

## Opening and Closing the Chapter

### Opening

The companions, properly clothed, assemble in the ante-room.

Scribes Ezra and Nehemiah are stationed at the door to receive the Word from the companions entering, only the word is given and no grip is necessary, but is usually given as a sign of brotherly love, there are no grips in the Royal Arch degree.

### The Procession

The companions enter, other than the Council, and take their places in the N. and S. The officers assume their stations and all remain standing. Before the Chapter is opened it is the responsibility of the Principal Sojourner to ensure that T.V.O.T.S.L. is open at Hosea 2 and the Triangle is placed thereon in the proper position.

S.E. says: "The Chapter is now prepared to receive the Council" the three Principals, Z., H., and J. being robed and attended by the Past Principals enter the Chapter.

Past Principals enter and form in a line on the N. and S. side of the Chapter room, and remain standing. The Council enters in the form of a triangle. (The 2<sup>nd</sup> P., is always on the right of 1<sup>st</sup> P.). After sharing the word the three Principals proceed to the East. (To reach the E. properly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> P. walks towards West and approaches E. on left of 1<sup>st</sup> P.). Stopping and facing their respective chairs, the Council pick up their Sceptres then pronounce mentally the Word corresponding to their chair. They then salute their chairs with the Reverential Sign and ascend to their places in the East. (Note that the Sceptre is always in right hand – even when forming triangle).

After J. says "Good will toward men", the Scribes positioned in the W. salute, and take their places opposite the pedestal and remain standing.

At this time if there are any Installed 1<sup>st</sup> Principals present invite them to join you in the East before proceeding further.

The Pedestal is unveiled before the knocks are given by the Three Principals and the Junior Sojourner.

### Closing

The Scribe Ezra when approaching the altar at the closing will advance to within 3 steps of the altar, salute the three principals, then proceed to the altar to complete his duties.

At the closing the knocks are given before the word is disarranged and the lights extinguished. The word must be disarranged by a past 1<sup>st</sup> Principal or, usually, the Senior Grand Chapter officer present.

After the Chapter is closed, you may ask the companions to join you in singing of the National Anthem, O Canada.

Rt. Ex. Comp. George Fairbairn  
Grand Third Principal  
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