

Friday 16th July

Jesus answered Nicodemus, 'Very truly I tell you, what is born of the flesh is flesh and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said you must be born from above. The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the spirit. *John 3.7-9*

I never knew how to worship until I knew how to love. *Henry Ward Beecher*

Saturday 17th July

Enjoy life all the days of your vain life that you are given under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. whatever your hand finds to do, do with your might; for there is no work or thought or knowledge in Sheol to which you are going. *Ecclesiastes 9.9-10*

The greatest wisdom consists in knowing one's own follies. *Madeleine De Souvre Sable*



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St James's Church, Piccadilly

Holding the Silence

2021



Weekly Collects and Daily Readings from Sunday 4th – Saturday 17th July

Collect for Sunday 4th – Saturday 10th July

Almighty God, send down upon your church the riches of your spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for Sunday 11th – Saturday 17th July

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Daily Readings

Sunday 4th July

The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God mighty and awesome who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. *Deuteronomy 10.17-19*

God's invitation is to God's own life, a life of love, compassion, truth and justice. Let God be that to me, and through me to everyone I encounter.

Gerard Hughes

Monday 5th July

I came to you in weakness, in fear and in much trembling. My speech and proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2.3-5

Those most qualified to speak the gospel are those who truly know how unqualified they are to speak the gospel. *Nadia Bolz-Weber*

Tuesday 6th July

Wisdom calls from the highest places in the town, 'You that are simple, turn in here!' to those without sense she says, 'Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity and live, and walk in the way of insight.' *Proverbs 9.1-6*

The more carefully you listen to the voice within you, the better you will hear what is sounding outside.

Dag Hammerskjöld

Wednesday 7th July

The way of the righteous is level; O Just One, you make smooth the path of the righteous. In the path of your judgements O Lord we wait for you; your name and your renown are the soul's desire. My soul yearns for you in the night, my spirit earnestly seeks you. For when your judgements are in the earth the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. *Isaiah 26.7-9*

Pray as you can. Do not try to pray as you can't. Take yourself as you find yourself; start from that.

Dom John Chapman

Thursday 8th July

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land. 'Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her king not in her' For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn and dismay has taken hold of me. *Jeremiah 8.18-19,21*

God who is everywhere never leaves us. Yet God seems sometimes to be present, sometimes absent. If we do not know God well we do not realise that God may be more present with us when God is absent than when God is present. *Thomas Merton*

Friday 9th July

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture – 'I believe and so I spoke' – we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also, and bring us with you into his presence. Everything is for your sake, so that grace as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving to the glory of God. *2 Corinthians 4.13-15*

Give as extravagantly as you like, for you cannot spend all the riches of God. *Anon*

Saturday 10th July

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. *2 Corinthians 5.6-9*

Peace be upon each thing my eye takes in, upon each thing my mouth takes in. *Carmina Gadelica*

Sunday 11th July

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed, O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come. When deeds of iniquity

overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.

Happy are those who you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

Psalms 65. 1-4

The mystery of Creation is the mystery of that which goes on today and is continuous. *Mark Rutherford*

Monday 12th July

Jesus told this story of someone who invited many people to dinner. But on the day they all made excuses and didn't attend. So the host called in poor, crippled, blind and lame people from the street, but there was still space at the table, so his servants searched for still more disadvantaged people to fill the spaces, because he was determined that there would be no room for those originally invited. *Luke 14.16-24*

Jesus took the leap of seeing the divine kingdom in how one person relates to another. *Bruce Chilton*

Tuesday 13th July

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world. *John 9.1-5*

We are all broken. That's how the light gets in.

Ernest Hemmingway

Wednesday 14th July

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing of the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1.3-6

Insomuch as love grows in you, so in you beauty grows. For love is the beauty of the soul.

St Augustine

Thursday 15th July

My child do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for the length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you. Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, and write them on the tablet of your heart. *Proverbs 3.1-3*

Seek God, not happiness – this is the fundamental rule of all meditation. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*