

We are not yet what we shall be, but we grow towards it; the process is not finished, but goes on; this life is not the end, it is the way to a better. *Martin Luther*

Friday 4th December

Some Pharisees warned Jesus of Herod's threats against him. He said to them, 'Go and tell that old fox that I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet I must be on my way now, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside Jerusalem. *Luke 13.31-34*

If you are generous, little by little you will see the divine world emerging from the shadows. You have been living in it, the hurly-burly not allowing it to be seen. Then in your turn you will wonderingly discover that you are never less alone than when you are alone. *Anon*

Saturday 5th December

Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. I must bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned, until he takes my side and executes judgement for me. He will bring me out to the light. *Micah 7.8-9*

Doubt is an invitation to deepen our faith. Peace and greater understanding come from presenting our fears and apprehensions to God. *Gerard Hughes*



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St James's Church, Piccadilly

Holding the Silence

2020



Weekly Collects and Daily Readings from Sunday 22nd November - Saturday 5th December

Collect for Sunday 22nd - Saturday 28th November

Stir up O Lord the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded. **Amen**

Collect for Sunday 29th November - Saturday 5th December

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Daily Readings

Sunday 22nd November

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! *Psalms 95.1-2*

Why, what makes a miracle? I know nothing but miracles. *Walt Whitman*

Monday 23rd November

Then a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages came up behind him and touched the hem of his cloak, for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak I will be made well' Jesus turned and said to her, 'Take heart, daughter, your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. *Matthew 9.20-21*

Choose being kind over being right and you will always be right. *Richard Carlson*

Tuesday 24th November

My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they will not perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What the Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hands. The Father and I are one. *John 10.27-30*

As I try to listen to my deepest yearnings, and the yearnings of others, the word that best seems to summarise the desire of the human heart is 'communion'... It is the God-given desire without which our lives lose their vitality and our hearts grow cold. *Henri Nouwen*

Wednesday 25th November

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. *Isaiah 40.28-29*

Conversion isn't, after all, a moment: it is a process, and it keeps happening, with cycles of acceptance and resistance, epiphany and doubt. *Sara Miles*

Thursday 26th November

Jesus said, 'If any want to become my followers, let them take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?' *Matthew 16.24-26*

Paradoxically, the way to peace is not to seek it, but to seek selflessness. Self-seeking of any kind narrows our potential and destroys the balance on which peace depends *Sister Wendy Beckett*

Friday 27th November

The Lord says, 'This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel. I will put my law within them and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. They shall know me; for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more. *Jeremiah 31.33-34*

Knowing you are here, God, we are freer in our interaction, more daring in our personal visions, loving in our confrontation, deeply silent in consideration and accepting in the choices that help us define our actions and lead us on. *Anne Johnson*

Saturday 28th November

Be careful how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, for the days are evil. Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Be filled with the spirit as you sing psalms and songs among yourselves, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Ephesians 5.15-20*

Faith is what makes life bearable, with all its tragedies, ambiguities and sudden startling joys. *Madeleine L'Engle*

Advent Sunday 29th November

You have been enriched by Christ Jesus in every way, in speech, and in knowledge of every kind. The testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you, so you do not lack spiritual gifts as you wait for his revealing. Christ will strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless when he comes. God is faithful, and he called you into the fellowship of Christ *1 Corinthians 1.5-9*

The practice of the Christian life consists of discernment (seeing and hearing) reliance (reckless dependence) and celebration (spontaneous enjoyment) of the presence of the word of God in our common life. *William Stringfellow*

Monday 30th November

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people. He has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. *Isaiah 52.9-10*

It has been my experience that what makes us the saints of God is not our ability to be saintly, but God's ability to work through sinners. *Nadia Bolz-Weber*

Tuesday 1st December

The Lord will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing, as at a festival. He will remove disaster from you, so you bear no reproach for it. God says, 'I will deal with your oppressors. I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown. *Zephaniah 3.27-29*

Grace is the perennial infusion of springtime into the winter of bleakness. *John O'Donohue*

Wednesday 2nd December

His disciples asked him privately, 'What will be the sign of your coming at the end of the age, and when will it be?' Jesus answered, 'Beware that no one lead you astray. For many will come claiming to be the Messiah in my name, and will lead many astray.' *Matthew 24.3-5*

Prayer doesn't wish the world away, or make its problems disappear; it gives us the courage to live with them as they are, in the world as it is. *Lionel Blue*

Thursday 3rd December

O Bethlehem, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, and they shall live secure, for he shall be the one of peace. *Micah 5.2-5*

