

What about the collection?

The church does indeed collect money for running our operations — even churches have to pay for utilities and salaries! But please do not feel obligated to contribute if you are a newcomer; we would like you to feel that you are our guest. Should you wish to make a donation, there are envelopes provided in the pew racks, so that you can keep your donation confidential — and for donations of \$20 or more, we will provide you with a tax receipt at the end of the year if you give your name and address.

Sunday School

St George's provides a staffed nursery and a Sunday School for infants and children. You may also choose to keep your children with you in the church. Please do not feel embarrassed if they make a little noise; it is not the end of the world.

We hope that our services add to your spiritual life in a meaningful way. Please be sure to join us after the service for refreshments. We hope that you will find the people at St George's to be friendly and welcoming. Whether or not you choose to make St George's your spiritual home, we wish you every joy in your Christian life wherever you may find it.



We invite you
to worship with us

Sunday 9.30 am.

Learn about Jesus and your role in His world.

Children's Program

Refreshments (hot coffee) before and after the service

Chance to make new friendships



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What Happens at an Anglican Church Service?



**St George's
Anglican Church,
Lowville, Milton**

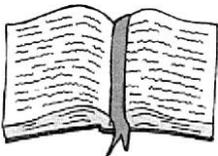
What happens at an Anglican church service?

Many people feel awkward about going to church for the first time, or returning to church after a long absence. They don't know how to act in church or they don't understand what is happening, and so the service can seem strange. This little leaflet is intended to help.

The heart of our Sunday celebration is the Eucharist — also called Holy Communion, or sometimes the Lord's Supper. We believe that the communion table is where we meet Jesus present in our community — for Communion and Community are almost the same word. This sense of community is why very few Christians have ever seen their faith as a solitary pursuit.

For over two thousand years, Christians have gathered together to take part in the Eucharist. At the communion table, we recall Jesus' promise to be with us always — as he said at the Last Supper, his last meal with his disciples, "Take and eat, this is my body; take and drink, this is the cup of my blood." Here Jesus invites us to be part of his Body, that is, the Body of Christ, the church of all believers. In this symbolic meal of bread and wine, our souls are nourished, just as our bodies are nourished by our daily meals of breakfast, lunch, and supper.

There are two main parts of the service of Holy Communion. They are sometimes called Word and Sacrament. In the Word, we hear readings from the Bible. These stories from long ago



are put into today's context by the priest in a sermon. We sing hymns of praise to God, we recite a statement of our faith, and we pray for ourselves and others.

The liturgy (the "work of the people") moves from hearing the Word of God towards the Sacrament of Holy Communion. A sacrament is sometimes called an outward and visible sign of an inward, invisible grace. The outward and visible signs of the sacrament of Holy Communion are the bread and the wine, the gifts of God in creation, changed from grain and grapes by the work of human hands. The inward, invisible grace is the promise of Jesus to be with us at the communion table and to support us in our daily lives. During the prayer called the Great Thanksgiving, the ordinary bread and wine from daily life are consecrated (made holy), for us to receive them at communion.



Do I need to bring anything with me to prepare for the service?

No. Everything is provided for you. You will be handed a service bulletin when you arrive. It contains everything you need to know. Just follow along through the service. Items in **bold print** are said by everyone. Hymns are in the blue book called *Common Praise* which you will find in front of your seat; the hymn numbers are in the bulletin and also on the hymn board at the front of the church. Everyone is encouraged to sing; God does not expect us all to be opera singers.

Where should I sit?

You may sit anywhere; the seats are not reserved.

When am I supposed to sit or stand or kneel?

At St George's, we try to help with these often awkward questions, by saying "Please be seated" when it is time to sit, for example. As a general rule, we stand to sing hymns and also to hear the "Gospel reading" — a Bible passage written by St Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. We sit to hear other Bible readings and for the sermon. Most people sit for the prayers, although some choose to kneel and a few choose to stand. It is your choice, but you will be least conspicuous if you sit!

Who should receive communion?

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. All may receive. You may receive both the bread and the wine or, if you prefer, you may choose to receive the bread or the wine alone. Anyone who does not wish to take communion may come to the communion rail to receive a blessing.

At what age should children receive communion?

Parents should decide at what age their children should receive communion. A traditional view is that only those who have been confirmed should receive Communion. These days, the Church teaches that everyone is a full member of the Church once they have been baptized, and as such everyone is fully welcome to receive Communion. If you think that your child is not yet ready, however, please bring him or her with you to the Communion rail for a blessing.