

Honoring Other Masonic Bodies

Reason for change

Two versions of the Masonic Tribute Ceremony will now be offered. The existing ceremony has been revised, and a new companion ceremony has been created with a streamlined focus on tribute rather than historical context. Both ceremonies are structured in a modular format, allowing individual Bethels to use only the sections relevant to the Masonic bodies active in their jurisdiction.

Proposed Changes

Section G: Ceremonies for Other Organizations

Honoring Masonic Organizations (Option 1: Historic)

This ceremony may be done as a stand-alone presentation with no formal opening or meeting. No Altar is necessary, Daughters wear Official Regalia. One or more narrators may be used. Musician plays march music as Daughters enter, forming Square and Compass. Soft music may be played during reading. Lights semi-dimmed.

NARRATOR:

Welcome, friends and family. Tonight [today], we honor four kindred organizations whose teachings have uplifted minds, guided hearts, and inspired generous deeds across generations. We celebrate their ideals; faith, loyalty, charity, wisdom, love - and the light they cast upon the paths of all who seek what is good, true, and enduring.

a. Masons

NARRATOR: **The history of Masonry dates back to the time before the Christian era. Later, in the middle of the Seventeenth Century, skilled builders and architects banded together for the protection of their craft and the prosperity of their skills. They travelled as need required and governed themselves, building the cathedrals and great works of the medieval age.**

In 1702 a lodge in London, England opened its doors of Masonry to men unskilled in architecture. As the demand for operative skill decreased, the moral principles within the fraternity drew men of character and distinction. From this opening grew the Free Masonry we know today – an organization long devoted to the elevation of thought and the advancement of noble deeds.

Although often challenged for its dedication to free thought and its higher ideals, it endured, strengthened by the sacrifices of those who believed that goodness and truth must ultimately prevail. A writer on Masonry notes that the fraternity's great secret is its ability to awaken an awareness of the divine within each person, inspiring lives shaped by faith, hope, and courage – the source of all true virtue.

Full lights here.

“The doctrines of Masonry are the most beautiful that are possible to imagine. Love one another, teach one another, help one another. This is all our doctrine, all our science, all our law. It is impossible to be a good Mason without being a good man.” — Winwood Reade, *The Veil of Isis* Tonight, we honor the Square and Compass – the emblem of work governed by wisdom, of strength guided by love, and of life measured by virtue. Solo: “How Firm A Foundation”. March music for Daughters to retire.

b. Eastern Star

Musician plays march music as Daughters enter to form a star. Soft music may be played during reading. Lights semi-dimmed as member enter, then raised later.

NARRATOR: Women historically were not part of the Masonic Order. Yet women’s hearts answer the same high call to service, fellowship and devotion. From this desire arose the Order of the Eastern Star - a fraternal fellowship of women (and today, men as well) bound by kinship to Masonry and committed to faith, fidelity and love.

This glorious star, significant of the Star of Bethlehem which heralded the Light of all Lights, has shed its radiance across the world in less than a century. Its dignity and beauty are honoured by Masons and all who behold it. Let the rays speak.

[Optional: lights or something symbolic of each color may be used as the narrator reads each color]

The ray of blue has taught us too that God loves us as fathers do. Fidelity in each kindred soul is the valued lesson by the blue ray told. The golden light of the second ray has changed the outlook of many a day. Here we recall that labor brings love, the reward of labor sent from above. Constancy of purpose be it humble or great is blessed with companionship, a joy to relate.

Loyalty shines from the pure ray of white and loyalty pierces the darkness of night. It demands allegiance to family and friend, to Nation, to God, to the World, without end. Loyalty is the lesson on our hearts we must write if God is to guide us in the pathway of right.

Green pastures mean growth and new life on the earth for good Eastern Stars, green symbolizes rebirth. The green of the fourth ray is the hope of all men for it tells by its story, “We shall live again.” The red of the fifth ray is the symbol of love, mother love, Fraternal love, the love from above That God in His Fatherhood gives to each one, who seeks but to know Him and His Blessed Son. Order of the Eastern Star, we honor your teachings of faith, loyalty, and love; your good deeds; and the noble service of your members to country and state. This star of your Daughters is our tribute to you, with our respect and honor, in all that we do. [Option] In loving tribute one of our Daughters sings: (“the Lord is My Light”. March music for Daughters to retire.

c. Order of the Amaranth

Marshal: Star dissolves into a Circle/Wreath formation around a Crown & Sword placed on a small stand or on the altar. [Lights: Warm gold/rose; soft underscore continues.]

NARRATOR: The Order of the Amaranth traces its lineage to royal beginnings, descending from an order established in 1653 by Queen Christina of Sweden. This remarkable young monarch, who ascended the throne of her war-torn nation at only six years old, dedicated her life to learning, culture and the arts.

It was she who envisioned the first Order of the Amaranth, created in honor of Lady Amaranth, a woman celebrated for her rare beauty, grace, and noble spirit. For many years the Order was immensely popular throughout Europe, its prestige drew the most distinguished ladies and gentlemen, who regarded membership as a high honor. During Christina's reign, the Order shone with all the splendor of the royal court – its ceremonies adorned with dignity, pageantry, and quiet magnificence.

The Order of the Amaranth appeared again in France when the Lodges of Adoption were organized about 1730, each of which was under the control of a Masonic Lodge. The Supreme Council of the Order of the Amaranth was formally organized in New York City in 1873 by Robert McCoy, a 33rd Degree Mason, assisted by Robert Morris and several other prominent Masons. Their original intent was to have Amaranth as the third degree in an organization for young women with Masonic affiliation, but in 1921 this idea was changed, and the Order of the Amaranth became a distinct, independent organization. The Supreme Council of the Order of the Amaranth of the World draws its membership direct from Masonic families.

The teachings of the Order of the Amaranth are eternal. Through its dignified ceremonies, we are reminded of our responsibilities to our highest principles, to our communities, and to one another. The ideals of home, friendship, and hospitality, together with enduring lessons of truth, faith, wisdom and charity, and our shared devotion to our nation inspire us to uphold the highest standards of conduct and honorable actions.

The leaves of the amaranth plant have long represented distinction and honor. When formed into the "Amaranthine" wreath – an unbroken circle – they reflect the enduring bond of friendship and unity that surrounds this beloved Order. At the center of the Standard, the Amaranthine Wreath encircles the Crown and the Sword, symbols of heritage and strength that, together, represent our shared purpose and enduring unity.

d. White Shrine of Jerusalem

NARRATOR: The ritual of the Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem is founded upon the birth and life of Christ. Its teachings are scriptural and intended to illustrate and impress upon the minds of the initiates, the humble but glorious birth and life of Him who walked the challenges of this world with courage and compassion.

The mission of the Order is to uphold the simple and uplifting message of Christ and to carry forward His call for peace and goodwill. It encourages us to do noble deeds, extend kindness and offer comfort, bringing light to those who may feel surrounded by darkness in times of sorrow or hardship. There is but one degree and the obligation is based upon the

honor of those who obtain it, and once voluntarily assumed, is perpetual. The emblems are the star, the Cross, and the shepherd's crook.

The beautiful story related by the three wise men and the shepherd reminds us to practice patience, compassion, and thoughtful kindness. Though we cannot always see the path ahead, if we are sincere, conscientious, and walk faithfully in the light we are given, we can trust that the journey – and its outcomes – rest safely in the hands of the One who guides all things with wisdom and love.

Honoring Masonic Organizations (Option 2)

This ceremony may be done as a stand-alone presentation with no formal opening or meeting. No Altar is necessary, Daughters wear Official Regalia. One or more narrators may be used. Musician plays march music as Daughters enter, forming Square and Compass. Soft music may be played during reading. Lights semi-dimmed.

NARRATOR:

Tonight [today] we gather to honor Freemasonry, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of the Amaranth and the White Shrine of Jerusalem. Four companion organizations whose histories are distinct, yet whose purposes are beautifully aligned.

Together they call us to fidelity – to remain true to our principles, our families, our communities, and to the quiet voice of conscience within. They teach us to stand firm in integrity, to act with honesty, and to measure our deeds by the good they bring into the world.

They remind us of the power of hope: that every life knows seasons of challenge, yet renewal is always possible; that growth can arise from difficulty; and that light is never so meaningful as when it enters a place of shadow. Whether expressed as rebirth, transformation, or the promise of new beginnings, this hope is a gift shared generously by all four organizations.

They call us to steadfast labor – not simply the work of hands, but the work of the heart. The work that builds understanding, sustains families, strengthens communities, and offers kindness without expectation of return. Through this labor, love becomes active; compassion becomes a living force.

They teach loyalty: to one another, to ideals that endure beyond the moment, and to the shared human longing for peace, justice, and harmony. In loyalty we find trust; in trust, unity; and in unity, the strength to accomplish what none could achieve alone.

They remind us that wisdom is not merely knowledge, but the thoughtful use of knowledge – guided by humility, tempered with compassion, and illuminated by the awareness that every person carries within them a spark of higher purpose.

Each, in its own way, has sought to nurture character, inspire service, and kindle a light within every heart that seeks to live with meaning.

[option for masons]

The symbols before us remind us that every human life is a work in progress, shaped by the choices we make and the care we offer to others.

Here, the Square and Compass of Freemasonry calls us to build lives of integrity: to measure our actions with honesty, to shape our days by conscience, and to seek wisdom that steadies our strength. They remind us that truth is not simply believed, but practiced; and that character is revealed in how faithfully we live our ideals.

[option for eastern star]

Solo: "How Firm A Foundation"

Musician plays march music as Daughters enter to form a star.

Soft music may be played during reading. Lights semi-dimmed as member enter, then raised later.

Around us now shines a star whose rays speak to the universal longings of the human heart: the desire to be faithful, the hope that never fades, the loyalty that binds communities together, the promise of renewal, and the enduring power of love.

These principles of the Order of the Eastern Star live not only in ceremony but in the daily effort to listen with patience, to act with courage, to stand by those in need, and to let compassion guide our steps.

[option for Order of the Amaranth]

"The Lord is My Light". March music for Daughters form a Circle/Wreath. Soft music may be played during narration. Lights semi-dimmed as member enter, then raised later.

The Order of the Amaranth's unbroken circle surrounding the Crown and Sword symbolizes unity and fellowship – people linked by shared purpose and lifted by mutual support. It teaches that leadership is most noble when it serves others, and that strength is most honorable when guided by compassion.

The wreath encircling these symbols whispers the timeless truth that friendship, loyalty, and service form a bond stronger than circumstance. Where we join hands, we create community; where we offer kindness, we build hope.

[option for white shrine of Jerusalem]

Musician plays march music as Daughters enter to form a cross.

Soft music may be played during narration. Lights semi-dimmed as member enter, then raised later.

The symbols of the Star, the Cross, and the Shepherd's Crook of the White Shrine of Jerusalem speak to a shared commitment to gentle service, steadfast care, and the call to walk with compassion. They remind us that countless lives have been brightened by simple acts of understanding, by words that lift the weary, by the quiet courage of those who choose kindness even when the world feels uncertain.

Tonight [Today], as [these symbols and formations weave their story around us], we honor not only the organizations themselves, but the shared ideals that make them kindred: ideals that reach across generations, across traditions, and across every boundary that separates one human heart from another. We honor the heritage entrusted to us, and we pledge to carry its light forward.

Musician plays march music as Daughters retire.

Submitted by:

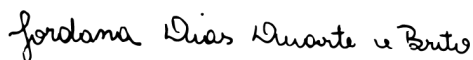
Amber Vipond, PHQ, PGG, Ritual Revision Co-Chair



Marcy Jaqua, GG, Ritual Revision Co-Chair



Jordana Brito, PHQ, PBG



Bonnie Conner, PHQ, PBG



Mariana Cota, PHQ



Sandra Dorr, PHQ, BG



Heather Havens, PHQ, GG



Kori Radloff, PGG, PBG, BG



Jackie Tomacmol, PHQ, PGG

