

# GREETER / USHER

## Background

Biblically speaking, the function of an usher parallels the work of a group the Old Testament refers to as doorkeepers. From the tribe of Levi and the family of Korah, doorkeepers “were responsible for guarding the thresholds of the Tent” (1 Chron. 9:19). They helped lead the people of Israel in worship by ensuring the purity of the people coming to worship. Before the temple was built, they stood at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, where sacrifices and purification took place.

According to 2 Kings 22, doorkeepers had a hand in collecting money from the people and then turning it over to the priests. They are considered in the same lists as the singers and scribes who were essential to Hebrew worship. These doorkeepers—sons of Korah—knew the beauty of Israel’s worship from firsthand experience. They authored some of the most memorable words in the Bible: “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God” (Ps. 42:1); “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1); and of course, “Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked” (Ps. 84:10).

A lot has changed since the Old Testament world of these psalms and the people who first spoke them. Today, we cannot walk through a door and into the dwelling place of God; the Holy Spirit dwells within each Christian (1 Cor. 6:19). When we come together to worship, we can’t inspect people for purity in the church lobby. We can, however, take the roles we play in worship seriously, and ushers and greeters can learn something from their ancient counterparts.

## Responsibilities

Thank you for serving as an usher and helping the Body of Christ worship God! Here are the bullet point responsibilities:

- Arrive 10-15 minutes early to greet at doors and pass out bulletins.
- Help anyone who seems to be in need (looking for a chair, wrangling kids, etc.)
- Following congregational prayer pass out attendance pads starting with first row.
- Once pads are distributed, pass the offering baskets starting with the first row.
- Take pads and offering to back of room for collection.
- Following service be at doors saying “goodbye” to people.