

The Liturgist

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

8-20-09 Volume 2

A message from the Pastor.

The ministry of the liturgist can be compared to that of a “midwife.” As mother, the congregation enabled by the Holy Spirit gives birth to her baby “worship” but needs the help of a midwife. A good midwife comes mentally, spiritually and emotionally prepared to the “delivery room.” She wants to display a calm, yet confident demeanor because her mood will affect the mother. The mother wants to be assured that the delivery is going to be great. If the midwife is overly tense and nervous she might drop the baby. But if she is too relaxed and calm she might be perceived as uncaring or incompetent, which will make the mother even more nervous. Hence, the ministry of the liturgist is the art of knowing oneself and the congregation well enough to lead worship under changing conditions. The only constants are the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures; the rest can vary from Sunday to Sunday. Good preparation is one factor, but self-confidence and authenticity are other factors that contribute to a liturgist’s effectiveness. You can improve the latter by performing in front of a mirror (or a friend, relative) and listening to the worship CD. But remember, it comes with PEP: Practice, Experience and Prayer.

Duties and expectations. You are in charge of the smooth running of the service from beginning to end. Be prepared. It is good to have a backup plan in case of confusion, interruptions, or memory failure.

Early preparation. It is always good to prepare early for your participation as Liturgist. Because you only do this every other month or so, it is easy to forget what to do and say, after all, some things have changed. Listen to a copy of your former worship CD. Note any things that need to be changed or smoothed out. While some of you are comfortable with looking at the bulletin and several scripture pages, some may benefit from a more complete script that is a compilation of several pieces. How do you do this you ask? We are so glad to help!

How to make your order of service script

- **Check** the updated list for the dates of your service in the Members section of the church website (<http://www.downeyumc.com/members/serviceteams.html>).
- **The scripture verses and call to worship for the service** is almost always sent by email on Friday. They are also on the Pastor's preaching list for the quarter. This can be found in the Members section of the church website (<http://www.downeyumc.com/members/serviceteams.html>). Check to make sure that the Preaching list and the Service Bulletin are the same. They may get changed. The Service Bulletin will have the most current information.
- **The early copy of the Service Bulletin** is almost always sent to the Liturgist by email on Friday. It can be found in the church website (<http://www.downeyumc.com/weeklysermons/sermon81609.html>) if it is available.
- Insert all of the Hymn numbers and titles in your notes and instructions to sit or stand. Introduce all of the congregation hymns.
- **Print the Scripture** versions and the Call to Worship as is listed in the Preaching list which is found at (www.downeyumc.com/members/serviceteams.html). Use the Bible Gateway site (<http://www.biblegateway.com/>) to make your copy of the Scriptures. Check to see that the version matches the Service Bulletin, Cut and paste the passages to your document so it can be printed. Make sure to add to the end of the second scripture reading:
 - Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
 - **People: Thanks be to God.**
- **Write your Opening Prayer.** (see newsletter 6/10/09) You will want to insert the Opening Prayer in your list.
- **Sharing our Gifts...** Copy the reader's part from the Service Bulletin, and place it in your service list.

On Sunday Morning

- Meet with the Pastor at 9:30 Sunday morning. Ask any questions and about any clarifications needed or announcements to be made.

- Make a note on your list to make sure that the Acolytes are available to handle the offering plates. If the Acolytes are absent, you will need to take their place. If a guest Pastor is doing the service, the Liturgist may have all of the duties except the Message.
- Be available in the narthex to take announcement requests. Most of the announcements should be written and ready. Some special announcements will be made by designated speakers with prior approval of the pastor.
- Breathe and speak distinctly at an easy pace.

A check list.

- Check for your date for service.
- Order the CD of your previous service as Liturgist as needed.
- Check the Pastors Preaching List. Copy your day's Scriptures and Call to Worship.
- Make a copy of the Service Bulletin for your date. Check the order of service. Highlight your parts. Note additions and changes.
- Write the opening prayer.
- Read over and practice everything aloud.
- Arrange to arrive early Sunday Morning.

A special complete CD of the service for your last Liturgist date can be made for you to listen to. Call Paul at 562 923 7407 or email paul.ashley@ca.rr.com.

Remember that you responded to a call from God to perform this service.

**Thank you
Pastor Lui Tran
Paul and Melody Ashley**