

Notes on Sunday Worship

Liturgical Hospitality during Episcopal Worship

The church buildings of St. John and Church of the Redeemer reflect the eras in which they were built. The buildings also reflect the liturgical practices of their day. You may have noticed during the 6 weeks that we worshipped at St. John that there are three major differences with regard to “furniture.” St. John has one ambo (lectern), Redeemer has two (lectern and pulpit). St. John has a freestanding altar, Redeemer has an altar facing east. St. John has no kneelers, Redeemer has a kneeler for nearly every chair. The “furniture” at St. John actually reflects more accurately the theology and practices of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, which sought to recover the practices of the early church in the third Century.

In order to be a comfortable place of worship for our Lutheran brothers and sisters, and to be more in line with current liturgical practice, the freestanding altar will remain in place at the Crossing for Sunday worship. We will receive communion standing and by intinction. We will also continue with the public posture for prayer, which is standing. This means that we will remain standing (as you are able) during the confession, prayers of the people and the Eucharistic Prayer. You will note that the rubrics in Rite II for Eucharistic Prayers A, B, and D state that *The people stand or kneel*, and that the rubrics for Rite I Eucharistic Prayers I and II state that *The people kneel or stand*. The ordering of the wording states the preference for celebration. *Standing* was the public posture of prayer in the early church until the middle ages. *Kneeling* was the public posture of prayer during the Middle Ages to the 20th Century. Notice, too, that there is no rubric for Eucharistic Prayer C, which is the prayer we are using during the summer months. The intent of this Eucharistic Prayer is for the congregation to remain standing.

It may be uncomfortable to change our practice. It may even seem disrespectful to God. Scripture points out that what matters to God is our intent. We seek to worship together corporately. Indeed, corporate worship is what makes us Christians – we become the Body of Christ. So please stand (as you are able) as one body as we worship together.

A note about Communion:

As previously stated, we will receive communion standing. Please dip the bread into the grape juice (in ceramic chalice) or wine (silver chalice). Please proceed to the altar from the rear of the church forward, one side at a time. Please follow the instruction of the usher or acolyte.



The Fall Fair planning committee will hold a short organizational meeting on Sunday July 29th in the parlor after coffee hour. Please plan on attending this important meeting as we begin to plan for one of our biggest fund raisers of the year.



Pastor Melinda is away through August 4th. Jerry, our secretary will be on vacation from August 6th through August 10th. If you have any announcements that you would like to have in the weekly bulletin for August 4th & 5th and 11th & 12th please have them into her by no later than Thursday August 2nd. Thank you.