chapel). The altar should have a veiled chalice (called the stack). If you see it, we assume it's prepared correctly. If it's missing, notify the priest. For the credence table, the eucharistic elements are:
    - Chalice with purificator (white linen for wiping cup)
    - Wafers in two glass bowls
    - One small carafe with water and one with wine
    - Gluten-free pyx (small round brass container)

#### **During the service:**

- Acolyte
  - The acolyte leads the choristers and clergy into the service and out of the service.
  - Beginning of the service: When the priest encourages (sometimes as we sing and sometimes to the music of the organ), the acolyte will carry the cross up the center of the aisle, walk around the altar on the right side, and place the cross in the holder in the upper chancel in the right hand corner.
  - End of the service: After the announcements are complete, the acolyte (and parent as needed) will take the cross from the holder and lead the clergy, choristers, and congregation out of the service, placing the cross next to the chapel doors.
- Eucharistic Minister/Sacristan
  - When the congregation is invited to gather around the altar, parents, please sanitize your hands and the hands of your child/children who will be serving the bread (the sanitizer is above the credence table). Two or three children may serve, and two adults, including the priest, serve the cup.

- When the presiding priest proclaims “the gifts of God, for the people of God,” bring over the chalice from the credence table to the priest. You and your child will receive communion.
- The clergy will direct you to begin distributing Eucharist to one side of the circle. The child will distribute the bread and the adult will distribute the wine.
  - At the distribution, the following is said,
    - Bread – “The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.”
    - Wine – “The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.”
  - Ensure a child is assigned to distribute gluten-free wafers as needed.
- After everyone has received Eucharist, please help the clergy clear items from the altar to the credence table.

**After the service:**

- Eucharistic Minister/Sacristan
  - Reverently consume any leftover consecrated bread and wine in the sacristy
    - If you do not wish to consume the wine, it can be poured directly into the ground outside the chapel to the left in the bushes.
  - Wash all silver or glass vessels used during the service with soapy hot water.
    - Chalice
    - Paten
    - Wine and water carafes
    - Glass holders for bread
  - Follow instructions for linens that are listed behind the faucet.
  - Return all items to appropriate cabinet in the sacristy. The clergy will show you how to do this!

*Thank you for your ministry among us!*