

Instructions for Lectors & Intercessors

Revised September 2022

Worship is the primary purpose of gathering together at church on Sunday mornings. As lay readers, we serve to facilitate the congregation's response to the readings as part of their worship. It's important that readings and prayers be smoothly integrated into our worship and that they be read for meaning and content.

Here are some instructions to help us meet those goals.

In the week before the service

- A copy of the readings will be emailed to you. You may be assigned to serve as lector, as intercessor, or as both. Lectors read the 2 lessons, and intercessors read the Prayers of the People.
- Practice reading the lessons and the Prayers of the People aloud to yourself.
- If you're not sure how to pronounce a Biblical name, try looking it up at <https://www.netministries.org/resources/resource-pronunciation-guide>
- A simple prayer can help with your practice. ("Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord. Amen." *Psalms 19:4*)

Before the service starts

- Go up to the lectern to check that the readings are there, as well as the list with names of people to be prayed for.
- Sit in the first five rows of pews, on an aisle.

When it's time to read the lessons

- For the first lesson, start walking to the lectern at or near the end of the Collect. Try to be standing at the lectern when it's time for the first reading, to avoid a pause in the service.
- Adjust the microphone if necessary so that it points toward your mouth.
- Speak naturally into the microphone. It will amplify your voice. If you "lean in" to the microphone, the sound will be distorted.
- Read naturally, at a normal pace and volume. Neither faster nor slower. There's no need to greet the congregation.
- Avoid "acting" the reading. Keep the focus on the readings, not the reader.

Where and when to move between readings

- At the 8:30 service, remain at the lectern to lead the Psalm and then the second lesson.
- At the 10 and 10:30 services, after the first lesson, sit in the front pew by the lectern. Then stand up during the last antiphon/verse of the Psalm and approach the lectern, so you're behind it when it's time for the second lesson.
- After the second lesson, return to your pew.

Where and when to move for the Prayers of the People

- Start walking to the lectern near or at the end of the Nicene Creed.
- If you're reading the names of people we're praying for, do your best to pronounce names correctly. But don't stop or explain that you can't read a name. God is aware of who we're praying for. :)