

## *About Reading Scripture in Worship*

The Pastor or secretary will usually email you the scripture passage by Friday. All the readings will be from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). After the Passing of the Peace, please walk to the pulpit and patiently smile as you wait for everybody to return to their seats. (Feel free to say “Good morning.” And, introduce yourself, saying, “My name is ... and I am honored to share our next scripture passage with you.”) Then, invite the congregation to join you in prayer. Read the prayer for illumination, which calls on the Holy Spirit to help us to listen to the life giving words of the Bible. Then, introduce the passage (and if you want, feel free to set the context of where this passage shows up in the story and/or share a sentence or two of what you like about it.) Also, before you read the passage invite the congregation to listen by saying “Let anyone with an ear, listen to what the Spirit is saying” (Revelation 3:22).

After you read the passage, you may close with a biblical blessing reminding us that we are to respond to scripture in the light of Jesus, who is the Word made flesh:

“Blessed are those who hear and keep what is written, (Revelation 1:3)  
in the light of Jesus, the Word made flesh.” (John 1:14)  
“**Thanks be to God.**” (2 Corinthians 9:15)

### *Some Things to Remember*

- It is an honor and a privilege to read scripture. This is a demonstration of the priesthood of all believers. God’s spirit is working through you.
- It is okay to feel inadequate and experience butterflies in your stomach as you read in front of a group of people. That is completely natural. Remember that God’s grace is sufficient for you (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). Also, remember that ultimately you are not responsible for the Word. God is. You are to be responsive to the Word.
- If you need help pronouncing an unfamiliar word in the Bible, go to <http://www.netministries.org/resources/resource-pronunciation-guide>
- When you read scripture, don’t speak in a monotone voice. You don’t want to communicate the message with dryness: “This is God speaking to us and I think it is boring because all it can get out of me is this flat monotonous drone. This has not touched my heart, nor is it going to touch yours.”
- Read with **Emotion** and read with *Passion*.
- Read **LOUD!** (Pretend that you are speaking to someone sitting on the last pew)
- And,.... read S...L....O...W...L...Y
- Don’t read scripture as if its message were intended for everyone in the congregation, but not for you. It is probably intended especially for you, or God wouldn’t have placed it in your hands. Read it with a receptive mind. Read it as though it were written for you, as though you were reading it for the first time. Expect it to inspire and excite you – then think what it could do for your listeners! Ask yourself: What would I do if I took this seriously? Would I see persons or situations differently? Would I do anything differently? Reading scripture is not a performance, but an act of devotion and surrender to the Living Word of God. Let it come to life in you. Better still, let it bring you to life.