

Customary for Redesign, Lent 2018



Saint John's, Oakland

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Introduction

This handbook is intended to assist with worship services at St. John's for the modified layout during the season of Lent, 2018. The intention of this new design is to offer a new perspective on our communal worship for a season, potentially creating new experiences in encountering the Divine.

The key concept behind this change is to bring the focus of the community closer to the people and place churchgoers into positions where they will naturally see each other during the service. With those goals in mind, the altar has moved 24' from the raised chancel at one end of the sanctuary into the nave, while the choir has been repositioned in the chancel facing the congregation. Finally, the center aisle has been replaced with two side aisles, permitting the gathered community to squarely face the altar, something which was not previously possible.

These adjustments to our sanctuary impact a number of actions in a typical Sunday service. This customary provides a guide on the physical actions of servers and worshippers for each portion of the service. As possible, the existing customs and practices of St. John's have been retained: change-for-change-sake is not the intention of this project.

Most of the instruction provided is brief. This is intentional: the community will create their own encounter each time they gather. Providing too many prescriptive rules will not help draw out reflections on feelings and experience, but rather create anxiety about having done everything "right".

This experiment is offered from deep place of gratitude by a stranger. My experience of this community has been one defined by your relationships to each other, your engagement to the world, and your spiritual adventurousness. Perhaps, this new layout will reflect these intrinsic qualities back for you to see on Sunday mornings.

I hope this customary, and the design, are only, the beginning of a much deeper, and extended, conversation about our worship lives together. Please contact me with any thoughts, suggestions, edits, or complaints. I can be reached at either phomeyer@ses.cdsp.edu or 616-540-5245.

Yours in Christ,
Peter Homeyer

Lent 2018, St. John's, Oakland

Redesign Diagram Key

A = Sound System

B = Lectern

C = Altar Platform

D = Chasuble Placement

E = Baptismal Font

F = Altar Party

G = Altar

H = Clergy

I = Organ

J = Cross Placement #2

K = Credence Table

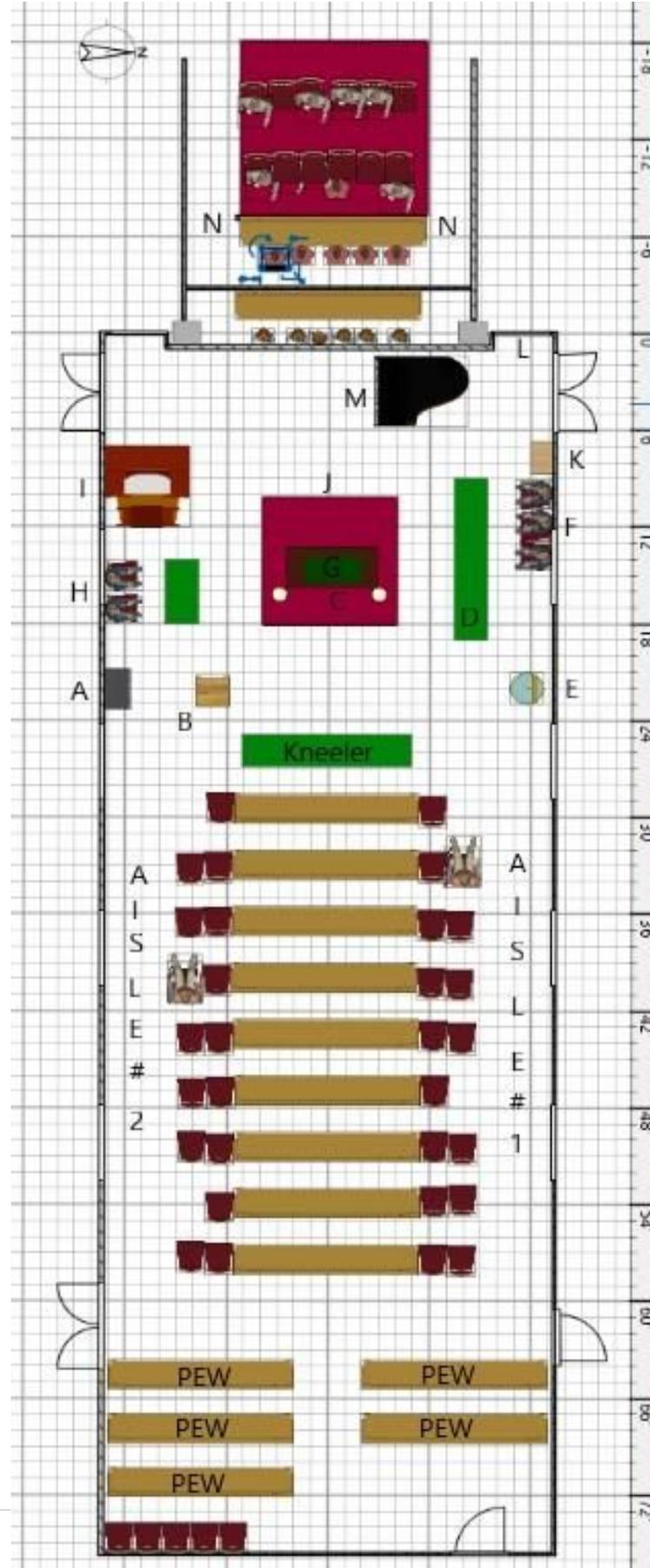
L = Cross Placement #1

M = Piano

N = Choir Seating

Long, brown rectangles = Pews

Long, green rectangles = Kneelers



7:45 am Service

a. Pre-Service Preparation

- Sub-Deacon: Candles lit; cross placed in “cross placement #2”, behind the altar; secures Gospel Book for processional
- Altar Guild: Altar set with burse & chalice. Bread, wine, water, lavabo bowl, & purificator(s) on credence table

b. Processional

Serving party enters with hymn, approaching altar from Aisle #1, reverences altar, Sub-deacon places Gospel Book, standing on edge, on altar, everyone goes to seats.

SEATING OF ALTAR PARTY: Sub-deacon sits next to credence table, seminarian next to sub-deacon. Preacher & Presider sit on opposite wall, behind organ

c. Opening Prayers

No change, led by Presider & Sub-deacon (for Trisagion)

d. Readings

- Old Testament & New Testament: No change, readers come from congregation to read at lectern
- Psalm: No change, led by Sub-deacon
- Gospel: Preacher retrieves Gospel Book from Altar, reads Gospel from directly in-front of altar

e. Sermon

Gospel Book placed on front of lectern. Preacher uses lectern, space in front of altar, or wherever else they like to provide sermon

f. Nicene Creed

No change

g. Prayers of the People

No change, led by member of congregation from their position among the people

h. Peace/Thanksgivings

No change, now 2 aisles for exchanging peace, not one! Lectern moved against wall. Thanksgivings & life changes celebrated from area in front of altar

i. Offertory/Setting the Table

Plate now passed to end of row & then handed to next row. Offering brought forward along Aisle #1 during Doxology. Congregation follows and gathers around the altar. Sub-deacon & seminarian set table.

j. Eucharistic Prayer

No change

k. Receiving Communion

No change. Healing prayers offered in the back of the sanctuary. Presider and sub-deacon or seminarian offer bread and wine to all gathered around the altar. Congregation returns to seats at conclusion

l. Announcements

No change. Made from area in-front of altar.

m. Recessional/Dismissal

After hymn begins, serving party (less sub-deacon!) line-up before altar, and reverence. Party then leaves along Aisle #2. Dismissal offered by Sub-deacon from their seat near altar.

10:00 am Service

a. Pre-Service Preparation

- Crucifer: Candles lit, cross retrieved
- Sub-Deacon: secures Gospel Book for processional
- Altar Guild: Altar set with burse & chalice. Water, lavabo bowl, reserved elements & purificator(s) on credence table. Bread & wine in back of church on shelf

b. Processional

Standard order: Crucifer, choir, serving party.

Enter with hymn, approaching altar from Aisle #1. Crucifer stands with cross on platform before altar, choir & serving party reverence on the way to their seats. Sub-deacon places Gospel Book, standing on edge, on altar. Crucifer places cross in “Cross Placement #1” from diagram

SEATING OF ALTAR PARTY: Sub-deacon sits next to credence table, seminarian next to sub-deacon, crucifer next to seminarian. Preacher & Presider sit on opposite wall, behind organ

c. Opening Prayers

No change, led by Presider & Sub-deacon (for Trisagion)

d. Readings

- Old Testament & New Testament: No change, readers come from congregation to read at lectern
- Psalm: No change, sung, led by choir
- Gospel: At beginning of Gradual hymn, crucifer retrieves cross, passes in-front of altar, Sub-deacon follows, retrieving Gospel Book. They begin counter-clockwise circle of pews, picking up Gospel reader as they process. Crucifer stops on platform in front of altar. Sub-deacon & Gospeler face each other in front of altar. Cross returned to “Cross Placement #1”

e. Sermon

Gospel Book placed on front of lectern. Preacher uses lectern, space in front of altar, or wherever else they like to provide sermon

f. Nicene Creed

No change

g. Prayers of the People

No change, led by member of congregation from their position among the people

h. Peace/Thanksgivings

No change, now 2 aisles for exchanging peace, not one! Lectern moved against wall by ushers. Thanksgivings & life changes celebrated from area in front of altar

i. Offertory/Setting the Table

Crucifer to retrieve cross and move to back of church. Plates now passed using a staggered system, going length of rows, ushers to collect at end of row and move to next one in order. Offering, bread & wine, brought forward along Aisle #1 during Doxology. Sub-deacon & seminarian set table.

j. Eucharistic Prayer

No change

k. Receiving Communion

Bread offered in front of altar by Presider. Wine “stations” set-up in area which previously held lectern.

Choir given communion 1st, making a clockwise loop on diagram from seats to altar and back to seats.

Congregation makes counter-clockwise loop on diagram from seats to altar and back to seats. Meaning, ushers “release” congregation for communion by row on Aisle #1 side, all congregants come out on this side, receive communion, and return to their row along Aisle #2. Healing prayers offered in the back of the sanctuary.

l. Announcements

No change. Made from area in-front of altar.

m. Recessional/Dismissal

After hymn begins, crucifer leads choir out along Aisle #2. Serving party (less sub-deacon!) line-up before altar, reverence, and follow. Party then leaves along Aisle #2. Choir wraps around aisles for remainder of final hymn.

Dismissal offered by Sub-deacon from their seat near altar.