

## PRAYERS

*As the community of St James's Piccadilly,  
apart and part of the whole, in isolation and in  
communion, near and far, together we pray . . .*

## COLLECT

*(See Collects and Readings leaflet)*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen

## THE CONCLUSION

May God who has called us out of darkness  
into marvellous light, bless us and fill us with  
peace. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.



*Material from: Angela Ashwin, Common Worship, The Iona  
Community, Jim Cotter, Edwina Gateley, Peter Millar, Ann Lewin,  
Janet Morley, Joy Mead, Jan Sutch Pickard, John Pritchard,  
Dorothy McRae-McMahon, The New Zealand Prayer Book, The St Hilda  
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Join the Holding the Silence live stream  
Monday-Friday at 12noon on [our YouTube Channel](#)

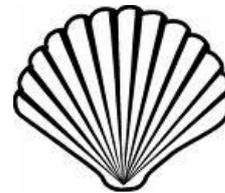


St James's Church, Piccadilly

## Holding the Silence - Christmas - (Christmas Day – the Eve of Epiphany)

## The Daily Office

Join the Holding the Silence live stream  
Mon-Fri at 12noon, or watch the videos on  
our [YouTube channel](#) at any time



By all means let us pause there  
At the stable, and  
Marvel at the miracle of birth.  
But we'll never get to know  
God with us, until we learn  
To find him at the Inn,  
A fellow guest who shares the joy and sorrow,  
The Host who is the life we celebrate.

*A candle may be lit at the start of the prayer.*

## PREPARATION

O Lord, open our lips  
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence  
**You who are common to us all.**

## Morning:

In this season of hope, we celebrate  
your coming like the dawn after a long  
night. As we struggle with our personal  
darknesses, so may the child in the  
straw draw us into a larger and safer  
space, where complexity dissolves into  
simplicity, and your light shines for  
ever. Amen.

## Noon:

Bless us now, O God, in the middle of  
the day, be with us and all who are dear  
to us; keep us in the beautiful attitudes,  
joyful, simple and gentle. Amen.

*Evening:*

In this season of peace, we celebrate the peacemakers who listen to the angels' song and seek to bring peace to your people on earth ... May the child in the straw be a reminder of another way and a greater light, one that unites every race under heaven. Amen.

*Night:*

In this season of memories, we celebrate our corporate memory of your arrival in darkness, a sharp cry in the night air, animals shuffling nearby, rough shepherds from the hills, a star ... May the child in the straw be the continuity we need, the thread of gold that holds past and present in a single story. Amen.

## CANTICLE

*This or another psalm or canticle is said*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, upon them the light has dawned.

You have increased their joy and given them great gladness; they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest. For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them; the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.

For to us a child is born and to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor; the Mighty God; the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.

From this time forth and for evermore; the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Glory to God, Source of all Being,  
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now  
and shall be forever. Amen.

## INTRODUCTION TO READINGS

For the mystery of the text,  
and for the history of eyes to see  
and ears to hear the text,  
we give you thanks.  
Our eyes are scaled and  
our ears are uncircumcised  
and we are children of another world.  
We pray for the gift of perception.  
We pray for energy and courage,  
that we may not leave the text  
until we wrench your blessing from it.

## READINGS

*(See Collects and Readings leaflet)*

## SILENCE

*Morning:*

Let the cares of the past grow dim  
let the skies and our hearts grow clear  
until the Son of God comes striding  
towards us walking on this earth.  
Amen.

*Noon:*

Son of the elements, Son of the  
heavens,  
Son of the moon, Son of the sun,  
Son of God, first-born of all creation,  
dwell with us today. Amen.

*Evening:*

When all things in silence lay, and the  
night was in the midst of her course,  
your Word leapt down from heaven to  
dwell in our midst. So we rejoice and  
give you praise, that your Word may  
dwell with us and in us, and lead us in  
the way of joy and peace. Amen.

*Night:*

Jesus, Son of God, now that we have  
heard the angels sing, may we not lose  
our sense of the joy of heaven; now that  
we have been with the shepherds to  
Bethlehem, make us witnesses of the  
wonder of the love we have seen. Fill us  
this night, with the quiet joy of Mary,  
so that we too, may keep all these  
things and ponder them in our hearts.  
Amen.