

## What to Expect when visiting Holy Family

### **A warm welcome!**

First of all you can expect a warm and friendly welcome. On a Sunday morning you will encounter a sidesperson (fancy term for “greeter”) who will welcome you, ask you to also fill out a name tag, give you a leaflet (which has everything you need in it to follow the service) and then help you find a seat. If you ever have any questions, they will try and assist you the best they can.

### **Reverent liturgy!**

“Liturgy” means “the work of the people.” It is the order of service, or the actions that take place whether on a Sunday or at a service during the week. The principle liturgy for Anglicans is the Holy Eucharist or Mass. (For details please see [The Sacraments of the Church](#)). Also important to Anglicans is the Divine Office – these are the daily services of morning and evening prayer. At Holy Family, we gather to pray Matins Tuesday through Friday mornings at 8:30am. Out of respect for the God whom we approach in liturgy and our neighbours around us, we seek to maintain a holy silence before the start of each liturgy in order that people may pray and prepare their hearts to worship Our Lord.

You will notice that our liturgy engages all of the senses. Colours and visuals for the eyes, bells for the ears, incense (used on holy days and major feasts) and flowers for the nose, rituals that serve as a witness to our faith such as the sign of the cross for our hands, and of course bread and wine for our mouths. We recognize that worship is a holistic act that requires the offering of body, mind and soul.

During the year we also have mid-week services to celebrate the saints of the Church, such as the yearly Blessing of the Animals in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, the All Souls Requiem Mass in November, Advent Lessons and Carols and so many more. Please watch the calendar for dates and times.

### **Music and lots of it!**

Anglicans love music. There is a large variety of music used within the Anglican tradition, everything from Gregorian chant to Renaissance and Baroque and contemporary. At Holy Family our adult choir and children’s choir make use of the entire range. ([Please see music page](#)). We utilise our fabulous Hellmuth Wolffe pipe organ and an accordion and double bass at times. There is quite a bit of singing by the priest and people and choirs, but don’t worry, if you are uncomfortable singing feel free to hum or just listen.

### **Fellowship time!**

After each service many like to gather in the parish hall to share in some refreshments and conversation. It is a time to connect with others and provide and receive support as we share our journeys of faith together. Throughout the year we seek to grow together by taking parish trips and outings, BBQ’s, and a variety of other parish events.

### **Opportunities to learn!**

Holy Family tries to provide as many opportunities as possible for deepening one’s understanding of the Christian faith and journeying into the mystery of God such as: The liturgy itself, the homily (sermon), Bible study, lectio divina (praying the Scriptures), seminars, book studies and so forth.