

Worship Servant Guide: Acolytes

Role: The word “acolyte” comes from a Greek word that means helper or companion. When you serve as an acolyte you are helping people feel a sense of God’s presence with the light of Christ in worship. Acolytes help set a joyful and reverent tone for worship and bring a sense of celebration and anticipation to the service. Thank you for being a leader at church!

Before Worship:

- 1) Arrive at least 10 minutes before worship.
- 2) At 9:25am (5 minutes before worship) head to the front to pray with the pastor and reader before worship.
- 3) Grab the candle lighter thingy and have an adult light it for you or light it using the Eternal Flame (red candle holder on the altar).
- 4) Walk slowly to the center of the back altar (the big one attached to the back wall). Pause and reverence the altar (give a tiny bow or head nod). Light the two candles on the altar.
- 5) Then make your way to the candelabras (if they are out) and light those candles: lighting one whole candelabra first, then the other. Start with the candles closest to the altar and then head out away from the altar.
- 6) Extinguish the flame on your candle lighter thingy by gently pulling down the adjuster about two inches and then slowly bringing it back up again
 - a. ****TIP**** -- The wax can melt inside the metal and it can get stuck if we don’t pull the taper (wick) back up slowly after extinguishing it.
 - b. ****TIP**** -- Gently blowing out the candle is another alternative, but blow gently so you don’t spray wax.
- 7) Return to the center of the back altar and reverence the altar again.
- 8) Take the candle lighter thingy and place it back in its holder and return to your seat in the sanctuary.

During the Offering:

- 1) The musician will begin playing the offertory (instrumental music while the plates are passed). The acolyte and parent/guardian/sibling come to the front and receive the offering plates from the pastor. Then the acolyte and parent/guardian/sibling pass the plates down each row from the front of the sanctuary to the back (one plate for each side). The acolyte and parent/guardian/sibling remain in the center aisle (parent doing one side, acolyte doing the other)--helping to pass the plate from one row to the next.

- 2) Once the offering plates make it all the way to the back of the sanctuary, please consolidate or stack the plates and then **wait for the musician to begin playing the Offering Hymn.** Once you hear that song begin, then the acolyte walks up the aisle toward the front to hand the pastor the offering plates. Then the acolyte returns to their seat.

After Worship:

- 1) About **halfway through the first verse of the Sending Hymn**, come up to gently grab the candle lighter thingy and walk to the center of the back altar area.
- 2) Reverence the altar, then extinguish the candelabra candles first (starting with the farthest left and farthest right candles and working your way inward, toward the altar). Then extinguish the altar candles.
 - a. ****TIP**** -- Be careful to simply hover the “bell” over the flame to put it out. **Do NOT press the bell down on the candle!** This can damage the wick.
- 3) When you have finished, reverence the cross, return the candle lighter thingy to its holder, and return to your seat.

Other Notes:

- 1) If the Sending Hymn finishes before you are done, continue extinguishing the candles as you normally would. Take your time and continue your ministry. Practice being a calm leader.
- 2) On “White” Sundays (any Sunday of the church year where there are white paraments), please also light the Christ Candle (the big tall white candle in its own stand) or have an adult help you light that candle first (the wick can be difficult to light). This also applies to any Sunday when we have a baptism.
- 3) During Advent, the Advent Wreath candles are extinguished last (after altar candles). The Advent Wreath candles are lighted during the service and do not need to be lighted before worship begins like the altar candles.
- 4) If you need to switch Sundays, contact admin@goodsoillutheran.org or use the MSP system to reschedule.
- 5) Thank you for sharing your leadership with the Good Soil faith community. We are blessed by you and your service to God and we are grateful for you!