

Trinity Church Princeton

Procedure for Handling the Elements

January 2006

- The elements are composed of two items: the wine and the bread. They represent the blood and the body of Jesus Christ to be used during communion.
- Two volunteers are asked to carry the elements up to the altar for the clergy. Volunteers should be requested early in the service.
- The more senior/experienced volunteer should handle the wine. The more junior/less experienced volunteer should handle the bread.
- Handling the elements occurs as the initial collection is begun by the ushers, all processing up to the altar together. FYI, collection occurs immediately following announcements by the clergy.
- When the wine is placed on the altar, it should be positioned so that the handle of the pitcher is facing the priest.
- The usher and elements bearer team will walk in unison up the main aisle. The organ or music is playing. The elements bearers proceed first, followed by the two main ushers from the nave (long part of the church).
- The elements bearers will pause at the altar first step (see a white stripe on the step). They will wait for a signal from the deacon or priest – usually a hand signal to come on up or a head nod to proceed. The elements bearers will proceed swiftly up the steps and place the elements on the altar. (Remember to position the wine handle toward the priest.)
- Note: Should the bread or wine be dropped, an usher will notify the altar guild volunteer in the sacristy to provide a replacement. Additional bread and wine is available in the sacristy in the back of the church, down the hallway to the right.
- The element bearers will walk back down the aisle in unison, back to their pews, while the ushers begin collection.
- Thank you for helping out with today's service!