

Wind, Waves, Stars, & Saints

A photograph of a lighthouse on a hill at night. The lighthouse is white with a black top and a glowing light. The sky is dark blue with many stars and the Milky Way galaxy visible. A wooden fence runs along the bottom of the hill.

Sabbatical

May 26 - August 25

2025

Liturgy of Departure - Sabbatical 2025

Opening Sentences Based on Psalm 121 *A Song of Ascents*.

We lift up our eyes to the hills—
from where will our help come?

**Our help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

God will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

**He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD is our keeper;
the LORD is our shade at our right hand.

**The sun shall not strike us by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will keep us from all evil;
he will keep our life.

**The LORD will keep
our going out and our coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

Paul Lang: May God, our strength and our salvation,
be with you all.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Paul Burgess: God is the beginning and the end of our
life's pilgrimage.

Congregation: **Let us call upon the Lord with
confidence. Lord, be our way,
truth, and life during this sabbatical
season.**

Paul Burgess: We wish Godspeed to pastor Paul as he begins his sabbatical.

Congregation: **As you journey, Paul, we ask God to go with you to guard you from harm.**

Paul Lang: May God's peace remain with you as I leave to encounter God in wind, waves, stars, and saints.

Congregation: **May God be your first, fast, last friend while we are away from one another.**

Paul Lang: I pray God's blessing on you while I am gone from you.

Congregation: **May God cause your heart to sing as you:**

† **spend time with old friends and make new ones;**

† **as you study,**

† **visit new surroundings,**

† **and travel to sacred places.**

Paul Lang: I thank God for my ministry with you and for the gift of this time you have provided me.

Congregation: **May you experience the gifts of renewing rest and spiritual growth in your journey.**

Paul Lang: I pray that God gifts you, also, with a spiritual journey of your own.

Congregation: **God grant you a trusting heart as you plant your feet and heart in new places. We send you with our blessing.**

Paul Lang: I leave you this candle. Light it when you gather for worship each Lord's Day. Pray for me while I am gone.

Congregation: **We will pray that you return renewed and energized for ministry.**

Paul Lang: I go seeking those gifts. And I will carry with me a candle. I will light it and pray for you while we are separated. I will pray that you are keeping the Sabbath so that you, too, might be renewed to serve in God's name.

Paul Burgess: Lord you are the way the truth and the life — you always show mercy toward those who love you and you are never far away from those who seek you. Remain with your servant Paul on this holy pilgrimage and guide his way in accord with your will. Shelter him with your protection by day, give him the light of your grace by night, and, as his companion on the journey, bring him to his destinations in safety. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen!**