

Worship Lector Instructions

Preparation: Please read through and practice ahead of time.

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 conservatively. For men, please wear a dress shirt, a tie and dress pants. For women, please wear dress clothes that adequately cover 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 them, and sit on one of the sides with a pastor.

VERY IMPORTANT – We have a newer microphone mounted on the pulpit that is excellent. Still, we ask that you please speak loudly and slowly as we have hearing impaired people in the congregation. Our most common complaint is that people cannot hear our lectors.

The parts of the service that lectors contribute are typically the **Affirmation of Faith** and the **Consecration of the Offering**.

Affirmation of Faith – this part of the service will not occur on Sundays when we have Communion (typically the 1st Sunday of the month) or on Baptism Sundays (typically the 2nd Sunday of the month). Check the bulletin to confirm if the Affirmation of Faith is included. If so, 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.”

Consecration of the Offering – you will lead the Consecration of Offering. Please say:

“You may be seated” if this follows the Affirmation of Faith. If not, say:

“As we prepare to bring to God our tithes and offerings, let us pray.” Then say a prayer, either choosing a prayer from those included below or one of your own. After saying the prayer, please say:

“Let us give to God our tithes and offerings.”

NOTE: If this is the 3rd week of the month, please say:

“You may be seated.” (if appropriate) **“Today is the third Sunday of the month and all loose offering collected today will go to the Pastors’ Benevolence Fund which supports church and community members in need. Thank you for your generous contributions.”**

Say a prayer, either choosing a prayer below or one of your own. After the prayer, please say:

“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 generousities, 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:

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 4:

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 5:

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 6:

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 7:

We read in the Bible, O God, that you are a 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 8:

Our lives are filled with your love, 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 9:

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 10: *An Offertory Prayer for Advent*

This is the 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 11:

We tremble, O God, to think seriously of what 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.