

# Acolytes

## **What**

Acolytes accompany the pastor into the sanctuary at the start of worship service. They light the candles, assist with communion, extinguish the candles at the end of worship service and exit the sanctuary with the pastor.

## **Number of Volunteers**

Two acolytes are preferred.

## **Additional Responsibilities**

Assist with communion as directed by the Pastor.

## **Before Worship Service**

- Arrive at church at least 10 minutes before the worship service begins.
- Robes are located in the nursery closet. Select one that fits you (mid-calf to ankle length). Completely zip and attach the hook and loop. Tie the cincture (rope) around your waist.
- Candlelighters are located in the nursery closet. Ensure there is enough wick (several inches) in the candle lighter and it moves freely. Additional wicks are located on the nursery closet shelf.
- Be ready to enter the sanctuary doors about three minutes before the worship service begins. Matches or a lighter are in a small cabinet drawer in the narthex. The pastor will meet you at the sanctuary doors.

## **During Worship Service**

- Process into the sanctuary:
  - About one minute before the service, acolytes walk into the sanctuary, one acolyte down each aisle, followed by the pastor.
  - Acolytes pause in front of the altar.
- Light the candles:
  - Step up and light the candles on the altar.
  - When the candelabra are used, light the candles from top to bottom.
  - When the Christ Candle is used, light it last.
  - After the candles are lit, return to the front of the altar. Pause and extinguish the candle lighters. Walk to the last two chairs in the front row on the right side of the church and be seated.
- Assist when communion is served. See Communion Assistants section for details.
- Extinguish the candles:
  - Walk towards the altar and pause.
  - Extinguish the candles on the altar.
  - When candelabra are used, extinguish the candles from bottom to top.
  - When the Christ Candle is used, it is always extinguished last.

- Recess from the sanctuary:
  - Walk out of the sanctuary using the same aisle as when you entered followed by the pastor.
  - After the Pastor finishes speaking, go to the nursery room.

### **After Worship Service**

- Carefully hang up the robes on a hanger in the nursery room closet.

### **Additional Notes**

- While seated in front of the congregation, please follow and participate in the worship service. Act appropriately, do not whisper, talk, laugh or chew gum.
- A Worship Note Form will be placed on your chair with the bulletin.

### **Crucifer Notes**

A crucifer carries the processional cross on special occasions (Christmas, Easter, etc).

- Preparation is the same as the acolytes.
- Worship service:
  - The crucifer always walks into and out of the sanctuary first.
  - Pause briefly in front of the altar with the acolytes and pastor(s).
  - Walk around to the backside of the altar, turn around and face the congregation.
  - Hold the cross while the acolytes light the candles.
  - Place the cross on its stand.
  - Walk to the seats by the acolytes and be seated.
- At the end of the worship service:
  - Walk to the back of the altar.
  - Lift the cross from its stand, turn around and face the congregation.
  - Wait for the acolytes to extinguish the candles.
  - The crucifer leads the procession out of the church followed by the acolytes and pastor.
- After worship service:
  - Return the cross to its proper location.
  - Carefully hang up your robe on a hanger in the nursery room closet.