

# Liturgist Guidelines

## Round Rock Presbyterian Church

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a liturgist. You will be sent the Order of Worship for the service as soon as it is finalized, usually Thursday or Friday before the Sunday you will serve. You are encouraged to read through the Announcements, the Call to Worship, the Prayer of Confession and the Assurance of Pardon. You may also read the Scriptures, and even the hymns for inspiration. Plan to arrive *one half hour* before the service begins to meet with the pastor(s) for final instructions and prayer. Please take the time to perform a microphone check.

### Liturgist's Responsibilities

#### **A. Announcements**

You will share in highlighting the announcements in the bulletin, and possibly some additional ones. Written announcements may be shortened or paraphrased, as suggested by the pastor.

#### **B. Call to worship**

After the *Passing of the Peace*, our service begins with the Call to Worship. A musical call to worship may precede the written one. The congregation will remain seated, as the liturgist leads this responsive reading with enthusiasm and energy. After the reading, remain standing for the first hymn.

#### **C. Prayer of confession**

You may say something like "Join me in the Prayer of Confession," as an introduction -- this is optional. The prayer is read together by the congregation, and then you will state that the prayer continues in silence. For timing, you may silently read the Prayer of the Day printed in the bulletin, or if you prefer, bring a written prayer of similar length to read for your silent confession. Remember to break the silence with "Amen!"

#### **D. Assurance of Pardon**

As with the Prayer of Confession, you may choose to add your own introduction, like, "This is our Assurance of Pardon." The Assurance of Pardon should be spoken with strength – you are assuring all of us that God's grace covers our sins. After the *Assurance*, you may return to sit with the congregation, or remain seated in the chancel. If you choose to leave, remain standing with the pastor for the *Gloria Patri*, and move unobtrusively when the children come forward for their special time.

#### **Hints for Liturgists:**

- 1) Each reading should be practiced out loud until you are comfortable, and understand its nuances.
- 2) Be sure to check if you don't know how to correctly pronounce a name or word.
- 3) Place the accent on the verbs. They will bring "energy" to the reading.
- 4) Make a conscious effort to speak at a moderate pace, not too fast.
- 5) Enunciation is more important than volume.
- 6) You are welcome to arrive early to practice before the service.
- 7) You can use a highlighter or circle items on your bulletin.
- 8) You may bookmark the first hymn and leave the hymnal in the chair behind the lectern.
- 9) **Smile, God loves you!**