

## Holding the Silence 2026

### Daily Readings from Sunday 11th - Saturday 24th January 2026

#### Collect for Sunday 11th - Saturday 17th January

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognise him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

#### Collect for Sunday 18th - Saturday 24th January

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Daily Readings

#### Sunday 11th January

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. *Matthew 3. 13-15*

If we give our children sound self-love, they will be able to deal with whatever life puts before them. *bel hooks*

#### Monday 12th January

The steward said to the bridegroom, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk, but you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. *John 2.10,11*

Nothing puzzles God. *Chinua Achebe*

#### Tuesday 13th January

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. *Isaiah 60.1,2*

... May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life.

*Apache Blessing*

#### Wednesday 14th January

We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 4.5,6*

The destroyers and enslavers of men cannot be Christians, for Christianity is a system of love and its followers are devoted to honesty, justice, humanity, meekness, peace and goodwill to all men. *Ottobah Cugoano*

#### Thursday 15th January

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' *John 8.12*

We don't laugh because we're happy, we're happy because we laugh. *William James*

#### Friday 16th January

Happy are the people who know the shout of triumph: they walk, O lord, in the light of your countenance. *Wisdom 13.5,7*

You do not have to be good. You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert repenting. You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.

*Mary Oliver*

#### Saturday 17th January

Because they have set their love upon me, therefore I will deliver them; I will lift them up because they know my name. *Psalms 91.14*

While all the powers of good aid and attend us, boldly we'll face the future come what may.

At even and at morn God will befriend us, and, oh, most surely on each newborn day.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

#### Sunday 18th January

From the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered in my name, and a pure offering; my name is great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. *Malachi 1.11*

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes, but in having new eyes. *Marcel Proust*

### Monday 19th January

Who then is the faithful and wise slave, who his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves the allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is the slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives.

*Matthew 24.45,46*

The Kingdom of God is the already but not yet. *R. Alan Woods*

### Tuesday 20th January

Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun shall no more go down, or your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. *Isaiah 60.18-20*

While it is good that we seek to know the Holy One, it is probably not so good to presume we complete the task.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

### Wednesday 21st January

He shall deliver the poor that cry out, the needy and those who have no helper. He shall have pity on the weak and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy. *Psalms 72.12,13*

... let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome God. *Maya Angelou*

### Thursday 22nd January

You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father! It is that very spirit bearing witness that we are children of God. *Romans 8.15*

We may be surprised at who we find in heaven. God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low. *Desmond Tutu*

### Friday 23rd January

With all wisdom and insight the Father has made known to us the mystery of his will ... as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather all things up in him, things in heaven and things on earth. *Ephesians 1.8b-10*

It is in silence that we love most ardently; noise and words often put out the inner fire.

*Charles de Foucauld*

### Saturday 24th January

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful ... for the Lord has pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with salvation. *Psalms 149.1,4*

By revealing the grace of connection no matter what is happening, love releases us from our efforts to control life. Love opens our hearts wide enough to admit the unknown, the ungovernable. *Sharon Salzberg*

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