

Supplementary all-age materials

from ROOTS for churches



I. Gathering

You will need: enough tealights for each person to light one, set out on trays; small packets or twists of paper containing salt, enough for one each; a large salt cellar.

As worshippers enter, invite each to light a tealight on the trays provided. (It may prove easier, in larger congregations, to do this now rather than at *Part V, An Act of Commitment to be Salt and Light* in the Ecumenical Worship Service Order). Also invite them to take one of the small packets of salt.

Processional Hymn

Carry trays of tealights, a large salt cellar and Bible to the Altar/Communion Table, to symbolise the content of the service and to lay these things before God.

II. Prayers for the Holy Spirit

Add actions to the response, **Holy Spirit, come upon us:** *raise arms with fingers outstretched, then lower slowly until gently resting on head.*

III. Prayers of Reconciliation

Add actions to the leader's introduction, 'Let us turn our minds' *draw circle round crown of head*, 'hearts' *point to heart*, 'and bodies' *turn round on the spot*. The leader continues, 'to receive the grace of reconciliation on the way to holiness.'

IV. Proclamation of the Word of God

Psalms 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18, at the response, 'I will bless your name for ever and ever' *join hands in prayer and bow head*.

1 Peter 2:9-10

Warn the congregation beforehand that lights will be extinguished for effect. Make sure the reader has a light by which to read. Then put out the main lights one by one as he/she reads, until only the reader's light and candles remain alight.

Add the following to the beginning of the response:

Reader: You have been called out of darkness into God's marvellous light!
Listen and you will live!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Turn all the lights back on at once.

Matthew 5:1-16

You will need: packets of 'Salt and shake' crisps for children and young people.

After this reading, ask the children and young people to open the crisps and taste them without salt. (They may taste fine to youngsters raised on salt-free diets. It may help to explain the historical significance of salt, as a preservative and to enhance taste, and that crisps can taste very odd without it for those used to it.) Invite them to add a little salt and shake well. Just as the salt needs to be well shaken in order to be evenly distributed, so we need to distribute ourselves among society in order to enhance life in God's world.

Now invite people to take out their mobile phones, and have them ready to use as torches at the end of the responses. Add an extra response:

Reader: Let your light shine!

All: **We will let our lights shine!**

Dim the lights while everyone waves their mobile phone torches.

Reader: Listen and you will live!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

V. An Act of Commitment to be Salt and Light

As an alternative to tasting a pinch of salt, make a 'Salt Covenant'. Pass bowls around into which each person empties the small packet of salt they were given on entering, see *Gathering* above. As bowls are passed back to those handing them around, they take a spoon and mix the grains. The bowls are then carried in procession to the Altar/Communion Table and laid with the tealights as a symbol of salt and light to the world.

VI. Prayers of Hope

Invite people to hold hands with their neighbours on either side throughout the prayer. At each response, raise hands in a chain of affirmation and unity.

These ideas were written by Yvonne Hendrie on behalf of ROOTS for Churches, www.rootsontheweb.com. ROOTS resources support worship and learning in churches every week of the year.