



A Retreat / Sabbatical Lectionary

A set of suggested readings, compiled by Paul Beasley-Murray, for a minister embarking on a retreat or sabbatical

Every visit I have made to Sheldon has proved to be a stimulating and energising experience. I have greatly appreciated the opportunity stand back from the pressures of ministry, and as a result gain a new perspective on how God would have me live for Him.

Sheldon has been a place for rest and refreshment, for re-connecting and for renewal, for re-evaluation and resolution, for re-imagining and re-envisioning. A key part of this process has involved spending time reading and reflecting on scripture. I have sought to engage in 'lectio divina'; taking up one word after the other, examining it, reflecting upon it, and hearing God speak words of grace and words of direction into my life. I have found it helpful to then go on to journal, to write down what I believe God has been saying to me.

But what scriptures should we read? Like many ministers, I use the common lectionary as the framework for my daily devotions. However, it occurred to me that it could be helpful to have a lectionary specifically designed for ministers on retreat – and not least for ministers who are perhaps suffering from the stresses and strains of ministry. Indeed, many of us when we come to Sheldon are not just exhausted, but we are perhaps feeling bruised or wounded from the experience of ministry.

The intention is for you to read as much or as little as is appropriate for you. You might have only sufficient energy to read one passage a day or might want to go for three passages. There are enough readings for two weeks but most retreats will be shorter so just use as many days as you need. However you use them I hope you find them a valuable resource for your retreat.

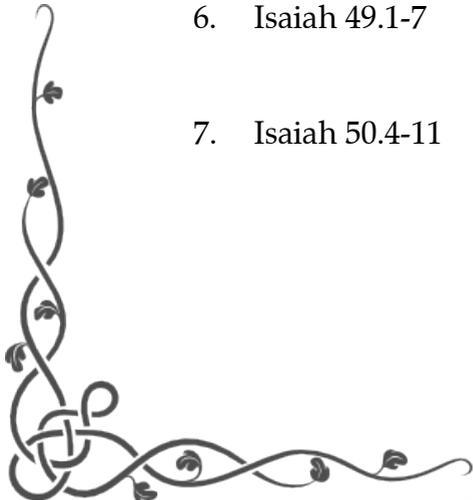
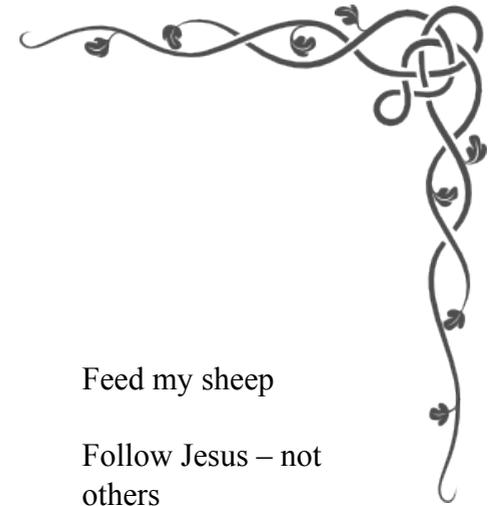
Paul Beasley-Murray
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A RETREAT LECTIONARY

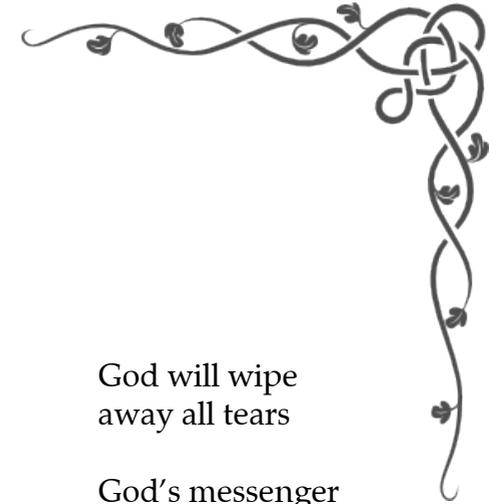
READINGS FROM **ISAIAH**

1. Isaiah 40/1-11 Comfort my people!
2. Isaiah 40.25-31 Trust God
3. Isaiah 42.1-9 The Lord's Servant
4. Isaiah 43.1-7 Your troubles will not overwhelm you
5. Isaiah 43.18-21 God promises new things
6. Isaiah 49.1-7 The Lord chose me to be his servant
7. Isaiah 50.4-11 The obedience of the Lord's servant

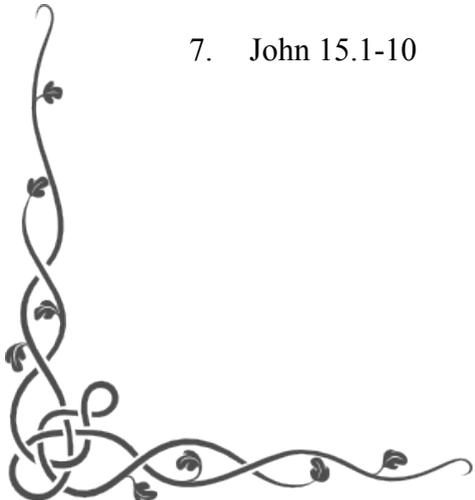
8. John 21.15-17 Feed my sheep
9. John 21.18-22 Follow Jesus – not others
10. Acts 20.17-38 Watch over yourselves
11. Romans 8.31-39 Nothing can separate us from God's love
12. Phil 3.12-14 Run towards the goal
13. 2 Tim 4.1-5 A pastoral charge
14. Hebs 12.1-3 Look to Jesus



OTHER READINGS



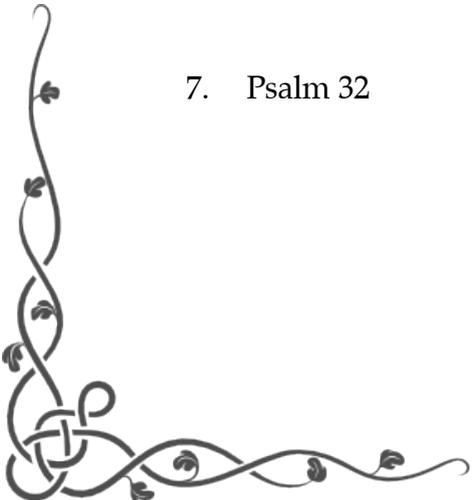
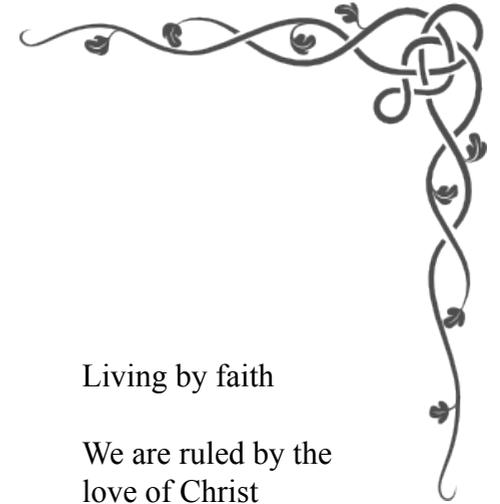
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|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Matthew 5.3-12 | True happiness in God | 8. Isaiah 51.1-11 | God will wipe away all tears |
| 2. Matthew 9.35-37 | The compassion of Jesus | 9. Isaiah 52.7-10 | God's messenger |
| 3. Matthew 11.26-30 | Come to me | 10. Isaiah 52.13-53.12 | The Suffering Servant |
| 4. John 8.1-11 | Go and do not sin | 11. Isaiah 54.1-10 | God's love for his people |
| 5. John 12.20-26 | A grain of wheat dies | 12. Isaiah 55 | God's gracious invitation |
| 6. John 13.1-5, 12-17 | Jesus has given an example | 13. Isaiah 61.-3 | Good news to deliver |
| 7. John 15.1-10 | Remain in me | 14. Isaiah 66.12-14 | God loves us as a mother |



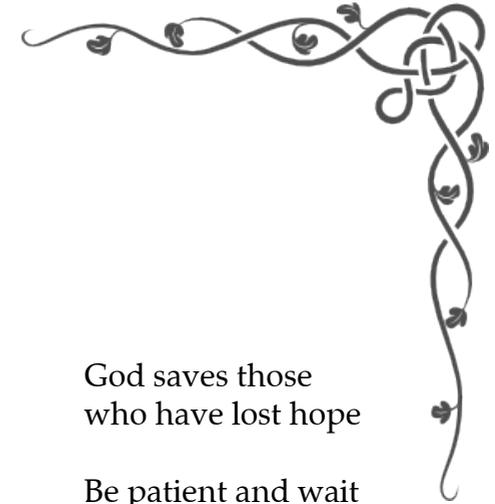
READINGS FROM THE PSALMS

1. Psalm 1 True happiness is found in God
2. Psalm 6 The Lord hears my weeping
3. Psalm 23 God is with me
4. Psalm 25 Teach me your ways
5. Psalm 27 God will make me secure
6. Psalm 30 Joy comes in the morning
7. Psalm 32 You are my hiding place

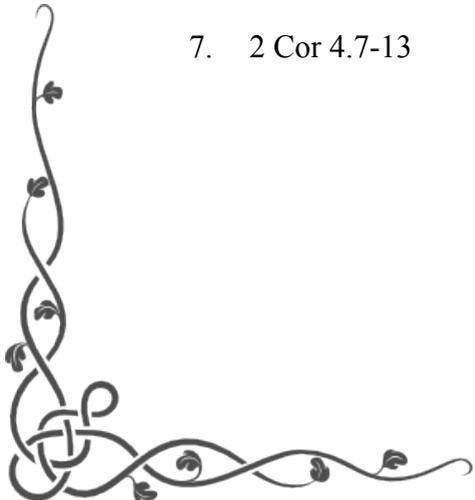
8. 2 Cor 4.13-5.10 Living by faith
9. 2 Cor 5.11-6.2 We are ruled by the love of Christ
10. 2 Cor 6.3-13 Knocked down, but not knocked out!
11. 2 Cor 7.2-16 Encouragement and misunderstanding
12. 2 Cor 11.16-35 Even apostles suffer
13. 2 Cor 12.1-10 God's grace is sufficient
14. 2 Cor 5.11-13 A benediction



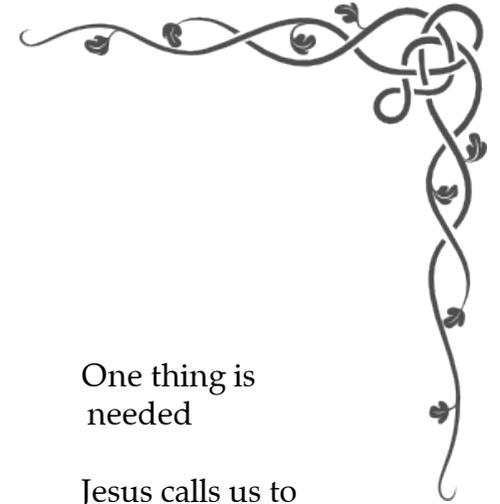
READINGS FROM 2 CORINTHIANS



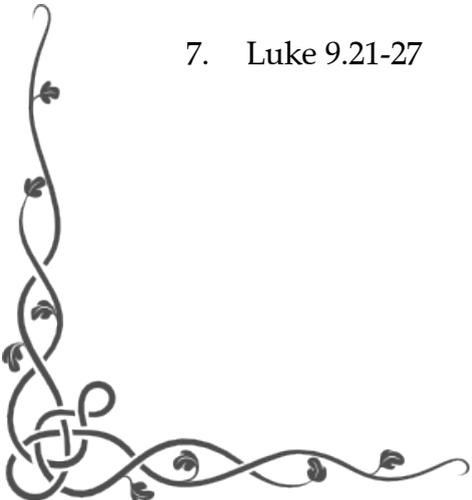
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| 1. 2 Cor 1.3-11 | God helps us in all our troubles | 8. Psalm 34 | God saves those who have lost hope |
| 2. 2 Cor 1.12-2.4 | Sincerity in ministry | 9. Psalm 37.1-11 | Be patient and wait for the Lord |
| 3. 2 Cor 2.12-17 | God uses us | 10. Psalm 42-43 | I will put my hope in God |
| 4. 2 Cor 3.1-6 | God makes us capable | 11. Psalm 51 | Create a pure heart in me |
| 5. 2 Cor 3.12-18 | God is at work in us by his Spirit | 12. Psalm 62 | Be confident in God |
| 6. 2 Cor 4.1-6 | We are not discouraged | 13. Psalm 121 | God never sleeps |
| 7. 2 Cor 4.7-13 | The supreme power belongs to God | 14. Psalm 139 | God knows |



READINGS FROM **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**



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| 1. Luke 4.1-13 | Jesus is tempted | 8. Luke 10.38-42 | One thing is needed |
| 2. Luke 4.16-30 | Jesus is rejected | 9. Luke 12.22-31 | Jesus calls us to trust God |
| 3. Luke 5.1-11 | Jesus calls the first disciples | 10. Luke 15.1-7 | The good shepherd seeks the lost sheep |
| 4. Luke 6.27-36 | Jesus calls us to love our enemies | 11. Luke 22.24-30 | Jesus teaches true greatness |
| 5. Luke 8.4-8, 11-15 | The parable of the sower | 12. Luke 22.39-46 | Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives |
| 6. Luke 8.22-25 | Jesus calms a storm | 13. Luke 23.32-37 | Father forgive |
| 7. Luke 9.21-27 | Jesus calls us to follow him | 14. Luke 24.13-35 | Jesus draws alongside |



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