

Hope Worship Servant HELPS ... for Prayer Leaders

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. God's peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7 NLT

God's Word tells us to "carry each other's burdens."

Galatians 6:2

Suggested/Necessary Preparation:

- **Pray.** Ask God's help in your leading the prayers of the Church.
- **Practice.** Read the prayers before the service begins. If a passage is difficult to read, then practice it, jot a note or mark your copy to help you pause, slow down.
- **Read the prayers confidently!** Do the best you can; few people will notice an error!

Prayer Leader Guidelines:

- Arrive a few minutes before worship begins. **Sign in on the Worship Servant Sheet at the Usher table.**
- The Prayers of God's People should be in the front inside pocket of the prayer book on the Prayer Table in the back of the Worship Center. Take it out, read it and then place it back.
- Pray, thanking God for the gifts you've been given and the opportunity to be God's servant.
- During the start of the song after the message, go to the back of the Worship Center to get the Prayer Book.
- As the song ends, OR as the pastor invites the congregation to join in the Confession of Faith (usually the creed), go to the front right side of the Worship Center. As soon as the creed ends, go to the lectern.
- Stand facing the congregation, directly above the microphone so that it will be most effective in projecting your voice. The microphone will be on.
- There's no need to greet the congregation; simply begin reading the prayers, speaking slowly and clearly in a normal tone of voice. The sound person will adjust the volume.
- Note pauses in the written prayers to avoid prayer time feeling rushed.
- When prayer copy says, "especially those on our Prayer List", begin reading the first names of those for whom prayer is requested. Last names are not necessary.
- NOTE there are 2 columns on the first page under "health and healing" and then go to the second page. You might say, "for work or financial needs" then read those first names and "for those traveling or in the military" and those first names, and so on.
- After naming those in the Prayer List, you will return to the written prayer and the section that says, "and those we name silently or out loud right now." Be sure to give people sufficient time to speak/silently pray for those not listed. Do not rush into the end of the petition.
- After the Amen, return to your seat as the pastor announces the sharing of the peace.

Tips for Reading Aloud in Worship

- Worship should be lively; expressive readings invite people to listen closely.
- Be expressive, but not a Shakespearean actor. God is the One to whom we are speaking, sharing our heartfelt joys and, sometimes, sadness. We wouldn't speak to God in a monotone!
- Read slowly, but not too slowly. Reading too fast makes it hard for the congregation to follow. Be aware that when nervous, people often read more quickly.
- Read clearly and enunciate. It will help the listeners hear.
- If you make a mistake, stop and reread the verse. Do not apologize or say, "Sorry." It will just draw attention to the error. Continue reading with confidence, knowing that God expects FAITHFUL worship, not PERFECT worship. Mistakes happen!