



## *the service of* **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Those who assist with communion have the honor of distributing the very body and blood of Christ, truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine. They act as assistants to the pastoral office under the guidance of the Presiding Minister. During the late spring and summer we use two assistants; otherwise, one.

Communion Assistants serve the Lord in this way:

### **BEFORE WORSHIP**

- Let the Pastor know that you will be assisting with Communion.

### **DURING COMMUNION**

- Come forward at the end of the Agnus Dei to receive Communion.
- One assistant will then commune the Pastor and his family.
- The assistants each take one chalice (cup) and one purificator (napkin). In rare circumstances, an assistant may be directed by the Pastor to take the bread.
- Stand at least 2-3 yards away from the Pastor; this helps people not to feel rushed.
- When distributing the wine, say “The blood of Christ, shed for you.” With the bread, say “The body of Christ, given for you.”
- As you run low on wine, refill from the cruet (pitcher) on the altar. Try not to fill more than necessary. You can always go back for more, but any unused wine in the chalice is wasted.
- If the cruet is running out of wine and you think there may not be enough for the congregation, discreetly mention this to the Pastor.
- WITH ONE ASSISTANT: When all have communed from the left and center sections, switch to the other side of the Pastor. Remember to stand at least 2-3 yards away.

### **WHEN COMMUNION IS COMPLETE**

- The Pastor may ask you to come with him to commune someone in their seat.
- When all have communed, give the chalice and purificator to the Pastor at the altar.
- It isn't necessary to consume the remaining wine, though you may do so if you wish.