

Guidelines for Reading the Bible

- 1 Please arrive by 9:15am. Ensure that the Bible is ready for you on the chapel table.
- 2 To read the Bible in public is a great privilege and responsibility.
- 3 Without creating performance anxiety, we do ask you to practice before the service. Check pronunciation of difficult words. Seek feedback afterwards about whether you can be clearly heard and understood. Often just a small alteration can make a big difference.
- 4 Get to know the meaning of the passage, putting it into context will be helpful for you and the congregation. Mull on the passage during the week. It is not something you should be meeting for the first time at 9am on the Sunday morning!
- 5 Liturgists will usually email you with the readings by Thursday evening. If they have not done so check the roster, give the liturgist a call or send an email and find out what they are.
- 6 Mark the place in the Bible (there are ribbons in the spine of the Lectern Bible) and keep a note of the readings with you.
- 7 Pray with the liturgist & preacher (in the Tower Room) prior to worship and carry the Bible forward with the preacher who will light the candle.
- 8 Be careful and intentional about your placement of the Bible and the way you enter and leave the space.
- 9 Our congregation seeks to be inclusive and one of the ways we express this desire is through the language we use. In light of this we ask that the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible be used for reading during worship.
- 10 Announce the passage, then give the page number in the pew Bible. It is helpful to say Hebrew Scripture, Gospel, Epistle, Acts of the Apostles, Psalm, Revelation. You may offer the heading as given in the NRSV but it is the task of the preacher to unpack the text more fully, there is no call for (extended) commentary from the reader, give all your attention to letting the words speak for themselves.
- 11 Wait in silence until everyone has found the page, then re-announce the passage and read. Often the children are going out to Sunday Morning Program just before the reading, do not be afraid to wait for stillness after you have announced the reading
- 12 Read slowly; it's easy to read too fast. If you're nervous try halving your speed.
- 13 At the end of the reading a response is offered. This response is available on the screen and the lectern.
For these words of witness and for Christ the Word
Thanks be to God.
- 14 Look at people from time to time, you may like to use your finger to keep your place.
- 15 Read as though you are enjoying the experience!!
- 16 At the conclusion of the service after the Benediction collect the Bible and walk out the aisle. The liturgist & preacher will follow you. Place the Bible back on the bench in the Chapel space.