



## Choir Etiquette/Decorum Guidelines

As choir members, we are also worship leaders, in much the same way as the pastors are worship leaders. *It is our responsibility not only to lead the congregation in praise and worship through our musical offerings, but equally important, to model appropriate worship behavior.* We should therefore take seriously the charge printed in each Sunday's service bulletin to "Enter reverently, meditate quietly, worship devoutly, leave gratefully and serve Christ faithfully." It is in this spirit that the following guidelines have been established.

**Make a commitment to faithfully attend choir rehearsals and services for which the choir is scheduled to sing.** The choral offering is a group effort. We cannot offer God or the congregation our best effort without time spent together, learning to blend our voices and to follow the director's interpretation of the music. When a conflict occurs and you cannot make a Thursday rehearsal, but are able to sing for the services on Sunday, make an effort to be present for that morning's run-through---again, for the purpose of learning the nuances of the director's interpretation.

**Respond promptly to all Planning Center requests,** indicating whether you will or will not be present to sing for a particular service. It is very easy to do, and is an invaluable help to the director in terms of advance planning.

**Arrive at Thursday rehearsals and pre-service run-throughs on time and with music in hand.**

**Be robed and lined up in the downstairs hallway, with music in a black folder and ready to file into the choir loft, 5 minutes prior to the start time of each service.** For our regular Sunday morning schedule, line-up times are as follows:

8:55 am for the 9:00 am service  
10:25 am for the 10:30 am service

Only those with limited mobility should wait upstairs in the hallway outside the flower room. Otherwise we block the passageways for those trying to enter the sanctuary.

**Refrain from taking coffee mugs, thermoses or large, sport-sized beverage bottles into the choir loft.** If necessary, you may take water into the loft, in a

small, clear bottle or a disposable cup provided by the church. Place this at your seat ahead of time, and be discreet about drinking from it during the service.

Turn off or silence your cell phone and/or any other electronic device, and refrain from using it during the service (for example, to send or receive text messages). This is out of consideration for others and respect for God, whom we are worshipping.

File into the choir loft in an orderly fashion, and remain standing until given the cue to sit.

Keep conversation to a minimum while sitting in the loft prior to the beginning of the service, as this is a time to prepare our hearts for worship. It is also respectful of the organist or instrumentalists who are playing.

Be ready to lead the congregation in the praise songs or hymns by turning to the correct page ahead of time. Hold the music or hymnal inside your black folder, and watch for a cue to stand.

When it is time for our musical offering, watch for a cue to stand, (if not already standing), then move into place on the chancel steps quickly and in an orderly fashion.

First service: at the conclusion of the anthem, return to your seat quickly and quietly, but remain standing until the last choir member is back in place; this is the cue to sit.

At the conclusion of the first service, exit the choir loft after the final hymn or sit quietly for the duration of the postlude. Refrain from conversation in the loft---again, in order to encourage those arriving for the second service to prepare their hearts for worship.

Second service: at the conclusion of the anthem, exit the sanctuary quickly and quietly. Refrain from talking until you reach the lower level, so as not to disturb the worshippers remaining in the sanctuary.

Return all music, black folders and robes to their proper places. You are encouraged to take any piece of music home to learn it, but if it is not returned promptly after we have sung it, it tends to get forgotten about and lost, costing the church unnecessary expense to replace it.

On occasions when the choir does not wear robes, women especially, should be mindful that we are in church, and dress appropriately.