

The movement in our relationship with God is *always* from God to us. We can't, through piety or goodness, move closer to God. God is always coming near to us, especially in the Eucharist and the stranger.
Nadia Bolz-Weber

Thursday 5th November

The gifts Christ gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ until all of us come to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. *Ephesians 4.11-13*

The Christian religion asks us to put our trust not in ideas, and certainly not in ideologies, but in a God who was vulnerable enough to become human and die, and who desires to be present to us in our ordinary circumstances. *Kathleen Norris*

Friday 6th November

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who, for the sake of the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12.1-2*

The world we build tomorrow is born in the prayers we say today. *Rabbi Jonathan Sachs*

Saturday 7th November

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; he chose what is weak to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing the things that are, so that no one may boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Jesus Christ, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness, sanctification and redemption. *1 Corinthians 1.27-30*

We must be ready to learn from one another, not claiming that we alone possess all truth and that somehow we have a corner on God. *Desmond Tutu*



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St James's Church, Piccadilly

Holding the Silence

2020



Weekly Collects and Daily Readings from Sunday 25th October - Saturday 7th November

Collect for Sunday 25th - Saturday 31st October

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will, we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for Sunday 1st - Saturday 7th November

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age; as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Daily Readings:

Sunday 25th October

God entrusted us with the gospel message, and so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God. We never came with flattery or greed. We did not seek your praise. We were gentle among you. So deeply do we care for you that we want to share both the gospel and our own selves, for you are very dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2.4b-8

I am in the habit of looking not so much to the nature of the gift as to the spirit in which it was offered.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Monday 26th October

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be healing and refreshment for your body. Honour the Lord with your substance and the first fruits of your produce. Then shall you be filled with plenty. Do not despise the Lord's discipline, for he reproves the one he loves, as a father the son he delights in. *Proverbs 3.7-12*

We are always at risk of losing what is deepest and richest in our lives, the texture of the tapestry itself.

Jon Kabat-Zinn

Tuesday 27th October

Strengthen the weak hands and the feeble knees. Say to the fearful, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come and save you.' Then shall the eyes of the blind be open and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the speechless sing for joy. Waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. *Isaiah 35.3-6*

Faith can move mountains, but don't be surprised if God hands you a shovel. *Anon*

Wednesday 28th October

In days to come the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains. People shall stream to it saying, 'Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord that he may teach us his ways. For out of Zion shall come instruction. He shall judge between many peoples and arbitrate between strong nations. They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks, neither shall they learn war any more. *Micah 4.1-3*

If you want to keep people subjugated, the last thing to give them is the Bible. There is nothing more subversive against injustice than a Bible. *Desmond Tutu*

Thursday 29th October

For just as the body is one and has many members, and the members are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one spirit we were all baptised into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one spirit. *1 Corinthians 12.12-13*

To believe, and to consent to be loved while unworthy, is the great secret. *W.R. Newell*

Friday 30th October

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other one also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. *Luke 6.27-29*

And when they come to judgement let all the fruits that we have born be their forgiveness. *Anon - from a prayer found in Ravensbruck concentration camp.*

Saturday 31st October

I pray that the Father may grant that you be strengthened with power through his spirit; that Christ may dwell in you as you are rooted and grounded in love. May you have the power to comprehend what is the breadth, length, height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge, so you may be filled with the fullness of God. *Ephesians 3.14-19*

We are potentially all things; our personality is what we are able to realise of the infinite wealth which our divine-human nature contains hidden in its depths.

W.R. Inge

Sunday 1st November

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God. The world does not know us because they did not know him. Beloved we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed, but we know this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

1 John 3.1-3

Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life, because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us 'beloved'. Being the beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence. *Henri Nouwen*

Monday 2nd November

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Worry about nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4.4-7*

When you wish someone joy, you wish them peace, love, prosperity, happiness ... all the good things
Maya Angelou

Tuesday 3rd November

Jesus said, 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. *John 16 12-15*

The will of God cannot simply be read off from facts or events, but must be discerned through insight, through the kindling of the heart and the illuminating of the mind that occur on the spiritual adventure.

John S Donne

Wednesday 4th November

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn and will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call and they will gather the elect from the four winds. *Matthew 24.30-31*