

Holding the Silence

The Daily Office

Eastertide 2024

(Sunday 31st March - Sunday 19th May 2023)

Join the Holding the Silence live stream
Thursday & Friday at 12noon, or watch the
videos on our [YouTube](#) channel at any time.

And if you ask me what a Christian is
I'd say, not him who's pure in word and deed,
or goes to all the Sunday services,
or says his prayers or knows the proper creed,
but that one who would gladly give away
all that he has now or has ever been
to stand between the dark tomb and the day
and know the moment of the Magdalene.
Godfrey Rust

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:

Come into our souls, O God,
as the dawn breaks in the sky;
let your sun rise in our hearts
at the coming of the day.
Amen.

Noon:

Great Spirit, whose breath is felt in the
soft breeze, and whose life surges
through socket and screen, we seek
your strength in the midst of the day.
May we and all the peoples of the
world work in dignity and walk in the
beauty of the day.
Amen.

Evening:

Let the light fade and the work be
done,
let the flowers and the desktops close,
let the sun go down
and the world become still,
and let the Son of God draw near.
Amen.

Night:

Light of the world,
enter into the depths of our lives.
Come into the dark and hidden places.
Walk into the storehouse of our
memories.
Hear the hidden secrets of the past.
Plumb the very depths of our being.
Be present through the silent hours,
and bring us safely to your glorious
light.
Amen.

CANTICLE

This or another psalm or canticle is said.

Blessed are you, Creator God
who dreamed of humankind and
brought us into being
from before the foundation of the world
to the end of time and the mystery of beyond,
that we should become whole,
transfigured and made holy by your presence.

In Christ you have freed us at great cost,
that we too may absorb great evil and live.
The Spirit of forgiveness flows in our veins,
retaliation and vengeance wither away.
The riches of your grace are a sumptuous
feast:
all humankind is invited to your table.

But you have made known to us
the mystery of your will,
your purpose to unite all things in Christ,
the ceaseless web of matter and energy,
through the earth and the stars of the
universe,
so that all may resound in heavenly music,
from glory to glory for ever.
Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO READINGS

Spirit of Wisdom,
take from us all fuss,
the clattering of noise,

the temptation to dominate by
the power of words,
the craving for certainty.
Lead us through the narrow gate
of not knowing,
that we may listen and obey,
and come to a place of silence and stillness,
of true conversation and wisdom.

READINGS

(See Daily Readings leaflet)

SILENCE

Morning:

Risen Christ,
you burst from the grave -
help us to burst into life.
You breathed on your disciples.
Breathe life into us this day.
Amen.

Noon:

Christ, you are risen from the dead.
We are risen with you.
May our life never deny
this eternal life,
this peace and hope and joy.
Praise and glory to the God of life
who is stronger than all kinds of
death. Alleluia.
Amen.

Evening

God, we go into this evening
confident that the dawn
will break tomorrow;
grant that when we come to die,
we may go gladly and with hope,
confident in the resurrection.
Amen.

Night:

Jesus, our inspiration,
you come at night as our doors are
shut
and bring peace.
Grant us sleep tonight,
and courage tomorrow to go
wherever you lead.
Amen.

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 Daily 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 raises us
show us compassion and love.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Material from: Angela Ashwin, Common Worship,
The Iona Community, Jim Cotter, Peter Millar, Janet
Morley, The New Zealand Prayer Book, The St Hilda
Community, Ray Simpson.*

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