

The Liturgist

The occasional newsletter for Liturgists, Media Team and maybe Worship Committee.

6-10-09

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This newsletter should be emailed to you by Friday of each week. It should have the Sunday Service Bulletin and the Lesson Readings for the Service. It will have other relevant items and general instructions to guide us in making the Worship Service all that it should be.

Pastor Lui has asked that we begin changing and improving the Sunday Service in a number of ways. The Pastor has already started to modernize the Service by using more familiar terms in the Sunday Bulletin. Some of the changes are small, yet will change how the congregation relates to the Service. We want the Service to flow smoothly, without distractions and pauses. The Worship Committee has a large role in this, too. We need to be aware of the changes listed below, so that we do not automatically use the wrong term or omit parts.

1. Announcements need to be in writing and are announced by the Liturgist. If an announcement is to be made in person, the person must get prior approval from the Pastor and be waiting close at hand. This is a new procedure that the committee leaders are not used to and they will need to think ahead. **Do not ask if anyone has an announcement!** Announcements should be by pre-arrangement with you. They can see you in the Narthex before the Service.
2. Liturgist duty starts at 9:30 with meeting and prayer with the Pastor. After setting up the Lectern with your Scriptures and notes, the Liturgist should stay in the Narthex area to take announcements and other details. Sunday School or

other duties should not keep you from performing your duties as a Service Leader.

3. Come prepared and stay prepared. Ask for clarification, help or changes well before the Service. You are a pivotal person in the Service. All eyes are on you. Be well practiced, and be organized. Do not fumble around looking for what's next. When you get up to speak, know what comes next and what you are to do when finished.
4. Immediately after the Call to Worship the Liturgist is expected to lead the **Opening Prayer**. It should be brief and concise, focusing on God and the congregation gathered for worship (rather than individual needs and concerns). The Opening Prayer should always end with "...in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen" or "...in Christ's name. Amen." The best way to prepare is to write the prayer on paper and memorize it or read it during the service.

Example: Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, Grant us a true experience of worship today. May our praise, confession, proclamation and intercession rise to you as honest expressions of our hearts. This is our heart's delight and our soul's great joy. We ask you this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

5. Notice the change in terminology and use it in the service. Habits are hard to break. The current changes are that in the Call to Worship, the term *Leader* has been change to *Reader*. It is not necessary to tell who is who (reader - people). The term *Sermon* has been changed to *Message*. Avoid using special terms and acronyms. Using the full name of committees and events will keep your message clear. Speak in terms that are for visitors and new members. A few samples of terms that would not be clear to all could be "SPPRC", "VBS", "NASA" and Narthex.

Thank You for your participation in the Sunday Services.

Remember that only God is perfect. The rest of us have to practice all the time.

Melody Ashley

Paul Ashley

P.S. Anyone interested in a class on writing Opening Prayers?