

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2016

Leaders notes



How to use the worship service

I. Planning the service

- If possible, arrange for a local planning group to meet where the service will take place several weeks beforehand. Three or four people are sufficient. They should represent varied traditions, and ideally include the preacher and a musician.
- Walk through the service, reading aloud the spoken words as you go, considering the movements and actions.
- Discuss how this service captures something of the unity, grace of God, and brokenness that you experience within and between your local churches.

II. Arranging the space

You will need:

- (a) a Bible
- (b) One large candle, matches and a taper
- (c) a number of smaller candles (enough for everyone to light from the large candle)
- (d) a bowl of salt
- (e) optionally, a loaf of black bread

III. During the service

1. The Bible, large candle and bowl of salt are brought in during the processional hymn.
2. The open Bible should be placed somewhere prominent at the front of the worship space.
3. The large candle and the bowl of salt are placed on each side of the Bible.
4. The suggestions in the text as to when people should stand or sit may be adapted to local custom.
5. Section 5 is “An Act Commitment to be Salt and Light”. We suggest that this is done in the following way:
Members of the congregation are invited to light the smaller candles from the large candle, and then to place them in a prominent position. A designated person then gives them a small pinch of salt on the back of the hand, which they taste as they return to their seat.
6. The Peace is shared at the end of the service, which leads to a time of hospitality and refreshment.
7. At the conclusion of the service a loaf of black bread is sprinkled with salt in the sign of the cross and carried out of the worship space. This reflects local custom in Latvia of blessing a new home where a loaf of the finest bread is blessed with a cross in salt.
8. The whole service may be adapted according to local custom and circumstance.