

St. James' Episcopal Church

Torch Bearer Procedures

A. Before the Service

1. Be vested and light the candles 15 minutes before the start of the service.
2. Meet in the rector's office for prayer and instructions with other servers.

B. Opening Procession

1. Assemble in narthex, out of the way of arriving parishioners.
2. Before processional hymn, light torches using lighter in drawer of table.
3. Assemble in position for the procession by standing next to one another, one step behind the crucifer, between the two wooden columns at the back of the nave
4. Proceed slowly and reverently down the aisle just behind the crucifer.
5. Hold torches at the same height (tallest torch bearer determines the height) and high enough so that your feet and/or robe do not bump it as you walk.
6. Follow the crucifer down and around the choir side of the chancel. The crucifer will stop next to the choir risers allowing you to pass and put your torch away. Do not lower your torch nor put it out until you have passed behind the altar screen.
7. After putting your torch away, take a place in front of one of the seats on the Gospel side of the sanctuary.

C. Gospel Procession

1. At the beginning of the Gospel sequence hymn, retrieve your torch and wait with the crucifer for the reader.
2. Proceed down the center aisle, stopping one pew before the crucifer.
3. Turn and face the other torchbearer, resting the torch on the floor.
4. Stand as still as possible and do not lean on the end of the pew.
5. After the reading, proceed back by the choir risers and store the torch.

D. Holy Communion

1. If there is no Gospel bearer, one torch bearer should collect the offering plates from the ushers.
2. Take the plates to the celebrant for blessing, and then place them on the altar.

E. Closing Procession (Recession)

1. At the start of the hymn, retrieve your torch and join the crucifer.
2. When the crucifer is signaled by the Celebrant, proceed down the aisle.

F. REMEMBER YOU'RE ON CAMERA! Services are being live-streamed and posted on our website and Facebook. Please be reverent and alert, sitting or standing straight with your feet on the floor. Do not leave for the restroom during the service, chat with a neighbor, or use a cell phone. Keep your robe over your knees. Viewers are watching!