

The Cantor role

The cantor role is available to anyone who would like to lend their voice to the gathered community at any of our services.

As we gather on Zoom, our devices rely on different internet providers for connection, which can mean that there is some lag between real time sound and video feeds depending on the bandwidth of each participant (speed and capacity of internet).

The Cantor is the unmuted person who offers the responses for the community, which we would usually all say together if we were in the same physical room.

If we all remained unmuted and said the responses together there would be a cacophony of sound. The Cantor's role is therefore what enables us to enjoy a liturgy which is not disrupted by this limitation of the current technology.

They also enable a 'call and response' between the Leader and community, which is the traditional cantor role in orthodox worship (where we adopted the term from)

The responses of the liturgy are usually **Bold text** with '*All:*' just before the phrase or Amen which is said together.

How to be Cantor:

- During the week prior to serving, the liturgy will be made available to the Cantor to read over the slides so that they feel comfortable with what they will be saying.
- It is good practice for the Cantor to arrive at worship no later than **5 minutes prior** to when the service begins, so that the leader and other servers don't stress.
- The Cantor needs to be familiar with the *Mute* and *Unmute* function to make themselves audible at the responses and *Mute* again when not speaking.
- It is good to remain on *Mute* when not speaking as sometimes devices can offer feedback noise which can be difficult for those with hearing or cognitive challenges.
- The Cantor is present for the whole of worship to fulfil their role.

Frequently asked questions about the role:

Q: Can I be cantor if I have no other serving experience?

A: Yes! It is one which we recognise as being very easy for anyone who doesn't have any liturgical experience yet, as well as vital and valuable for our community space.

Q: Do I need to speak ad hoc or come up with any phrases on the spot?

A: No, all the words are provided in the liturgy slides so you can just follow along and say what is written.

Q: Do I need any special equipment to be Cantor?

A: No, just access to a device which has a microphone so that you can be heard via zoom.

Q: Do I need to have my camera switched on to be Cantor?

A: Having camera on is completely optional in our spaces, including for the Cantor. The most important thing is that you know how to Unmute and Mute so that your voice can be heard.

If you would like to give it a go, get in touch at: holyhermits@anglicanchurchsq.org.au to go on the next roster!