

Candlelight Communion Service by Rev. Robert Winterhalter

This Service is similar to many candle lighting services, but is more focused.

You will need the following supplies:

- (1) A container to hold salt, which will differ depending upon the size of the congregation or other group, along with a table on which to place it.
- (2) Salt to place in it. Rock salt is inexpensive and may be used. (Note: Do not use sand, since the symbolism of sand is very different.)
- (3) A large white candle, to be called the Christ Candle.
- (4) Small individual white candles (but larger than birthday candles).
- (5) Bible verses that are appropriate to the occasion, typed on paper, to be wrapped around the candles using small rubber bands.

Important!

You will need to briefly explain the significance of the Service, before conducting it. Its purpose is to release a consciousness of Oneness (Communion or Common-union) with the Indwelling God, the Christ as the core of our own being, and our metaphysical oneness with each other. It should not be taken for granted that the congregation or other group will understand its significance, without elucidation.

Direct quotations from the Bible are shown in quotation marks, and are from the New Revised Standard Version, Copyright c 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14; John 13:14; 13:31; 13:34; 15:5; 15:11; 15:15)

The Service

Candle Light Responsive Reading

Minister: Jesus said, "I AM the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Congregation: Jesus also said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid."

M: The light of the Cosmic Christ illumines my path.

C: The Word of God within us all is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

M: Jesus said, "So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

C: I behold the Christ in everyone, and I withdraw all negative thoughts and feelings.

M: "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him."

C: I awaken to my divinity, the Cosmic Christ. I receive the light of God, and I am filled with light.

M: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

C: I now receive and experience Divine Love, which unites us in Spirit and in Truth.

Period of Silence

M: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

C: I abide in the Vine, the Presence of life and light. I am united with Jesus and with The Christ.

M: "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

C: I enter consciously into the joy of the Lord, which is my strength.

M: "I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father."

C: I AM, the Christ in me, freely manifests the life, light, love, and abundance that are God. I give thanks. Amen.

Meditation

Minister: (after the meditation) You have each received a candle with a blessing wrapped around it. Please remove the blessing from your candle at this time. Keep this blessing - it has been selected by the Spirit of God in you. Please come forward, light your individual candle with the Christ Candle, and place it in the bed of salt. The great paradox is that while we are individual, we all share the One Light and replicate the Omnipresence of God. The salt is a reminder of Jesus' affirmation: "You are the salt of the earth." [Ushers may assist the group in lighting their candles, if appropriate.]

Candle Light Communion Processional

During the processional, there are two choices:

(1) The Minister may speak appropriate Bible verses and/or other inspirational statements. This would include soft organ accompaniment.

(2) The organist may softly play appropriate hymns, without any statements by the Minister. If the Communion Service is held in conjunction with Christmas, Silent Night and other Christmas carols are recommended.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the gift of Jesus the Christ, our brother and Wayshower, who came to bear witness to the Truth and to show it forth. Thank you also for my own spiritual rebirth, and for the gift of Christ in me. Help me to carry this Inner Light forward, and to realize its power in everyday living. Through the living Christ within, I rejoice. Amen.

The End