

Liturgist Team Reminders

1. Using the mics
 - a. Check the pulpit mic *before* worship for position and that it's on.
 - b. Remember the pulpit mic is unidirectional. It needs to be pointed at your mouth and you need to speak across the front of it.
 - c. The hand-held mic is designed to be near your mouth. You should use it for the invitation to sharing and prayer of dedication.

2. Introducing the Scripture lessons
 - a. The purpose of the introduction is to invite people into the reading, to prepare themselves to hear God speaking through the scripture
 - b. Three directions to take for an introduction
 - i. Biblical background – Our next scripture reading comes from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, a church that was troubled with various infighting. Our next reading is from the prophet Amos who primarily preached to the _____ about _____.
 - ii. Thematic – In today's reading, Jesus challenges the disciples' ideas of greatness. In today's reading, Jesus invites us to see service as key to discipleship.
 - iii. Personal – I love it when self-satisfied people have their bubble popped; let's hear today's gospel lesson.
 - c. Some texts need the Biblical background more than others to help set up the reading; just keep it short enough that it keeps the focus on the scripture, not the introduction.
 - d. You don't need to say the chapter and verse numbers; they're printed in the bulletin. If you do cite the chapter and verse, please say "chapter" and "verses," not just the numbers (say, "the gospel of John, chapter three, verses one through seventeen" rather than "John three, one through seventeen").
 - e. Remember, your scripture reading is also a teaching moment for those who are new to Christianity and don't have much Biblical background. It's important to avoid saying things like "as we all know" and "everyone knows this story."

3. Reading the scripture itself
 - a. Because we're projecting the words, please use the translation Brenda or Jeff selects.
 - b. Sometime you'll have a reading that might as well be a college professor lecturing. Reading this so it makes sense takes practice.
 - c. Sometimes you will have a reading that is poetry. Reading poetry well takes practice.
 - d. Sometimes you will have a reading that is a narrative, that tells a story. Visualize what's happening *as* you read it to help the congregation visualize it.
 - e. The pastors will send you the readings by Wednesday, along with the order of worship.
 - f. Some biblical words can be difficult to pronounce. Check out <http://netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm> for help.

4. Invitation to Offering and Prayer of Dedication
 - a. The Invitation of Offering is said to the congregation. The Prayer of Dedication is said to God. You can tie them together by remembering who you're addressing. Example:

I invite you to present your offerings as an expression of your commitment integrating a deeper sense of service into you life as you walk with God.
Loving God, may these offerings draw us deeper into a life serving your creation and children. Amen.
 - b. Creating your invitation:
 - i. Think about what the offering means to you in your walk with God. Think about expressing that. It is best when the invitation to offering comes from your beliefs and is stated with your voice.
 - ii. The invitation to offering is a teaching moment in the worship service and it is an invitation to deepening discipleship. It is also an opportunity for you to give part of your testimony about the Christian discipline of sharing. Think about what you want to teach about the meaning of sharing our resources, particularly as it relates to discipleship, and what that has meant to you.
 - iii. It's great when you can tie in the invitation to offering to the theme for the day. Some of this you'll get from the scripture readings; some from the sermon theme. Pastor Brenda and Pastor Jeff will typically send you a "sermon in a sentence" to help you create your own invitation to sharing and prayer of dedication.
 - iv. On special offering Sundays, a brief mention of that special offering is helpful.
 - v. You could invite people to "please use envelopes for cash offerings"
 - vi. Invite people to symbolically share the gift of their presence by placing the green attendance form in the offering plate.
 - vii. Remember that the Invitation is not another sermon.
 - c. Creating the Prayer of dedication:
 - i. It is helpful if you can acknowledge online giving in the prayer of dedication.
 - ii. If you can include the special offering in your prayer of dedication, too, that's great.
 - d. You will have to cue the ushers to come forward, but try to be subtle about it. Y'all know I don't like the "the ushers will collect your offerings" language; the ushers aren't collections agents. They are facilitating the opportunity for people to live into God's extravagant generosity. So they receive the offerings or they ... I invite you to experiment with some language to try to find a way to call the ushers forward without calling them forward. Perhaps something like "The ushers will now wait on you as you present your offerings" or "The ushers will assist you in presenting your gifts before God" or maybe you can even find a way to have the cue for the ushers to be even more organic to your invitation.