

*How Shall We Serve in a **Multifaith** World?*

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BLESSING of HANDS

Room Set-Up

Set up a quiet space with peaceful music. The Leader, (CEO, Chair, Spiritual Care) stands behind a small table with an empty glass bowl and a glass pitcher of warm water. A candle is burning, the lights are dim. Staff approach the Leader one at a time. A second Leader can pour the water. A Third Leader can hand out hand towels. A wastebasket is available.

Leader's Guide

As each person puts their hands over the bowl of water, put your hands UNDER their hands, letting their hands gently rest on yours. The following is a suggested text for you to adapt. It's important the words feel comfortable and sincere.

Script

“(Person’s name _____), I want to thank you in a special way for who you are and for all that you do for our patients and staff. Everyday, you do many things with your hands.

Give 1 or 2 brief examples relevant to each person. i.e.; When you give injections, answer the phone, type on the computer, mop the floor...

“The little things you do and the way you do them are essential to our mission. You make an important contribution to our mission of compassionate care for the whole person.”

Pick up water jug with both hands. Pour a few drops of warm water on the person's hands over the empty bowl. A second Leader can assist pouring.

“As I pour this water and recall the many things your hands do everyday, and as you are a source of blessing for other, may God bless you in a special way.”

Put jug down. Then, shake hands or hug the person as appropriate.

“From the bottom of my heart, thank you for sharing your gifts with us. Take care.”

The person moves on to receive a hand towel from a Third Leader as the next person comes forward to have their hands blessed.

Feel free to copy and adapt this Blessing to fit your setting.