

CEREMONY

FOR

DEDICATING

A

MASONIC TEMPLE

BY THE

GRAND LODGE

OF

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK

1970

Revised, 1970

CHARLES F. GOSNELL, Grand Master
LA VERNE W. GETMAN, Grand Marshal
HOWARD W. POTTS, Grand Lecturer

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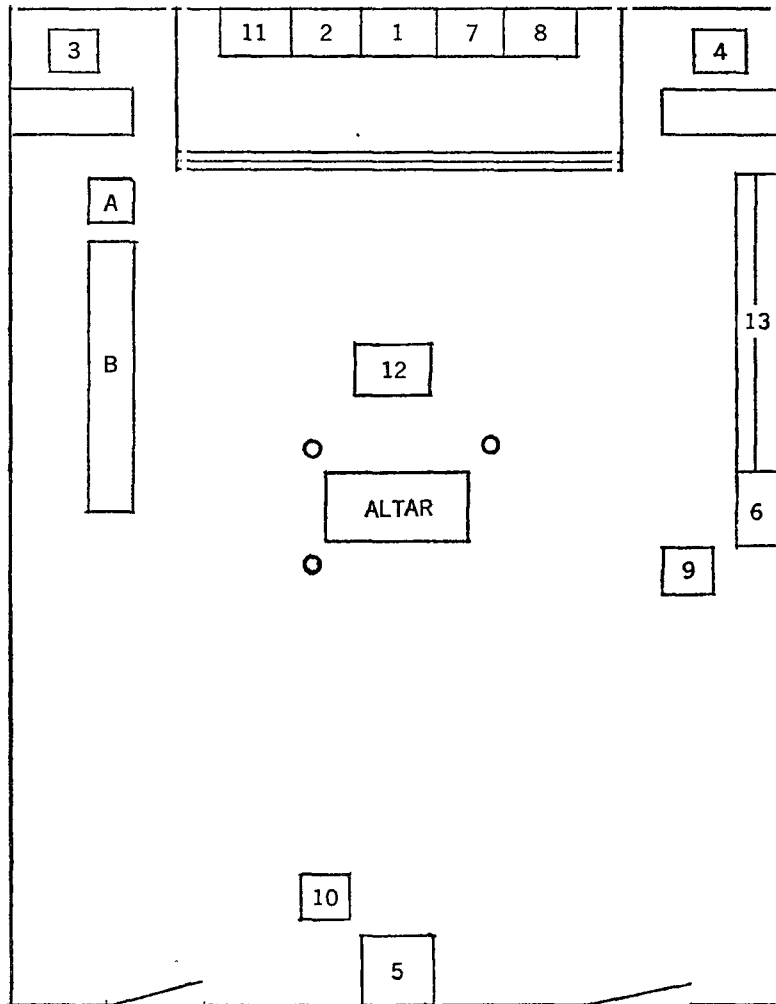
WENDELL K. WALKER, Grand Secretary

(This Ceremony is NOT open to the public)

ORDER OF PROCESSION
(In Column of Twos)

GRAND MARSHAL
AND/OR
DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL
GRAND STANDARD BEARER
WITH FLAG
JUNIOR AND SENIOR GRAND DEACONS
REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GRAND LODGES
COMMITTEES
GRAND DIRECTORS OF CEREMONIES
GRAND SWORD BEARERS
GRAND STEWARDS
GRAND CHAPLAINS
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS
COMMISSIONERS OF APPEALS
FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH
TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL AND ASYLUM FUND
PAST ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS
GRAND SECRETARY AND GRAND TREASURER
JUNIOR AND SENIOR GRAND WARDENS
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
GRAND MASTER

FLOOR PLAN



- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. GRAND MASTER | 7. GRAND MARSHAL |
| 2. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER | 8. GRAND CHAPLAIN |
| 3. GRAND TREASURER | 9. GRAND STEWARD |
| 4. GRAND SECRETARY | 10. GRAND STEWARD |
| 5. SENIOR GRAND WARDEN | 11. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER |
| 6. JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN | 12. CONSECRATION TABLE |
| 13. GRAND LODGE OFFICERS NOT PARTICIPATING | |
| A. MASTER | |
| B. OFFICERS OF THE LODGE | |

The Grand Master and his associate Grand Lodge Officers meet in a room of the Temple set apart for the use of Grand Lodge.

The Brethren are seated in the Lodge room, the Officers of the Lodge occupying the Northeast corner. The Lodge is NOT OPEN and the stations and places are UNOCCUPIED. Seats in the Southeast corner are reserved for the Grand Lodge Officers entering in procession but not otherwise participating in the Ceremony.

The Grand Marshal enters the Lodge room, proceeds to the East and raises the Brethren. ***

Grand Marshal:

Brethren, The Most (Right) Worshipful, (acting as) Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, with his associate Grand Lodge Officers, is about to enter.

The Grand Marshal returns to the room where the Grand Lodge Officers have assembled, and leads the procession into the Lodge room. The procession advances immediately to the East, one column deploying toward the right, the other toward the left, facing inward, so the Grand Master may pass between the lines to the East escorted by the Grand Marshal. The Grand Standard Bearer with Flag takes a position West of the altar.

Grand Marshal:

Brethren, The Most (Right) Worshipful,
(acting as) Grand Master of Masons in the State of New
York. Grand Honors.

Grand Master:

Let no man enter upon any great or important under-
taking without first invoking the blessing of Almighty God.
The Grand Chaplain will give the Invocation.

Grand Chaplain:

INVOCATION

Brethren:

So mote it be.

Grand Master:

Brethren, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

One verse of the Star Spangled Banner. (Optional)

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Grand Marshal, escort the Flag to
the East.

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Grand Marshal, escort the Right
Worshipful Deputy Grand Master to his station.

The Grand Master, using similar language, then orders the
Grand Marshal to conduct individually, the Senior
Grand Warden and the Junior Grand Warden to their

stations and the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary
and the Grand Chaplain and the two Grand Stewards
to their places. He may also order the Grand Marshal
to conduct the District Deputy Grand Master of the
District, and Past Grand Masters to the East.

Grand Master:

The remaining Grand Lodge Officers will take seats
among the Brethren.

The Grand Master seats the Brethren. *

MUSIC (Optional)

The Master of the Lodge:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Brethren of
..... Lodge, No., being animated by
a desire to promote the honor and interest of the Craft, have
erected this Masonic Temple for their convenience and accom-
modation. The building itself, the hall in which we are now
assembled and the plan by which it has been constructed
having met with your approbation, we are desirous that this
Temple be now solemnly dedicated to Masonic purposes
agreeably to ancient Craft usage.

Grand Master:

Worshipful Brother, the officers of
the Grand Lodge are greatly pleased to express to you and
your Brethren the heartiest approval of this Temple and all
the appointments. You and your Brethren are deserving of
the highest commendation for this evidence of your deep
attachment to the interests of the Craft, and pray that all who
may come after you, and who shall be privileged to assemble

within these walls may emulate your example and display equal, if not greater zeal, in the furtherance of the objectives of our Fraternity.

The Master resumes his seat.

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, make announcement to the Brethren present, whose name it is, that we, as Freemasons, do honor most. Declare the first purpose to which this Temple is to be dedicated, and explain some of the principles which we exemplify in this Ceremony.

Junior Grand Warden:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brethren, the first duty of Masons is to God, because He is the Creator and the Ruler of all things and the Giver of all good. His name should never be absent from our minds, and all our doings should be with an eye to His glory, His praise and His approbation. All our ceremonies are intended to promote a reverence for Him, and to impress upon the novitiate the duties owing by man to Him. They are begun, conducted and ended to the glory of His great name. Therefore, in accordance with immemorial custom, this Temple is to be dedicated in the name of the Great Jehovah.

Freemasonry summarizes within itself all those good purposes to which this Temple is to be devoted. Embracing within its tenets virtue, charity, relief, brotherly love and affection, and above all constant and reverent service to the Supreme Architect of the Universe, the institution of Freemasonry is itself the compendium of all the purposes to which the Temple should be dedicated. Therefore, not only will ancient Craft usage be followed, but the utmost propriety be observed when we shall dedicate this Temple to Freemasonry in the name of the Great Jehovah.

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Grand Marshal, prepare the Symbolic Lodge for the dedicatory ceremony.

The Symbolic Lodge stands upon a small table or pedestal between the Altar and the East, with sufficient open space surrounding it to admit of a procession, and having the vessels of corn, wine and oil upon the same pedestal or table. Up to this time the Symbolic Lodge and the vessels have remained covered with a white cloth.

The Grand Marshal removes this cover and the Grand Steward at the left of the Senior Grand Warden and the Grand Steward at the left of the Junior Grand Warden come forward and stand west of the Altar.

The Grand Master raises the Brethren.

CONSECRATION

Grand Chaplain:

Almighty and ever-glorious and gracious Lord God; Creator of all things and Governor of everything that Thou hast made; mercifully look upon Thy servants, now assembled in Thy name and in Thy presence, bless and prosper all our works begun, continued and ended in Thee. Graciously bestow upon us wisdom in all our doings, strength in all our difficulties, and the beauty of harmony and holiness in all our communications and work. Let faith be the foundation of our hope, and charity the fruit of our obedience to Thy revealed will.

O Thou preserver of men, graciously enable us now to dedicate this house which we have erected to the honor and glory of Thy name, and be mercifully pleased to accept this service at our hands.

May all who shall be lawfully appointed to rule herein according to our Constitutions, be under Thy special guidance and protection and faithfully observe and fulfill all their obligations to Thee and to the Lodge.

May all who come within these consecrated walls have but one heart and one mind to love, to honor, to fear and to obey Thee as Thy majesty and unbounded goodness claim, and love one another as Thou hast loved us. May every discordant passion be here banished from our bosoms. Here may we meet in Thy presence as a band of brethren created by the same Almighty Parent, duly sustained by the same beneficent hand, and traveling the same road through the gates of death. May we have here Thy holy word always present to mind, and here may religious virtue, love, harmony and peaceful joy reign triumphant in our hearts.

May all the proper work of our Institution which may be performed in this house be such as Thy wisdom may approve and Thy goodness prosper. And finally, O Thou Sovereign Architect of the Universe, be graciously pleased to bless the Masonic Craft wherever dispersed, and make them true and faithful to Thee, to their neighbors, and to themselves. And when the time of our labor shall draw near to its end, and the pillars of our strength decline to the ground, enable us graciously, then, to pass through the valley of the shadow of death supported by Thy rod and Thy staff, to those mansions beyond the skies, where love and peace and joy forever reign before Thy throne. Amen.

Brethren:

So mote it be. *

After the Consecration Prayer, the brethren are seated by the Grand Master.

The Grand Marshal delivers the vessel of corn and the vessel of wine across the Altar to the Grand Stewards who convey them to the Junior and Senior Grand Wardens respectively. The Grand Marshal carries the vessel of oil to the Deputy Grand Master in the East. The Grand Chaplain descends from the East for the first perambulation and marches once around the Symbolic Lodge beginning at the West. During the perambulation he recites the following Scripture, after which he stands at the south side of the Symbolic Lodge.

FIRST PERAMBULATION

Grand Chaplain:

And the word of the Lord came to Solomon, saying: Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word, with thee, which I spake unto David thy father;

And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

So Solomon built the house and finished it.

(1 Kings 6:11-14)

At the conclusion of the perambulation the Junior Grand Warden rises in his station.

Junior Grand Warden:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, in the dedication of Masonic Temples it has been the immemorial custom to pour

corn upon the Lodge as an emblem of nourishment. I therefore present this vessel of corn to be employed by you agreeably to ancient Craft usage.

*The Junior Grand Warden then delivers the vessel of corn to his Grand Steward who carries it West of the Altar and presents it to the Grand Marshal. The Grand Marshal carries the vessel to the Grand Master in the East who calls the brethren to their feet. ****

Grand Master:

In the name of the Great Jehovah, to whom be all honor, glory and praise, I,, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, (or I,, acting by virtue of a dispensation from, and therefore in the name and the stead of Most Worshipful, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York), do solemnly dedicate this Temple to Freemasonry.

The Grand Master descends from the East escorted by the Grand Marshal and pours the corn upon the Symbolic Lodge.

Grand Master:

May the corn of nourishment ever be vouchsafed to all who shall gather within these walls. Amen.

Brethren:

So mote it be.

The Grand Master returns to the East escorted by the Grand Marshal.

Grand Marshal:

Brethren, Grand Honors.

The Grand Master seats the brethren. *

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden to what other purposes may this Temple be dedicated, and in whose name?

Senior Grand Warden:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, from the very earliest days it has been the custom to dedicate Masonic Temples in the name of the Great Jehovah; but for centuries the custom has obtained to dedicate them also to the memory of the Holy Saints John. And while Freemasonry does within itself embrace and inculcate all virtues, yet as our Ritual oftentimes displays one object lesson and then another to teach the same truth or emphasize the same instruction, so it has long been the custom among Freemasons to emphasize the teachings of the Craft by dedicating their Lodge Rooms to virtue.

SECOND PERAMBULATION

The Grand Chaplain marches twice around the Symbolic Lodge during which he recites the following Scripture;

Grand Chaplain:

For he cast two pillars of brass, of eighteen cubits high apiece; and a line of twelve cubits did compass either of them about.

And he made two chapiters of molten brass, to set upon the tops of the pillars: the height of the one chapter was five cubits, and the height of the other chapter was five cubits:

And nets of checker work, and wreaths of chain work, for the chapiters which were upon the top of the pillars; seven for the one chapter and seven for the other chapter.

(1 Kings 7:15-17)

At the conclusion of the second perambulation the Senior Grand Warden rises in his station:

Senior Grand Warden:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, wine, the emblem of refreshment, having been used by our ancient Brethren in the dedication and consecration of their Lodges, I present this vessel of wine to be used by you on this occasion, agreeably to ancient Craft usage.

The Senior Grand Warden delivers the vessel of wine to his Grand Steward who carries it West of the Altar and presents it to the Grand Marshal. The Grand Marshal carries the vessel to the Grand Master in the East who calls the brethren to their feet. ***

Grand Master:

In the name of the Holy Saints John, I do solemnly dedicate this Temple to Virtue.

The Grand Master descends from the East, escorted by the Grand Marshal and pours the wine upon the Symbolic Lodge.

Grand Master:

May the Fountain of all Strength constantly refresh those who shall here assemble and vouchsafe to them strength for the perfect performance of all those things which ought here to be done. Amen.

Brethren:

So mote it be.

The Grand Master returns to the East escorted by the Grand Marshal.

Grand Marshal:

Brethren, Grand Honors twice.

The Grand Master seats the Brethren. *

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, make known unto the Brethren the significance of the third element of consecration and dedication.

Deputy Grand Master:

Brethren, Freemasonry is neither bound by geographical lines, nor circumscribed by race, creed or time. All Freemasons, whencesoever they may come, so long as this Temple shall stand, will here find welcome and brotherly greeting. Within these walls will be taught the doctrine that "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth," wherefore all men are brethren, children alike of one Father and members of one family. It will here be taught that wheresoever destitution exists, there also it is Masonic duty to relieve. For though we are reminded that brethren are especially to be considered, nevertheless every

Entered Apprentice has impressed upon him the duty of affording relief to any deserving member of the human family. Even as our ancient Grand Master, Solomon, King of Israel, in his dedicatory prayer upon the completion of the Great Temple, invoked Divine blessing not only upon the children of Israel, but also upon all the strangers from foreign lands who might thereafter turn their faces towards Jerusalem, so Freemasons have ever dedicated their Lodge Rooms to Universal Benevolence in the name of the entire Fraternity.

THIRD PERAMBULATION

The Grand Chaplain marches thrice around the Symbolic Lodge during which he recites the following Scripture:

Grand Chaplain:

And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:

And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:

Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou speakest also with my mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day.

Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.

And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and of his supplication, (O LORD) my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee today:

That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

(1 Kings 8:22-29)

At the conclusion of the third perambulation the Deputy Grand Master rises in his station and presents the vessel of oil to the Grand Master.

Deputy Grand Master:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, I present for your use, according to our ancient custom, this vessel of oil, an emblem of that joy which we aim to diffuse throughout the world, and which should animate every bosom on the completion of this important undertaking.

The Grand Master takes the vessel of oil and calls the brethren to their feet.

Grand Master:

In the name of the entire Fraternity, wheresoever dispersed upon this terrestrial globe, I do now solemnly dedicate this Temple of Universal Benevolence.

The Grand Master, escorted by the Grand Marshal, steps to the Symbolic Lodge and pours the oil thereon.

Grand Master:

May the oil of joy be diffused over the hearts of all the distressed, and may our Fraternity be inspired to such deeds of benevolence as shall prove a constant joy to all mankind. Amen.

Brethren:

So mote it be.

The Grand Master returns to the East, escorted by the Grand Marshal.

Grand Marshal:

Brethren, Grand Honors thrice.

The Grand Chaplain stands at the East end of the Symbolic Lodge and offers the following prayer:

Grand Chaplain:

And may the LORD, the giver of every good and perfect gift, bless the brethren here assembled, in all their lawful undertakings, and grant to each of them, in needful supply, the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment and the oil of joy. Amen.

Brethren:

So mote it be.

The Grand Master seats the brethren.
The Grand Marshal covers the Symbolic Lodge. *

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

The Grand Master calls the brethren to their feet. ***

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Grand Marshal, make the proclamation.

The Grand Marshal proceeds to the South.

Grand Marshal:

In the name of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, and by the order of the Most (Right) Worshipful, (acting as) Grand Master, I proclaim this Temple of Lodge, No., dedicated to Freemasonry, agreeably to ancient Craft usage and in ample form.

The Grand Marshal proceeds to the West.

Grand Marshal:

In the name of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, and by order of the Most (Right) Worshipful, (acting as) Grand Master, I proclaim this Temple of Lodge, No., dedicated to Freemasonry and Virtue, agreeably to ancient Craft usage and in ample form.

The Grand Marshal proceeds to the East.

Grand Marshal:

To the Glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe. In the name of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, and by order of the Most (Right) Worshipful, (acting as) Grand Master, I proclaim this Temple of Lodge, No., dedicated to Freemasonry, Virtue and Universal Benevolence, agreeably to ancient Craft usage and in ample form. Brethren, Grand Honors.

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Grand Marshal, escort the Worshipful Master to the East.

The Grand Master places the Gavel in the hands of the Master of the Lodge.

Grand Marshal:

Brethren, The Most Worshipful Grand Master, with his Grand Lodge associates, is about to retire. You will remain under the direction of the Worshipful Master.

The Grand Master escorted by the Grand Marshal, and followed by the Grand Lodge Officers, will then retire. The Lodge may then proceed with the program of the evening.