

Lay Reader-Lector Customary

Revised 1/4/10

Introduction

The ministry of a Reader in worship is two-fold; pastoral and liturgical. Pastoral in that the Reader deals with a very personal aspect of a person's faith experience, praying for those we love and situations of thanks and concern. Liturgical in that the Reader interprets Scripture for the worshipers. Readers convey the actual words of God."Liturgical" means pertaining to the work of worship. Readers share in these ministries at the discretion of the Rector.

The purpose of this customary is to provide guidance to Readers serving in worship. It is meant to acquaint Readers with customs of worship at St. Andrew's. It is intended to be descriptive, not proscriptive; the Rector has final say in all matters pertaining to worship. It is important for Reader to attend workshops as changes and revisions to these instructions will be discussed at that time.

Expectations

1. Receive approval of the Rector prior to service.
2. Receive training under the direction of the Rector or Rector's designee.
3. Attend all Workshops (approximately two a year)
4. Live your Baptismal Vows;
 - Weekly worship except for good cause
 - Regular time with Scripture and in prayer
 - Attentive to those in need
 - Being a witness for the Gospel
 - Work, pray and give to carry out the Mission of Christ at St. Andrew's.
5. Love members of our Parish family, and endeavor to have sensitivity towards them.
6. Welcome the stranger and practice hospitality.

Preparation for Services

1. All Readers are requested to be at the Church and vested (if the service calls for vesting) at least 15 minutes in advance of the service in which they are to participate, and to check in with the Celebrant and Vestry Person of the Day (VPOD.)
2. The Vesting area is in Room 107a (Music Room.) 8:00 am Readers always vest. 10:30 am Reader may need to vest on some occasions. Be prepared.
3. If you cannot be present for your assigned duty, please obtain your own replacement and notify the office prior to Wednesday. This is a great help to the Celebrant on Sunday. Please be helpful to others when you are asked to substitute. Days will come when you will need help as well. Some Readers trade days when a substitute is needed.
4. Mark the Minister Schedule in the Narthex (entry) of the church when you make a change so we will know who to look for.
5. Pray to prepare yourself for worship.

Liturgical Etiquette

Attire

St. Andrew's is pretty casual but be sensible. No suits of armor, beer T-shirts or gimme caps. 8:00 am vest in cassock and surplice. 10:30 am Readers are in street clothes and do not come up until the time of reading. Again, be prepared to come up and not stop the flow of worship.

Decorum

Anything that draws attention to the individual Reader rather than to the corporate act of worship, is a distraction that should be avoided. If your name is in the Prayers, say your given name rather than saying "me or my daughter, etc." Lead the worshipers in worship, whether you are serving or in the pew. Know the service.

Reading Scripture

- Speak into the microphone. Don't be afraid of it.
- Don't tap microphone. Have it adjusted before the service.
- Practice your reading. Read for meaning. If you do not know the meaning of the passage, neither will the worshipers.
- Write our hard words phonetically so you will get them right. There is an online pronunciation guide in addition to the readings linked on the Worship page of the St. Andrew's web site (www.standrewspearland.org)
- You will find your reading posted in the Acolyte Room
- Adjust the microphone BEFORE worship. If you cannot be heard, worshipers will not be fed or will be distracted.
- Place the riser down BEFORE worship, if you need it. Raise it back up after reading if the next reader does not need it.
- Be ready to read, standing by the front pew just prior to reading.
- A simple bow to the Cross at the step by the podium shows respect.
- It is important to be HEARD rather than just simply to SPEAK
- Beware for reading too fast. This is often a problem. Our goal is understanding scripture and not speed of the service.
- Watch for the dropping of your voice at the end of a sentence.
- You may lead the Psalm in any manner you wish (responsively by whole verse, men/women alternating, etc) but make sure you slow and clearly let the worshipers know.
- Ask other Readers to critique you. Leaders are learners.

Reading Prayers

- Speak into the microphone. Don't be afraid of it.
- Don't tap microphone. Have it adjusted before the service.
- Practice your prayers. We use the same ones for a while. Read for meaning. If you do not know the pronunciation of a name, ask. If the prayer does not make sense to you, it will not make sense to others.
- You will find your prayers posted in the Acolyte Room
- It is important to be HEARD rather than just simply to SPEAK

- Adjust the microphone BEFORE worship. If you cannot be heard, worshipers will not be feed or will be distracted.
- Place the riser down BEFORE worship, if you need it.
- Be ready to read, standing by the front pew just prior to reading.
- A simple bow to the Cross at the step by the podium shows respect.
- Beware for reading too fast. This is often a problem. Our goal is understanding prayers and not speed of the service.

Where to look

Lessons – emailed about every other month. Also on www.standrewspearland.org

Prayers – In Prayer Book. Lesson Planner (on www.standrewspearland.org) has specific form of prayers to be used

Schedule – email monthly. Also on www.standrewspearland.org

First name list on shedule reads first lesson and psalm (if any)

Second name listed on schedule reads the second lesson (if any) and the prayers

Roster of readers – emailed whenever there is a revision and on www.standrewspearland.org

Pronunciation - <http://netministries.org/Bbasics/BBwords.htm>

Scripture

Venite (Psalm 95/96) in the Paryer Book – We are here to worship – Love God

Matthew 25 – Every person IS Jesus – Love others

Hebrews 13:1 – Practice hospitality

Ephesians 4:11-12 – Clergy need to equip lay persons for this work

Prayers (from the Prayer Book)

64. Before Worship

O Almighty God, *who pourest* out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to *thee*, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship *thee* in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

68. After Worship

Grant, we beseech *thee*, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may, through *thy* grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of *thy* Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- I have read the Lay Reader-Lector Customary and wish to continue for 2010
- I do not wish to continue serving as a Lay Reader-Lector in 2010

Name (print)

Signature

Date

Return this to the Office or place in the offering basket

Thank you for your service!

Jim+