

A RETREAT LECTIONARY

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Every visit I have made to Sheldon has proved to be a stimulating and energising experience. I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to 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 reconnecting and 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 that it could perhaps be more helpful to follow 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 choose to read as much or as little 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.

READINGS FROM ISAIAH

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| 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. Isaiah 51.1-11 | God will wipe away all tears |
| 9. Isaiah 52.7-10 | God's messenger |
| 10. Isaiah 52.13-53.12 | The Suffering Servant |
| 11. Isaiah 54.1-10 | God's love for his people |
| 12. Isaiah 55 | God's gracious invitation |
| 13. Isaiah 61.-3 | Good news to deliver |
| 14. Isaiah 66.12-14 | God loves us as a mother |

READINGS FROM THE PSALMS

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| 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. Psalm 34 | God saves those who have lost hope |
| 9. Psalm 37.1-11 | Be patient and wait for the Lord |
| 10. Psalm 42-43 | I will put my hope in God |
| 11. Psalm 51 | Create a pure heart in me |
| 12. Psalm 62 | Be confident in God |
| 13. Psalm 121 | God never sleeps |
| 14. Psalm 139 | God knows |

READINGS FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

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

READINGS FROM 2 CORINTHIANS

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| 1. 2 Cor 1.3-11 | God helps us in all our troubles |
| 2. 2 Cor 1.12-2.4 | Sincerity in ministry |
| 3. 2 Cor 2.12-17 | God uses us |
| 4. 2 Cor 3.1-6 | God makes us capable |
| 5. 2 Cor 3.12-18 | God is at work in us by his Spirit |
| 6. 2 Cor 4.1-6 | We are not discouraged |
| 7. 2 Cor 4.7-13 | The supreme power belongs to God |
| 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 |

OTHER READINGS

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| 1. Matthew 5.3-12 | True happiness in God |
| 2. Matthew 9.35-37 | The compassion of Jesus |
| 3. Matthew 11.26-30 | Come to me |
| 4. John 8.1-11 | Go and do not sin |
| 5. John 12.20-26 | A grain of wheat dies |
| 6. John 13.1-5, 12-17 | Jesus has given an example |
| 7. John 15.1-10 | Remain in me |
| 8. John 21.15-17 | Feed me 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 |