

Thank you for your willingness to share your talent in reading the lessons.

You are proclaiming, bearing a message. You are not merely reading. If you understand what you are reading, so will your listeners. If the passage (especially from St. Paul's letters or the Old Testament) has little meaning for you, it will have less meaning for the listeners.

Read passages out loud several times (Friday or Saturday?). Read and listen to yourself. "What am I proclaiming?"

Copy and enlarge the text on a copier if this will improve your delivery.

* Check with the Pastor or a dictionary any tricky or unfamiliar words.

Example: prophecy is a noun [declaration] as a long e (aim for the cy)

prophecy is a verb [declare] as a long i or y (aim for the sy)

It may be helpful to mark your manuscript [copied, not a book] with a red pencil, pen or high-lighter to alert you to quotes....questions.....explanatory phrases. Consider using notations:... slashes... .arrows... parentheses...underlining....high-lighting.

Make a dry run. Come early and read before the Service begins. Stand in the designated spot and read to yourself, using your lips but not your voice.

Hold your manuscript in your hands, not on the altar – chest level. Use the support of a hymnal or bulletin if necessary.

Announce the book and chapter. Omit any reference to verses. If more than one chapter is in the reading, use a phrase something like "beginning in the 4th chapter.

Look up occasionally; making eye contact with the congregation. This places your reading on a one-to-one level. (Use a finger to hold your place, if necessary.)

Pause in your reading. Take a breath at periods, semi-colons, even commas at times. Give the message, the words, time to soak into the minds of the listeners.

To indicate its end, pause after reading the selection. Take a breath for closure. Then announce "Here ends the reading" or whatever the liturgy prescribes,