

Guidelines for Lectors

Thank you for volunteering to help lead us in worship by being a lector. Lectors read scripture for all to hear in worship. With your breath and voice, the Word of God comes alive and enters our ears, shaping our lives together. To help you in this holy role, please read through the tips and encouragements below.

Should you be unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement from the list of other lectors, and let the church secretary know so that appropriate changes can be made in the bulletin. If you are unable to find a replacement, contact Jan Wilde (512-576-2732) or the church office (830-693-2253).

Summary of Duties:

- 1) ***Practice reading*** and becoming familiar with words/tone/message of text before Sunday.
- 2) ***Arrive to worship early***. Check that the reading is on the pulpit. Practice reading if time permits.
- 3) When it is time to read, move to the place of the word with intention but without haste. Carefully. Prayerfully.
- 4) ***Pause***. Really pause. Count to five. Use the time to breathe. Deeply.
- 5) Then look up and announce the text loudly, clearly, and with the gravitas that every verse of the Bible deserves. Keep the announcement simple. "A reading from Colossians" will suffice. Detailing chapter and verse is unnecessary.
- 6) ***Stand straight and tall***. Not ramrod straight, but confident straight. Hands that hang naturally at one's side or gently hold the sides of the podium speak of confidence and do not distract the hearer.
- 7) When the reading ends, pause yet again. Count to two. Then remind the assembly of the wonder of the gift just received: "Word of God, word of life." This is not a throwaway line. It is an essential underscoring of the importance of what has been heard.
- 8) Return to your seat in the assembly with the same grace and intention used in approaching the pulpit. Prayerfully and carefully.

Tips for Readers

- 1) ***Slow down***. A slower delivery allows the hearer to follow the train of thought rather than struggling to keep up.
- 2) ***Allow the words to sink in for hearer***.
- 3) ***Pause at periods***.
- 4) ***Take a breath at semicolons***.
- 5) ***Do not ignore the commas***.
- 6) ***Read every word***. There is a tendency under pressure to allow one's voice to fall off at the end of sentences and at the end of paragraphs.
- 7) ***Enunciate***. Lip laziness can be fatal. For words to be understood, the reader must be intentional about speaking crisply.

Some Adverbial Encouragement

- 1) ***Read Loudly***. Fill the room with sound.
- 2) ***Read Slowly***. Allow concepts and images time to develop in the head of hearers.
- 3) ***Read Meaningfully***. Know what the text says before attempting to share the thought.
- 4) ***Read Energetically***. Enthusiasm for the word is contagious.
- 5) ***Read Gladly***. This is happy work.
- 6) ***Read Reverently***. This is holy work.
- 7) ***Read Urgently***. This work is a matter of life and death in proclaiming what God has done for all.