

Holding the Silence 2025

Daily Readings from Sunday 11th - Saturday 24th May 2025

Collect for Sunday 11th - Saturday 17th May

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 18th - Saturday 24th May

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

Daily Readings

Sunday 11th May

Jesus told the Pharisees, 'The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. *John 10. 25-28*

Facts can exist without human intelligence, truth cannot. *Toni Morrison*

Monday 12th May

Jesus said to them, 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. *John 10.7-10*

Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity. *Simone Weil*

Tuesday 13th May

Do not fear O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. *Zephaniah 3.16-18*

One of the truest tests of integrity is its blunt refusal to be compromised. *Chinua Achebe*

Wednesday 14th May

I do not call you servants any longer, because a servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. *John 15.15-17*

Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel. *Socrates*

Thursday 15th May

Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. *John 13.20.*

Now is the time to dance heaven's dance, Time to discern eternity's face, Moment of knowing beyond all sight, Day of God's smile and tender embrace. *Bill Wallace (after Julian of Norwich)*

Friday 16th May

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life.' *John 14.3-6*

Expectation has never ceased to guide the progress of our faith like a torch.
Teilard de Chardin

Saturday 17th May

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and still you do not know me? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say I do not speak on my own; the Father who dwells in me does his works.' *John 14.8-10*

Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need for one another. *Desmond Tutu*

Sunday 18th May

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you. 'Where I am going you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone

will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. *John 13.33-35*

Clear moments are so short. There is much more darkness. More ocean than firm land; more shadow than form. *Adam Zagajewski*

Monday 19th May

Jesus said, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. *John 14.23,24*

To be religious is to give your life so that the world may be more beautiful, more at peace; it is to prevent egotistical and self-serving ends from disrupting this harmony of the whole. *Arturo Paoli*

Tuesday 20th May

Peace I leave with you: my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to my Father, because the Father is greater than I'. *John 14.27,28*

In Jesus there is the quiet, strong serenity of one who seeks to conquer by love, and not by strife of words. *William Barclay*

Wednesday 21st May

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. *John 15.1-4*

O Lord, baptise our hearts into a sense of the conditions and needs of all people. *George Fox*

Thursday 22nd May

As my Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. if you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete. *John 15.9-11*

O Lord, you have made us very small, and we bring our years to an end like a tale that is told. Help us to remember that beyond our brief day is the eternity of your love. *Reinhold Niebuhr*

Friday 23rd May

Jesus said to his disciples, 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. *John 15.12-14*

Only by embracing all can we become the arms of God. *Coleman Barks*

Saturday 24th May

Remember the word that I said to you, 'Servants are not greater than their master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. *John 15.20-21*

Love is holy because it is like grace - the worthiness of its object is never really what matters. *Marilynne Robinson*

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