

2012-2013

A Guide for Lay Scripture Readers  
Trinitarian Congregational Church  
Wayland, MA

Thank you for offering your voice to scripture reading this week. As you prepare for Sunday, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- 1) The public reading of the Word of God is a crucial component of our worship services.
- 2) What we say is influenced by *how* we say it. Any reading is an interpretation, and it will be *your* interpretation.
- 3) Diverse voices from the congregation remind us that the Word is living and active, and is applicable to people of all ages and demographics. **Your** voice is essential!

Over the course of the week, take time to read the passage. Do this multiple times to let the reading sink into your mind. Familiarize yourself with pronunciations for names or places and if unsure, ask the preaching pastor. Print out the text and make notes for emphasis, breath, and phrasing.

After these initial preparations, seek to personalize the text. The goal is not simply to be familiar, but to “know” the text. As you prepare, listen for your own voice speaking the words aloud prior to the worship service. Whether you have heard the passage before or not, take time to consider: what is this passage saying to you, now? What is the passage saying to this church, today?

With thoughtful preparation the reading becomes not simply a precursor for the sermon, but the spoken Word of God to the assembled church.

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

If all this is not enough, visit <http://cardiphonia.org/2010/11/25/helps-for-reading-scripture-in-worship/> for more thoughts and suggestions.

Thank you for offering your voice, your energy, and your heart in worship this week.