

Dear Liturgist:

To serve as lay liturgist during the morning worship service reminds the congregation that worship is participatory; it is not a spectator event. Thank you for your willingness to lead.

The microphone mounted on the pulpit is highly sensitive and you will not need to lean forward for it to pick up what you say. **You do need to fill the room with your voice.** Remember that other worshippers most easily understand a clear, measured articulation, so speak slowly and clearly.

Please meet with the pastor 15 minutes prior to worship to pray and go over the service together. At services when the choir is singing (11:00 except for the second Sunday of the month, when choir sings at 8:30) the liturgist, pastors, and choir will meet to pray in the corridor outside the piano side of the sanctuary, and then we will process into the sanctuary, with the choir going in first.

Your first responsibility — you will be the **LEADER** in the *Call to Worship*. **AFTER** the choir sings the introit, step up to the lectern to lead the *Call to Worship*. Say, **“Let us stand for the Call to Worship.”** When you finish, you may step back beside the minister for the hymn. Be ready to start as soon as the choir finishes singing.

After the hymn, return to the lectern for the *Confession of Sin*. Again, be ready to begin as soon as the hymn finishes. You can introduce this prayer with something like, “*Let us now confess our sins to God.*” Usually this section is read in unison (with you leading). Pause for a moment of silence for personal confessions then start the *Declaration of Pardon*, don’t announce it.

When the *Declaration of Pardon* is completed, the organist will begin to play the *Response of Praise*. You may return to your position at the pew to sing the *Response of Praise*.

Your next responsibility is to lead the congregation in the Prayer for Illumination and then to read the First and Second Scripture Lessons. Read the passages out loud several times before worship. You may want to give an introduction that helps place the passage in time or context. Feel free to ask the pastor any questions you have about the passage. Read slowly. Give a conclusion such as, “*Here ends the _____ Lesson.*”

Your final responsibility: after the offertory music, the organist will begin to play the Doxology and the ushers will bring up the offering from the rear of the church. At the same time, you will return to the podium. The ushers will stop on the congregation side of the table holding their offering plates. After the Doxology, give the *Prayer of Dedication*. When you complete your prayer, the organist will begin to play the final hymn. The ushers will place the plates on the Table and return to the rear of the sanctuary.

Your prayer can be as long or as short, as detailed or as broad, as simple or as flowery as you choose to make it. You can write your own prayer or use a prayer from some other resource (of which there are many in the church library). You can read your prayer or memorize it or give it extemporaneously. Some members are nervous about praying in front of the congregation. Try to remember that you are not praying in front of us as much as you are praying **with** us. You can close your prayer with a phrase expressing that we pray in Jesus name, allowing the congregation to respond with “Amen.”

If you have questions about the service or about your role in it, please call the church office at 338-4332 or Kay Symanski. We hope that your experience is a joy, not a burden. It is certainly a gift to the rest of the congregation and we appreciate your willingness to give of yourself.

Worship Committee:

Kay Symanski, Liturgist Coordinator: 540-338-4973