

# Hope Worship Servant HELPS ... for Communion Servers

**The Communion Assistant/Server shares the gift of Jesus' body and blood with all who have gathered for worship. It is through this meal that Jesus gives us himself, nourishing and strengthening us, that we may know the comfort of God's abiding presence and God's promise of forgiveness and eternal life.**

## Communion Server Guidelines:

- Before worship, **Sign in on the Worship Servant Sheet at the Usher table.**
- When the pastor announces that communion is ready and invites the congregation to be seated, go to the front side of the Worship Center. When the pastor is done giving the congregation instructions about how communion will be served, move to the center aisle and **use the hand sanitizer** on the front row chair. IF you are comfortable taking the steps, go to the altar where the pastor will hand you the elements (wine, juice or plate of bread) to be served. You may also avoid the steps and simply stand on the tile floor in front of the altar and wait for the pastor to bring you the elements.
- Communion assistants may serve either wine and juice (in the same cup) or the bread.
- Communion servers and pastor commune last.
- At 8 am and 10:15 am worship there are two stations for communion: to the right and left.
  - As soon as you are set, nod to the people seated closest to the front to indicate they may come forward.
  - If Bells of Hope are playing, they will often come forward to first commune.
  - At 10:15 worship, Faith Explorer children and leaders will be served first, so they may return to their classroom.
  - People may go to either the right or left stations; it doesn't matter which.
- At 8 am service, accompanist comes to the altar and receives communion first from the pastor, before elements are brought to the servers.
- At 10:15 service, some band members (lead singers, drummers) will be served by the pastor at the altar before she brings the elements to the servers. Others (sax or flute players) find it easier to receive communion at the end of distribution. When you are getting hand sanitizer, you might want to look at altar to see who is being served.
- **Servers do NOT have to go up the stairs to receive the elements.** If you do not go up the stairs, the pastor WILL bring the cup (chalice) and plate (paten) to you!
- After you are done serving the congregation, servant pairs commune one another and then place the elements (cup/plate) on the altar OR wait at the bottom of the stairs until the pastor comes to take them.
- **If servers are comfortable with the stairs,** the first team of two who finish serving the congregation **may** commune the musicians (band members at 10:15) on the chancel (stage) who did not receive communion first. NOTE: be careful on the stairs and stepping over wires when communing the musicians. Again, IF you are not comfortable with the stairs, or prefer **not** to carry the elements back to the altar, simply stand on the tile floor in front of the altar until the pastor comes to take them.
- If you have served musicians on the chancel, place the cup and plate on the altar and let the pastor know the musicians have received communion before returning to your seat.

# Hope Worship Servant HELPS ... for Communion Servers (continued)

## Communion at Hope is served most frequently by intinction.

(Intinction is where the bread is received and dipped into the wine or juice.)

- Server pairs stand beside each other to the right or left of the center aisle.
- Stand at least 3 feet apart (this leaves space for people to move from one server to the next and not get “stuck” in line) Point your toes toward the back wall. (Please don't stand at an angle; it slows people down and creates a tripping hazard for people with canes.)
- The server holding the plate of bread places a piece in the hand of the one receiving.
- The server holds the cup of wine and grape juice just a little above waist high.  
NOTE: If it is held higher than waist high, people will expect to drink from the cup.

### • Serving the Bread

- Speak slowly, clearly and with devotion, making eye contact as able. As the bread is given, the words spoken are: **“The body of Christ, given for you.”**
- The person serving the bread also gives a short blessing to those who come forward, but who choose not to receive communion (e.g., some children, adults, occasional visitors).
- If you are unsure if a child should receive communion or an adult doesn't put their hand out, quietly ask, “Do you commune?” Some will cross their arms over their chest, indicating they will not receive communion. PLEASE ASK THEM: May I give you a blessing?
- To bless someone choosing not to receive communion, simply touch the top of their head OR make the sign of the cross on their forehead and say what is comfortable for you, like “Jesus loves you” or “Jesus is with you always” or “You Are God's Beloved”

### • Serving the Wine and Juice

- The wine is dark and the grape juice is a light color (both are in the same cup (chalice)).
- Speak slowly, clearly and with devotion, making eye contact as able.
- As the person dips the bread into the wine or grape juice, say:  
**“The blood of Christ, shed for you.”**

NOTE: If someone has eaten their bread, server can give them another one or they may simply continue past the wine/juice.

- With the cup, you will be given a napkin. Use the napkin to wipe the cup, your hands, keep drips down.
- The ushers are the last to commune after the congregation. If they indicate to the pastor/server team that someone needs communion brought to them, please bring the bread wine/juice to the individual the ushers indicated.

- When all have communed, server teams commune each other and then return the elements to the altar. If the pastor takes the plate and cup away, place the napkin on the side of the plate.

**PLEASE NOTE: If you notice some wine or juice has spilled, at the end of the service, consider getting the "Swiffer" duster out of the sacristy (altar care room) and clean up the spots.**

**If you are scheduled and will not be able to serve at your committed day/time, if possible, PLEASE trade with someone AND notify the Church Office at 951.676.6262.**