

GUIDELINES FOR SCRIPTURE READERS IN WORSHIP

BEFORE WORSHIP:

1. **Arrive at 10:30 am or earlier and meet in the vestry in the back right corner of the sanctuary and pick out a gown that fits you.**
Put a bookmark in the big pulpit Bible (if you're using it) so that you can easily find your place when it comes time for you to read. (Gowns are not worn as a sign of academic degree or rank. Instead, they are worn by the pastor and worship leaders so that people can concentrate on what they are saying or reading and not what they are wearing.)
2. In the vestry, the pastor and worship leaders will place a stole on each other and have a prayer together. The stole represents the towel that Jesus used at the Last Supper to wash his disciples' feet. Stoles are a sign of servanthood. The worship team are servants as they help the congregation worship. The different colors represent the colors in the liturgical year.
3. After prayer, readers and pastor(s) will process down the center aisle. After you sit down, please be in silent mediation before the Welcome.

As a reader you play a very important leadership role in the worship service. You bring our focus to how God is speaking to us here and now through the scriptures.

WHILE READING:

1. **MAKE SURE THE MICROPHONE IS FACING YOU and POINTING TOWARDS WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS! Speak clearly and slowly into the microphone.** Emphasis can be given to important parts of the passage by changing your tone of voice, looking at the congregation, or changing the pace.
2. If you are the first reader, you will lead the **Prayer for Illumination** before reading your scripture passage. Wait until the children have totally exited to start.
The Prayer is printed in the "Order Of Worship."

PREPARATION:

1. The person preparing the order of worship will send you a draft copy or will send you the scripture we're asking you to read.
2. At home, read the scripture three times: silently, then out loud, then silently again. Gain an understanding of the passage by asking yourself what it's talking about, what it means, who are the people or events involved. Pray and think about it. It might be helpful to read more than one translation to gain an understanding. If there are names and/or words that are difficult to pronounce, look them up in the dictionary or ask Pastor Kimberly at church 392-1500 or one of our many who have had seminary training. Use inclusive language wherever possible. **DO PRACTICE READING OUT LOUD.**
3. We ask that you read from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). The big pulpit Bible, and the pew Bibles are all NRSV. You can find copies online (<http://www.nccusa.org/welcome/sitemap.html>). This allows you to print out a large type copy of your reading, one that fills the page and allows you to keep your place and use eye contact with the worshippers.
4. Precede the reading by saying, ***"Listen for the Word of God as it is read from ___name of book, chapter___, verses ___."*** End the reading by saying ***"The Word of the Lord!"*** congregation will respond with ***"Thanks be to God!"***

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE:

1. During the response to the Benediction, you and the rest of the worship team will walk in pairs down the center aisle. Watch the pastor for your cue.
2. After the benediction response, please stand in the narthex (the landing outside the sanctuary doors) to greet the congregation as they leave. Before going down to Teatime, please neatly hang up your gown and put away the stole.

Thanks so much for helping to lead in Worship!

(There is no need to announce hymn numbers after the readings.)