

To: Lector Instructions

(1) **Preparation:** Practice reading the prayer and the scripture lesson out loud. We prefer you use the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

(2) **Sunday morning:**

Since we share a traditional style of worship, with several generations present, we ask that you follow these guidelines in planning what you will wear for the worship service. Generally, please dress somewhat conservative. For men, please wear a dress shirt, tie and dress pants. For women, please wear dress clothes that adequately covers your shoulders and waist. Please **avoid athletic shoes**.

Please meet the ministers in the Church Office about 15 minutes before worship. Plan to walk in (and out) of the sanctuary with us, and sit on one of the sides with a pastor. We use the NRSV version of the Bible. Many people find printing the scripture to be helpful. You can find the NRSV version at www.biblegateway.com or you can mark a pew Bible before service. Please bring your own hymnal.

If your scripture reading happens to be responsive and printed in the bulletin there is no need to mark the pulpit Bible.

VERY IMPORTANT

**** We have a new microphone on the pulpit, that is excellent. Still, we ask that you please speak **loudly and slowly** – we have hearing impaired people. Our most common complaint is people cannot hear our lectors.**

After the **Time with Children Response**, please go to the pulpit.

I. Scripture Reading (**This is for 11am ONLY**)

Contact church office for Gospel Lesson

Say, “Our first lesson today comes from _____. Listen for the Word of the Lord.” At the conclusion of the passage, please say, “The word of the Lord.” And the people will reply, “Thanks be to God.” Then, return to your seat.

II. Affirmation of Faith – Will not occur on Sundays when we have communion (typically the first Sunday of the month) or on Baptism Sundays (typically the second Sunday of the month). You will note if we have it by looking in the bulletin. Following the sermon, please go to the pulpit. Please say, “Please stand and join me in affirming our faith, using the words of the Apostle’s Creed, which is printed in your bulletin.”

III. Offering

You will lead the **CONSECRATION OF OFFERINGS**. **Please say, “You may be seated” if having done the Affirmation of Faith.

As we prepare to bring God our tithes and offering, let us pray.” Then say your prayer. (Note: Please choose a prayer from these included below or write your own.) After saying your prayer, please say “Let us give to God our tithes and offerings.”

** If it is the **third week of the month**, please say: “You may be seated.

Today is the third Sunday of the month and all loose offering collected today will go to the Pastor’s Benevolence Fund, which supports church and community members in need. Thank you for your generous contributions.”

Then pray one of the prayers below. Conclude with “Let us give to God our tithes and offerings.”

Consecration of Offerings Prayers

Prayer 1:

Great is the mercy you have shown us, O God. Great is the kingdom we have inherited in Christ Jesus. Great is the need of the world around us. Now let us respond to the mercy and the kingdom and the need with the greatest of generosity, that even our own lives will be changed in giving. Through him who loved us, even Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer 2:

To be gifted is one of the greatest joys of our existence, O God. Therefore we ask that you will receive these gifts of ours as a joy for you, realizing we are but children not yet capable of giving the gifts we shall one day give you, when we are joined with all the saints and angels in heavenly praise.

Prayer 3:

Forgive us, O God, for every time we have accepted anything from you thoughtlessly, or foolishly used it without considering your glory or the welfare of others, and enable us to present these offerings with love and sincerity, because you are our God and we are your grateful people.

Prayer 4:

Our gifts appear so small, O God, before One who has given us so much. But like children’s gifts to their parents, let them be presented with all our hearts and enthusiasm, and thus be found pleasing in your sight, through Christ our Lord.

Prayer 5:

You astonish us each day, O God, with the boundlessness of your love and generosity. If there is one thing we learn in worship, let it be not to take any gift for granted, but to remember that it comes from you and to live in perpetual gratitude, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer 6:

It is a blessing to be able to give, O God, and we thank you for our ability. Help us in all our dealings, with other persons as well as with you, to become more and more generous, in order that we may be more like you and honor you by our behavior. Through Jesus, who was the most generous of men.

Prayer 7:

All blessings do indeed flow from you, O God, and there are no words to describe the greatness of your generosity toward us. Forgive us for any times when we have felt deprived or neglected, and remind us of the true immensity of our indebtedness to you, that we may always live as your grateful sons and daughters, through Jesus Christ our Lord

Prayer 8:

We read in the Bible, O God, that you love a cheerful giver. It is also true that a cheerful giver is more likely to love you. Therefore teach us to share what we have with others and to make our offerings with grateful spirits. Through Jesus, who always gave everything.

Prayer 9:

Our lives are filled with your gifts, O God: the gift of life itself, the gift of friends and loved ones, the gift of home and food, the gift of daily work to do. There is nothing we can give you that compares with what you have already given us in Christ Jesus. But help us to give you the best thing we have, ourselves, and with them to share the good things you have given for the sake of others. Through Jesus Christ.

Prayer 10:

O God, we cannot begin to count all you have done for us. You have given us eternal life in Jesus Christ. You have set us in a world of plenty. You have given us this community of loving relationships. Now grant that what we have received may make us truly thankful, so that our gifts to you may be from the heart and not merely from the pocketbook or the checkbook.

Prayer 11: *An Offertory Prayer for Advent*

This is a season of giving, O God. Many of us will be in the spirit of giving and will give a great deal to persons and causes around us. And yet, if we do not give ourselves to you, our gifts are empty and void of meaning. Help us now, as we gather around the table that represents your ultimate gift to us, to open our lives to you and worship you fully, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer 12:

We tremble, O God, to think seriously of what we do at this time. We are bringing our gifts to you, who has given us everything, including the life of your only begotten. It is an awesome, frightening thing to do. Let our spirits praise you in this expression of our love and regard.

Prayer 13:

There is nothing in our hands, O God, that was not given by you. The earth, the seas, our homes, our incomes, the people we love, were all yours before they were ours. Therefore we can give you nothing that is not already yours, except our hearts. We come now to give them, and all in our lives that goes with them. Receive them and bless them, we pray, that your kingdom may rejoice and prosper in the world.

Prayer 14:

We bring our gifts, O God, in imitation of your many gifts to us, of life and food and shelter and friendship, and worship you for the unspeakable goodness of your spirit. Through Jesus Christ.

Prayer 15:

There are so many gifts here today, O God, of love and music and presence and encouragement, that the money we have put in the offering plates may seem small and inconsequential beside them. But bless it, we pray, like the loaves and fishes of old, that it may multiply and nourish the lives of many. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer 16:

What can we say, O God, but thank you for the countless blessing of our lives. We are so rich, in a world that knows such great poverty, that we are compelled to worship you with all we have. Through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Prayer 17:

It is a pleasure to give to you, O God, who has given so much to us. As our Lord Christ blessed the loaves and fishes beside the sea and fed a multitude, we ask you to bless this offering that it may prove helpful to many, many people, here and to the uttermost parts of the world. Through Christ our Savior.