THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, GUILDFORD

SOLEMN EVENSONG (& EASTER DAY PROCESSION)



Servers

Crucifer (CR) as MC, two Acolytes (AA), Thurifer (Th), Boat Bearer (Bb)

Clergy

Officiant (O); Cantor; Residentiary Canon to bless the collection

PREPARATIONS

- The High Altar candles and standards are lit.
- Two processional torch bases in the north ambulatory.
- Thurible stand in the north ambulatory.
- One or two collection plates in the north ambulatory depending on the number of collection bags being used by the stewards.
- Servers wear gold apparels. The CR wears a Portuguese tunicle.

THE SERVICE

I. Except paragraph 5 which applies additionally on Easter Day, this ceremonial note describes a service of Solemn Evensong with incense.

The usual Sunday Evensong order of service is followed, except that the High Altar is censed during the Magnificat, which is sung with Antiphons. A Procession around the Cathedral takes place during the hymn which follows the sermon on Easter Day.

2. All form up in the south ambulatory. (The Th is without thurible.) After the prayer the CR and AA lead the procession in to organ cover via the Crossing and up through the Quire to the Presbytery. The CR, AA, Th and Bb pause. The corporate bow is led by a Virger. On the Virger's call, the servers turn left and move off in files to the Presbytery arch.

3. The Th prepares the thurible during the first hymn.

As the Choir stands for the Antiphon that precedes the Magnificat, the Th with thurible and Bb leads the MC from the north ambulatory for the censing of the High Altar.

The Th, Bb and MC proceed via the Crossing into the Quire. On reaching a point level with the O's stall, he stops and turns with the MC and all bow. The O joins the procession and the Th turns and leads into the Sanctuary. At the foot of the High Altar steps the Th and Bb fan out to the right, the MC to the left. The Altar is reverenced and the thurible is charged and blessed. The Th hands the thurible to the O.

The O, MC and Th move up the steps when the choir begins singing the Magnificat (assuming it hasn't already begun), the O to the footpace and the MC and Th to the Deacon's step either side of the O.

The Bb stands by the south standard whilst the Altar is censed. (When no Bb is present, the Th moves around the standard to the credence on which he places the incense boat. He then moves along the Deacon's step to his position in front of the Altar. The Th collects the boat from the credence via the south back gate during the Intercessions.)

Once the Altar has been censed, the Th moves up to the footpace. He censes then O with

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three double swings (triple swings then the O is the Diocesan Bishop). Then the Th moves around the standard and collects the Bb, and moves into the Quire. If the Diocesan Bishop is seated in the Quire then the Th censes him with three triple swings. The Th and Bb move to the top of the Quire steps to cense the congregation with three double swings, centre, left and right. They then return to the Sanctuary pavement and the Th swings the thurible.

The MC joins the O on the footpace after the O has been censed. At, "As it was in the beginning," in the Gloria, the O and MC reverence. All turn about and return through the Quire, dropping the O at his stall, turning and bowing, and then proceeding via the Crossing to the north ambulatory.

- 4. One or both AA receive the Collection which is taken during the hymn which follows the sermon except on Easter Day when it is taken during the hymn which precedes the sermon. The A enters the Crossing from the north ambulatory ramp and moves to the centre the central tramlines when both AA take the collection at the foot of the Quire steps turning to face west. On the signal from the senior steward, the A moves forward to the stag to receive the Collection. Then the A turns and moves to the foot of the Quire steps whereupon the Collection is blessed by a Residentiary Canon from the top of the Quire steps. The A turns left, takes the Collection up the north ramp and places it in the north ambulatory.
- 5. After the sermon, the organist plays over the processional hymn, Easter Song. An A leads the CR and other A into the Presbytery with the Th with thurible and Bb to the right (west). They face the Altar then turn about to face west and wait.

NB: After the play over, the Cantor sings, "Let us go forth...," and the Choir responds. Then the Organist plays over the hymn again.

At the first line of the first verse, the Th leads the procession (slowly at first to allow the choir and clergy to fall in behind). It forms up in the same order as for the entrance, except that the Th and Bb lead the CR and AA. The procession move through the Quire to the Crossing, turns left at the stag and proceeds down the south aisle to the west end, under the gallery and up the main aisle. The Th and Bb stop on the stag; the CR and AA between the nave altar rails and everyone else behind.

The Organist completes the verse of the hymn. The Cantor sings the Collect for Easter Day and the Choir responds. The Organist plays over the hymn which continues from where it left off. The Th leads the procession up through the Quire to the Presbytery. The Th, BB, CR and AA pause the on the CR's call turn left and move off to the north ambulatory through the Presbytery arch. The Choir and clergy return to their stalls. The Bishop, if present, or Dean proceeds to the Sanctuary to give the Blessing.

6. After the Blessing, the servers and a Virger move into the Presbytery as the voluntary begins. CR and AA most west, then Th without thurible and Bb, then the Virger to the east. They face the Altar. The Bishop, if present, or Dean leads the bow. The CR and AA lead the procession out in the same order as they processed in via the Crossing to the south ambulatory.

Chris Nott 17th October 2017

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