

Ministry Opportunities at St. John the Evangelist Church, Kitchener Chalice Bearer

At St. John's, our various ministries support our intention to be a faithful and thriving community.

Connecting individuals and ministries is an act of mutual discernment – you may wonder which ministry is the best fit for you at this time, and the community may recognize gifts in you and encourage you to share them as we seek to be a thriving community.

The community also has some expectations for ministries. Knowing these expectations can help you and the community discern which ministry makes sense for you at this time. Some ministries also include a trial time to assist further in this discernment.

How does this ministry contribute to living as a faithful and thriving community and your life of discipleship?

The Anglican Church uses a common cup (chalice) for the wine in the Holy Eucharist. The chalice bearer plays a vital role in cultivating reverent worship environment allowing for full participation by the gathered assembly.

Chalice bearers assist in communion by offering to each person at the altar a sip from the cup and saying "The blood of Christ. The Cup of Salvation" or similar words.

What gifts and skills are helpful for this role?

- Familiarity with, or willingness to learn, Anglican liturgical traditions
- Communicant of the parish
- Able to work as part of a team

What to expect:

The chalice bearer has a holy responsibility. In the Eucharist, God becomes present to us in the elements by the power of the Holy Spirit making this a sacred time.

Chalice bearers receive training for this responsibility and are scheduled for Sunday morning and other services.

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Responsibilities:

- If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, please find your replacement, and notify the coordinator and the Parish Administrator.
- To maintain good hygiene, please use the hand sanitizer thoroughly before administering the chalice.
- Step forward to receive the elements and the chalice and purificator during the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God). Sometimes you will receive the elements after everyone else has received.
- The chalice is 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 Christ, shed for you.
- Sometimes it is difficult to tell if someone is receiving the wine. A good rule of thumb is do not let go of the cup but allow the person receiving to guide the chalice to their lips.
- 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.
- After the congregation has received Communion, a priest may ask you to accompany them in taking the elements to a person unable to leave the pews due to a physical impairment. Be ready to be asked and distribute the wine as usual.
- Should the chalice become depleted, approach the chancel and a server will bring wine to you to refill the chalice.
- After the last person has been served, bring the chalice to the altar. Help to drink the remainder of the wine as you are able.

Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Provide orientation and training for new members, including expectations for length of initial commitment.
- Provide ongoing support for members, including checking in on their willingness and ability to continue in this role.
- Create a schedule and communicate it to members and the Parish Administrator.

Accountability: To the Rector