

PREPARATION AND SERVING OF COMMUNION

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

This should be done in the vestry at the church on the day of communion, just prior to the service. The people preparing communion bring bread and juice with them.

Food preparation must be done in a clean and hygienic environment:

- Do not prepare food if unwell.
- Ensure utensils and food preparation areas are clean.
- Wash and dry hands or use hand sanitiser before commencing.
- Cut bread into pieces which can be easily picked up with serving tongs.
- Place them into serving dishes.
- Pour juice into individual cups and place in holders
- Provide enough bread and juice for 40 people and place on the communion table, covered with cloth.
- Small loaf, semi-cut, placed on platter and some juice in chalice for minister to hold up to congregation.
- 2 serves of bread and juice for organist and projectionist to be placed upstairs prior to service.

SERVING COMMUNION (Minister with 1 elder and 1 helper)

- Elders/helpers should not attend church or serve communion if unwell.
- Elders/helpers come up to the communion table at the start of the communion hymn and take part in the liturgy if the minister requests it.
- Remove cloth over the elements.
- The minister passes a plate with bread and a pair of tongs to the elders/helpers who serve the congregation in the pews.
- Elders/helpers pick up a piece of bread with tongs and drop it into the hands of the receiving member, saying “This is his body, broken for you” or similar.
- Elders/helpers take cup holders to the members in the pews and each member takes their own cup from the holder without touching other cups. Elder/helper says, “This is his blood, shed for you” or similar.
- Replace cloth after communion.

AFTER COMMUNION

- “Preparers” clean up afterwards. Do not leave any leftover bread or juice at the church.
- Serving dishes, cups, tongs, utensils etc to be washed in warm soapy water (usual detergent is sufficient) then dried and stored in appropriate box.