

Lector Guidelines

To lead our liturgy, we express our faith through the use of many persons other than the Pastor. Because we believe that the worship of God is the joy and opportunity of all God's people, we choose to have lay persons in leadership roles in various facets of our worship.

The role of the Lector is to lead the congregation in worship through: (a) careful preparation and proclaiming God's Word in Holy Scripture, and (b) the serving of Holy Communion.

Prep Beforehand:

1. You will receive your reading the week before you are scheduled to be a Lector - either in the mail, or by email.
2. Read the text out loud several times. Pay close attention to what is happening in the text and reflect that in your voice as you read. Don't read the text in monotone.
 - a. It may be helpful for the clarity and meaning of your reading if you study your text with the verses just before and after your reading to get the full meaning of your assigned text.
3. Ensure you are clear about the pronunciation of all words, especially unfamiliar names or places.
4. It is optional if you want to read the brief notes about the reading which are printed with your reading.
5. If you wish not to serve Communion, please find a replacement prior to the beginning of the service and alert the Presiding Pastor before service begins.

Arrive Early:

1. Make sure the Lectionary Book is at the pulpit and open to the first reading. Sometimes the book will be carried in during the procession. If so, it will be in the sacristy prior to the service.
2. Review the bulletin to ensure that the reading listed is the one you are prepared to read (if it is different, check with the Presiding Pastor).

During Your Reading:

1. You are reading the 1st or 2nd reading. Please speak slowly, clearly, and expressively, with sufficient volume to be heard in the corners of the sanctuary. Please adjust the placement of the microphone as needed.
2. It is preferred that Lectors sit on the pulpit side of the church with easy access to the aisles leading to the pulpit. Start your walk to the pulpit immediately following the preceding part of the service.
3. Read from the Lectionary Book in the pulpit, using the introduction in the Lectionary, Example: "A reading from Isaiah." Make eye contact with the congregation as you announce the reading. Your voice and eye contact will engage the congregation to watch and listen to you, rather than reading the bulletin as you speak.
4. To close the reading, pause briefly after you have finished the reading, make eye contact with the congregation, and say "The Word of the Lord." Return to your seat.

During Holy Communion:

1. As the sharing of the peace is concluding, come forward to the altar. The Presiding Minister will serve communion to you and the other communion servers before you begin serving.
2. You will pour the cup of wine to persons on one side of the altar, following the Presiding or Assisting Minister. If a person asks for grape juice, get them a glass of grape juice from the tray on the altar. Glasses should be poured 2/3rds full. As you pour, say "The blood of Christ, shed for you."
3. When you are finished communing everyone, place the chalice on the altar; and you may return to your pew.

Intinction Sundays Only:

- a. When doing intinction, stand alongside the Presiding or Assisting Minister, holding the cup and saying the same words as above, as people dip the bread into the cup. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available on the altar if someone prefers it.

Thank you for your willingness to serve our community of faith as a Lector.