



LECTOR SUPPORT INVITATION

Saturday, March 19, 2022
10:00 AM Childrens' Chapel

I've had the good fortune to hear some amazing readers proclaim the scriptures at the Eucharist!

One time a reader who had been assigned Ezekiel's vision of dry bones read it as though it were a scene from a graphic novel where the hero calls up a skeletal army out of its desert grave. The story was new to him and his reading made it new to us who heard it. Another time a young man who struggled to read signed up to become a lector as a challenge to grow and learn. His reading was labored and halting but the congregation supported him all the way along. When he got to the concluding dialog and said "The Word of the Lord", the people's applause drowned their spoken response. At another parish I had a regular reading partner who thought that expressive reading swamped the passage with an unwanted layer of interpretation. The words needed to find their meaning in the listeners' experience without the lector getting in the way. No one could have approached the ambo with more tenderness and strength of purpose.

None of these readers had much in common with the other, yet each was a welcome gift to the community. What the Spirit produces in one person may be a gift that only that person can give. Receiving the word is an occasion of joy for God's people and, as the book of Nehemiah has it, in such joy is our strength.

By way of supporting our lectors we will gather on Saturday March 19 to reflect on the practice of reading. We'll begin our study with the story of the Ethiopian eunuch from Acts 8. When Philip approaches him and asks if he understands the passage from Isaiah that he is reading, the eunuch responds, "How can I unless someone guides me?" There'll be an opportunity for group discussion about how we have been guided in our own understanding of the scriptures and whether we have had the experience of guiding others. We'll discuss what role the lector plays in making the readings understood and how to identify challenges to effective proclamation in the passage we are studying. By reflecting on these questions together, we can help each other feel more comfortable participating in the ministry of the word during the services at St Paul's

After our study there will be an opportunity to read for supportive feedback. There will be 2 selections of readings to choose from and prepare in advance, one from the Old Testament and one from the New. The readings, including the one for group study, will be available in the parlor, along with a signup sheet just so we'll have an idea how many to expect. Regardless of whether you go on to read at services, anyone who would like to join our conversation is invited to attend. Hope to see you in the Children's Chapel upstairs on Saturday, March 19 at 10:00 am.

Remember, there are sign-up sheets in the parlor at church, or you can send an email to (webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com) to let us know you are coming.

Tim Grant
Worship Ministry