

28 July 2019

Evensong Helper Checklist

As the Junior and Novice Choir has grown, we now ask one parent each week to help Tuesday evenings at Evensong. This 30 minute service is slightly more casual than a Sunday service, but the choristers play a larger role. The service is held in the Church.

The main responsibilities are helping Dr. Allen keep order so the choristers can focus on the music and to support any child who become ill. Most parents coordinate to help when their chorister has either a reading or another Evensong responsibility.

Evensong warm up begins at 5pm, please arrive at 4:45 and go to the Honor Room, located on the south side of the church.

The choristers begin with juice and cookies. Keeping them calm and quiet is a big job, be firm with a smile. They are tired by this time of day so all kinds of behaviors may start to arise, if we keep them from getting out of control, they will have an easier time controlling their behavior, a better experience together and sing more beautifully.

Please help the choristers as they arrive put their backpacks and possessions around the walls of the room as they arrive and get their juice and cookies (provided). They should use the bathroom and get water during this time.

Dr. Allen will call time when it's up and take the choristers into the church to practice. Stay in the Honor Room to help any latecomers as they arrive.

After warm up the choristers return to the Honor Room to vest. Calm and quiet are so important for this and it's difficult to achieve. The racks of vestments are organized by number. Lists of vestment assignments are hung at the ends of the racks. Help the choristers vest. Unlike Sunday services, sneakers and casual clothes/school uniforms/sports uniforms are allowed. All hangers should go back on the racks so they can be found easily following the service.

Quiet and calm is the ticket. Once line up is called there should be no talking in the Honor Room.

When the choristers are lined up and are ready to process, feel free to go into the Church for the service.

As the final hymn begin, go back to the Honor Room and help them disrobe. They should be absolutely quiet until the chorister's prayer is said and the officiating clergy dismisses them.

Stay until all the choristers have left to make sure the room is organized and neat. Have a run through the robes to make sure they are back in number order.

The choristers have lots of little jobs to clean up after the service. If you see someone who is struggling, please help them. They organize and put all the papers/music on the stone altar piece and should be encouraged to pick up things off the floor and leave the room clean for the next activity.

If you can't make the Evensong service you have signed up for, please arrange with another parent to take your shift. It makes a tremendous difference to the choristers and Dr. Allen to have a parent there.

Thank you for all your help, love and support. It takes a community!