



# Reflection - Remembrance - Year B

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## The Readings

The readings for this Sunday are:

**Micah 4:1-5**

**Psalm 46**

**John 15:9-17**

The theme for this week: The War Diary of John Smith

*All the readings are available as PowerPoint files. Micah 4:1-8 and John 15:9-17 are offered as a Lectionary Videos. John 15:9-17 is also available on The Visual Bible. Psalm 46 is offered as a Liturgical PowerPoint: "God is our refuge and strength", STF 810.*

The desire for certainty goes very deep, and all of today's readings look at that longing with sympathy, though the answers they give are as challenging as they are reassuring. These readings imply that certainty comes through sharing our faith, praising God and loving one another. Each one of those activities makes the others more and more possible and natural, and brings us closer and closer to the life of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In John's Gospel Jesus is giving his disciples 'commandments'. If the disciples have been listening to Jesus throughout the weeks and months before this, they must have some inkling about how Jesus interprets God's commandments to his people. Underlying the great commandments given by God to Moses is the imperative that his people should show by their lives what their God is like. This commandment Jesus has completely fulfilled. Throughout all his life he has kept the commandment to love God, be loved by God and to show God's love, and that is the commandment that he now passes on to his disciples.

Micah reflects the nations have not yet submitted to the Prince of Peace, as to beat their swords into ploughshares, nor has war ceased. But these are precious promises, relating to the fulfilment of the Church. He is faithful who has promised. There will be a glorious Church in the last days, Christ himself will build it upon a rock. The Gentiles worshipped their idols, but in the period spoken of, they will return with their full hearts and delight in doing His will.

Psalm 46 encourages us to hope and trust in God; in his power and providence, and his gracious presence with his church in the worst of times.

We may apply it to spiritual enemies, and the encouragement we have that through Christ, we shall be conquerors over them. He is a help, a present help, one that is always near.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God, let it breathe through you and power you – Paul reminds us God's spirit is a totally renewable energy source. To be filled with the vitality of God's love is to share in God's relationship with Jesus and to know ourselves beloved. It is also to share in God's wild love for the world. Paul reminds us our love must be as insane as God's. No reintroducing the checklists, no loving on our terms only. God the Son preferred to go to the cross rather than force his creation into a dutiful, fearful, obedience to the Father, so that must be our choice also, if necessary.

IDEAS is a resource for All-Age worship produced each week from the Lectionary by Mike and Ann Bossingham. You can see more about this from the IDEAS website, [www.FFCTIDEAS.org.uk](http://www.FFCTIDEAS.org.uk)

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