

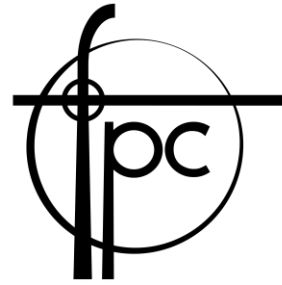
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2701 ROCHESTER AVENUE

IOWA CITY, IOWA 52245

319-351-2660

www.firstpresiowacity.org



(Updated 9/15/2022)

Thank you for serving as the lay reader! You have been assigned one of the privileged moments of worship, the awesome task of reading God's Word and helping the congregation to receive the Scripture both attentively and gratefully.

Please take time this week to read, pray, and study all the lectionary passages for the day. Read the enclosed passages over to yourself several times both silently and aloud. You may find it helpful to read the entire chapter or book in order to put this particular passage in context. Remember that you are reading inspired Scripture meant for today's people. These words are sacred, but not dead. Read them intentionally, expressively in a way that comforts, challenges, corrects, and inspires the hearers to a deeper faith and life as God's people, knowing that because we use a common lectionary we gather around the same Word with countless people of faith around the globe.

*Note: if stairs and/or standing are difficult for you there are accessible instructions **printed in blue**. We strive to make leadership possible for people of all abilities. If you would like to lead from the floor please let Sue know and we will provide a lectern or music stand to read from and a chair or stool if needed. If you need additional accommodations please contact the pastor.*

Here are some general instructions to lay readers.

- 1) Sit wherever you like; come up to the pulpit **or lectern** at the time indicated in the bulletin. Remember that the mike is not a replacement for your voice, merely an enhancement. Please speak loudly, slowly and clearly. The sound operator can adjust the volume if it's too loud, but there's very little they can do if you are speaking too softly or quickly.
- 2) The centrality and power of God's Word to speak to the worshiper comes through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the prayer for illumination explicitly acknowledges the Spirit's work in this part of worship by requesting God's Spirit to act through the reading and preaching of Scripture. Read the "Prayer for Illumination" printed in the bulletin. Say, "We pray together." Then read the prayer, being sure to conclude with "Amen."
- 3) Announce the reference you are reading with a simple phrase such as:
 - a. The Word of God from...
 - b. A reading from the book of...
 - c. The gospel according to... (*use only when you're reading from the gospels*)

After announcing the passage, one of the following phrases could be used to alert the hearers to give careful attention to the text to be read. Use a simple command statement appropriate to that particular text such as:

- a. Listen to the Word of God.
 - b. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
 - c. Attend to the wisdom of the Word of God.
 - d. Let us hear what God is saying to us today.
- 4) After the reading, a thoughtful response reinforces that this is no ordinary book. Depending on the particular text it may be appropriate to observe a time of silence after the reading before leading this response printed in the bulletin:

One: Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

If you have questions or if an emergency occurs and you cannot be the reader on Sunday, please call Susan Van Duyn, 338-4132. If you cannot reach Susan, please call the church office, 351-2660.

Thank you again for helping with worship leadership.