

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



*Let my prayer be set
before Thee as incense.*
Psalm 141.2

Censor

The censor, or thurible, holds the burning coals on which the incense is placed. The chains permit the censor to be swung by the thurifer while incensing the altar, the celebrant and the people.

Incense is one of the most ancient forms of ritual worship. It is first mentioned in the Bible in Exodus 25.6, when God commands that the people bring incense to the Tabernacle. It was used daily in the Temple. Its use was generally suppressed after the Reformation as a form of superstition and “popery.” It began its return with the Church Revival of the 19th century, and is recognized by many Anglicans as a venerable tradition and an appropriate liturgical expression.