

## **TACTILE ELEMENTS**

**GREETING AND GENTLY TOUCHING** each person as service begins

**WIND** from a fan as a reminder of Spirit's presence, hand-held or electric

**ANOINTING** of hand/forehead with oil

**LOTION** can be rubbed on hands

**ASPERSION** blessing by sprinkling water with an evergreen branch as benediction

**MISTING** gently from a water bottle

**WARM WASHCLOTH** touched to forehead as a sign of cleansing

**HOT STEAM TOWEL** service as a sign of cleansing

**TOUCHING** of object involved in the lesson, such as water, rock, etc.

**LAYING ON OF HANDS** as participants receive a prayerful blessing. Depending on comfort level: gentle touch on arm, hand on head, shoulders, or embracing sides of head with hands

**PLACING A ROBE** on the newly baptized, symbol of being clothed with Christ

**HAND WASHING OR FOOT WASHING** ceremony [John 13], washing of hands for what you've done, washing of feet for where you've been, washing of face for how you're known

**SIGN OF THE CROSS MADE WITH WATER** on forehead as a reminder of baptism

**SIGN OF THE CROSS MADE WITH ASHES** on forehead as a reminder of mortality, repentance

## **OLFACTORY ELEMENTS**

**SCENTED ANOINTING OIL** on hand/forehead  
**INCENSE** as a reminder of God's presence in the temple

**SCENTED CANDLE** for God's presence

**BAKING BREAD** from portable bread-making machine

**WINE** brought to participants to smell

**LOTION** which can be rubbed on hands

**PERFUME** to signify our fragrant praise offering

**SCENT OF FLAVORS** (found in baking section) on cotton ball, kept airtight

## **GUSTATORY ELEMENTS**

**EUCCHARIST**, receive bread, juice; can be served to all as a taste of pabulum with grape juice, or in the Russian Orthodox tradition of breaking the bread into the cup and spooning it into mouth

**TASTES** of honey, bitter herbs, and other illustrative flavors

**SIGNS OF THE SACRAMENTS** including font, table, cup, plate

**BIBLE**, visible when read

**BOLD GESTURES AND SIGNS** which will illuminate the text as it is read

**ASH CROSS** on forehead for repentance

**STAINED-GLASS WINDOW** (*where available*) as the object of instruction

**A PROCESSION** with banner at the front on appropriate days: Palm Sunday, All Saints, Good Friday. May include balloons, sunflowers, sparklers, trumpets, cross, etc.

**AN ADVENT TREE** to which an appropriate symbol/ornament is added each week

**RAISED HANDS** of the worship leader as the closing blessing is announced

**DRAWN SIGNS** such as a 'happy face' or a 'sad face' to be worn as worshipers participate in a liturgical drama

**WRITTEN SIGNS** to be worn as worshipers participate in a liturgical drama as various 'characters: Hope, Sorrow, Promise, Rejection, etc.

**PARTICIPANTS LEAD FROM THEIR WEAKNESS**, leader explains that I.V. treatment is a metaphor for how the LORD feeds and strengthens; leader may explain the spiritual significance of humility behind a "bowed" posture if someone is bent over, etc.

# **MULTISENSORY WORSHIP IDEAS**

## KINESTHETIC ELEMENTS

**CLAPPING**, with hands, feet, and eyes!  
**DANCE** and expressive dance movements with arms or legs as able  
**PROCESSIONS** to site of worship with banners, placards, wheelchairs, music, etc.  
**TRIPUDION** step of humility, taking 3 forward and 1 back; also appropriate for wheelchairs  
**ORANS**, uplifted hands as a gesture of prayer  
**RAISING OF THE EYES** as praise or to ask for God's help  
**FOLDING OF HANDS** symbolizes submission to God's will [Imagine God's hands around your own]  
**FOURFOLD MOVEMENT**, when a four word response is required (i.e. "Lord hear our prayer") those gathered may participate with four claps, four stomps  
**GESTURAL LEADERSHIP**, as congregation follows the leader's gestures (posture, arms, etc.)  
**PASSING THE PEACE** with a handshake or hug as a sign of reconciliation  
**BREATHING** "in" the Holy Spirit and breathing "out" the old stale air  
**STRIKING** of the breast in penitence  
**KNEELING** in humility or penitence  
**PROSTRATION**, laying face-down in humility, depravity (as some disabled folks demonstrate on their positioning equipment!)  
**MARKING** the sign of the cross on one's body symbolizes belonging to God  
**OFFERING** gifts by bringing them forward  
**POSITION** wheelchairs or other chairs as in *DaVinci's Last Supper*, or other meaningful ways  
**CONGREGATIONAL DANCE** by clasping arms at shoulder level and swaying, stepping  
**DRAMATIZING** the "feeling" of a word by worshipers, such as "love" or "praise"  
**PREPARING THE WAY**, participants may clear away clutter and obstacles from worship space to make the way to our hearts "accessible" for Christ  
**APPROACHING** table to receive eucharist  
**WRITING** of prayer requests, if able

## AUDITORY ELEMENTS

**GREETING** each person by name  
**SACRING BELL** calling those gathered to worship, or rung before scripture is read  
**SPEAKING THE NAMES** of participants often (i.e. "God so loved the world, Helen, that he gave his only son, Richard...")  
**TAPED MUSIC** to which participants can join in song or with instruments  
**SUNG MUSIC**, choruses or simple songs  
**HAND-HELD INSTRUMENTS**, maracas, tambourine, bells, etc.  
**HEAD-HELD INSTRUMENTS**, bells attached to a baseball cap  
**CLAPPING** with hands or feet!  
**PASSING THE PEACE** by name, "The peace of the Lord be with you, Nicky, and with your spirit."  
**READING** of the word  
**RESPONSIVE READINGS** which allow a congregation or assistant leader to participate with a simple response, "God's love lasts forever" (Psalm 136)  
**TAPED OR PHONE-LED LEADERSHIP** by someone not able to get out to worship, such as the scripture reading  
**ANTHEMS** which proclaim the word  
**INVITING SPOKEN PRAYER REQUESTS** while also listening for the meaning behind non-verbal vocalizations to include in prayer (a cry, laugh, shout, etc.)  
**SYMPHONY/CACOPHONY OF PRAYER**, inviting all to speak their prayers simultaneously  
**BIDDING PRAYER**, short petitions which may conclude with the leader saying, "*Lord in your mercy*" to which all respond "*Hear our prayer.*"  
**MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT** in the background of pastoral prayer if lengthy  
**SING 5-FOLD "AMEN"** to conclude prayers  
**INTERPRETATION WITH VOICE** of a service which is first signed  
**SILENCE** of being still before God  
**GROAN** for joy or for grief, allowing Holy Spirit to interpret our prayers

## VISUAL ELEMENTS

**COLORFUL BANNERS** appropriate to the message, also use of simple symbols such as arrows pointing up or down  
**COLORFUL FLAGS** to wave, or a tall pole bearing an inverted hanger strung with long ribbons  
**CLOTH DRAPED IN WORSHIP SPACE**, red for Pentecost, etc.  
**STOLE AND PARAMENTS** of season's liturgical color, also point out others present wearing color. When celebrating the priesthood of all believers, crepe paper stoles for all!  
**WORSHIP PENDANTS**, leader may wear large symbols such as bread, grapes, rock, fish, lightbulb, etc., explaining meaning  
**COLORLED BANDANAS** for all, worn around the neck, purple for Advent, etc.  
**SIGN LANGUAGE**, sign a greeting, simple songs, prayers, Lord's prayer, benediction, etc. All participants may be invited to sign even a simple "Thank you", "I'm sorry", "Please", or "I love you" to God in prayer  
**GESTURAL LORD'S PRAYER** with fewer and more simple gestures than American Sign  
**BRIGHT SATIN RIBBONS** may be attached to hand-held instruments  
**COLORFUL SCARVES** to wave during music  
**BALLOONS** to celebrate baptism, or in color of liturgical season  
**BUBBLES** blown in celebration!  
**FLOWERS** as a sign of life  
**A DOVE** hanging from the ceiling as reminder of the Spirit's presence  
**A CANDLE** (when safe) as reminder of God's presence  
**SLIDES PROJECTED** onto screen corresponding to each part of the service (i.e. bible, offering plate, praying hands)  
**LITURGICAL DANCE** which illuminates text  
**SIGN OF THE CROSS** which marks an individual as belonging to God  
**OBJECTS** which lend themselves to the teaching: i.e. crown, wrapped gift, rock, etc.