

# All Souls 101

For anyone new to the Anglican form of worship, the order of service, gestures, and words can seem foreign, strange, and even intimidating. This short reference is designed to help familiarize you with what is happening around you during our services. We are confident this will add meaning to your worship.

## Governance

The Anglican Church is under an *episcopal* form of governance. All Souls is part of a *diocese* or a group of *parishes* led by a *bishop*. Our diocese is part of a larger province, the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA), which an *archbishop* oversees.

## Mode of Worship

All Souls follows a set order of service outlined in our *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP), lectionary (Scripture readings), and church calendar. This consistency allows all ACNA churches to read the same Bible passages and follow the same service order based on the seasons of the year.

## Stylistic Differences

Many optional symbols and practices, such as bells, incense, hymns, and chant, can be used during the liturgy. We consider ourselves *traditional* in our style of worship.

## Typical Anglican Service

The BCP outlines our various services. Our Sunday morning services are highly participatory. We sing hymns accompanied by an organ, hear God's word read and preached, and share in Holy Communion. We worship God in word and sacrament empowered by the Holy Spirit.

## Some Definitions

**ACOLYTES** – Dressed in red albs (robes), two people carry torches symbolizing the light of the Scripture.

**AGNUS DEI** – “O Lamb of God,” traditional chant sung just before the distribution of communion.

**BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER** (BCP) – Contains the order of various services, spoken words, and readings that are a road map for liturgical worship. We use the ACNA's 2019 *Book of Common Prayer*.

**CELEBRANT** – The Priest who leads the service and consecrates the bread and wine for communion.

**CHALICER** – A person who administers the cup during the Eucharist.

**CHURCH CALENDAR** – Defines the seasons of the church year, e.g., Advent, Christmas, Lent, etc.

**CRUCIFER** – They carry the cross during processions.

**COLLECT** – A short set prayer from the prayer book.

**GLORIA** – “Glory to God in the Highest,” traditional chant sung after the Kyrie.

**DEACON** – Ordained clergy who serve in various ministries and assist the celebrant during the service, especially reading the Gospel.

**EUCCHARIST** – The sacrament of communion celebrated with the consecrated wine and bread at the altar rail. We use real wine and bread, or wafers in penitential seasons.

**KYRIE** – “Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,” traditional chant sung/spoken towards the beginning of our service.

**LECTIONARY** – The schedule of Scripture readings for each day and week of the year.

**MASS** – The ancient precursor to our current form of worship. Each part is distinctly named and marked by chants: Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei.

**OFFERTORY** – Our gift of money join with the gifts of bread and wine that are blessed and returned to our use.

**PARISH** – A congregation of regular attenders and members of a local church.

**PRIEST** – Ordained clergy who conduct worship, perform baptisms and marriages, act as celebrant.

**PSALM** – A Scriptural song, sung or spoken after the first reading.

**RECTOR** – The clergy person officially hired to head a parish church and serves as the senior pastor.

**SANCTUS** – “Holy, Holy, Holy,” traditional chant sung at the beginning of the Eucharist Prayer.

**THURIFER** – The person who carries the incense (in a *thurible*) and censes the people.

**VERGER** – Assigns the altar party for various duties and assists the clergy during the service.

## What about the ...

**INCENSE** – A symbol of our prayers rising up to God.

**BELLS** – Draws our attention to important elements of the service.

**CROTALUS** – A wooden apparatus replacing the bells in penitential seasons.

**CROWN OF THORNS** – A reminder of Christ's suffering.

**STATIONS OF CROSS** – The center of our Good Friday service that traces the narrative of Jesus's crucifixion.

**PROCESSIONS** – Focuses our attention of the importance of our worship, the Cross, and the Gospel.

**COMMON CUP** – We share one bread and one cup to symbolize the unifying Body of Christ.

## Actions you will see

- Standing, kneeling, bowing, signing the cross, or genuflecting (dropping one knee to the floor).
- Though these actions are optional, there is a meaning behind them all. As you grow more comfortable, you'll find they will enrich your experience.

## When we stand

- Opening bell, or when the procession begins
- At the start of the sequence hymn and recessional
- When the Gospel is read
- The Creed
- When offerings are brought forward
- Beginning of Eucharist Prayer

## When we kneel

- Confession
- After the Sanctus
- Post-communion Prayer

## When we bow

- Entering or exiting pew (genuflecting is more formal)
- Processional cross passes by.
- Bow the head when "Jesus Christ" is mentioned
- When "Glory be to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" is sung at the end of the Psalm.
- During Nicene Creed, from "Came down . . ."
- At the beginning of the Sanctus.

## When we cross ourselves (Fig. A)

- When you hear, "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."
- Nicene Creed at "... resurrection of the dead..."
- During the Absolution after the Confession.
- During Eucharist Prayer at "Sanctify us..."
- Prayers of People: "...who have departed this life"
- The opening declaration at Gospel reading symbolized by three small crosses made with the thumb. (Fig. B)

## Receiving the Eucharist

- Approaching and kneeling at the altar rail. (Fig. C)
- Receiving the bread. (Fig. D)  
It is appropriate to respond with "Amen" ("it is true" or "I believe it") after receiving the bread or wine.
- Receiving the wine – Grasp the rim of the chalice and tip it towards you to assist the chalicer. (Fig. E)
- If you wish to abstain from either, and receive a blessing, cross your arms. (Fig. F)
- Intinction – *we do not* "intinct" or dip the bread in the wine. They are taken separately as shown in Fig D & E.

