

Holding the Silence 2024

Daily Readings from Sunday 14th - Saturday 27th April 2024

Collect for Sunday 14th - Saturday 20th April

Risen Christ you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 21st - Saturday 27th April

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

Daily Readings

Sunday 14th March

For the Lord said, Surely they are my people, the children who will not deal falsely; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them.
Isaiah 63.8-9

The thrust of the Bible is that God is interested in, and has invested himself in, people.
David Jenkins

Monday 15th April

In your unfailing love, O Lord, you lead the people whom you have redeemed, and by your invincible strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling. You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, in the sanctuary which your hands have established. *Exodus 15.13-17*

Absolute love, God's love, makes us fully ourselves, instead of the half-people we generally are. *Harry Williams*

Tuesday 16th April

Sound praises to the Lord all the earth; break into singing and make music. Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King.
Psalms 98. 4-6

Cheerfulness survives every setback and disappointment because it reflects the resurrection hope and the faith that God's grace is sufficient for all our needs. *Norman Shanks*

Wednesday 17th April

Mary sang, 'The Lord has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
Luke 1.51,52

In our era, the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action.
Dag Hammarskjöld

Thursday 18th April

Zachariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy, 'The Lord has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. *Luke 1.67-72*

Hope is not like a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch, feeling lucky. Hope is an axe you break down doors with in an emergency.
Rebecca Solnit

Friday 19th April

One generation shall praise your works to another, and declare your mighty acts. They shall speak of the majesty of your glory, and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts, and I will also tell of your greatness.
Psalms 145.4-7

It is not enough to be busy. So are the ants. The question is, 'What are we busy about?'
Henry David Thoreau

Saturday 20th April

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God; who gives justice to those who suffer wrong and bread to those who hunger. The Lord looses those who are bound; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. *Psalms 146.6-8*

To hope till hope creates from its own wreck the thing it contemplates. *Percy Bysshe Shelley*

Sunday 21st April

As they came near to their village, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning while he was talking to us on the road, opening the scriptures to us?' *Luke 24.28-31*

The essential gift is aliveness - coming alive towards other people, coming alive to the glory and tragedy of this world. *John V Taylor*

Monday 22nd April

Do not fear O daughter of Sion; 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. *Zephaniah 3. 16,17*

Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening. *Mahatma Ghandi*

Tuesday 23rd April

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God; who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever; Who gives justice to those who suffer wrong and bread to those who hunger. *Psalms 146.5-6*

What lies ahead of the human spirit can only be reached through the slow process of living our way towards it. *Laurens Van Der Post*

Wednesday 24th April

John said, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. *Luke 3.16b-17*

Forgiveness is the giving, and so the receiving, of life. *John McDowell*

Thursday 25th April

The works of his hands are truth and justice; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever; they are done in truth and equity. He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; holy and awesome is his name. the fear of the Lord is the

beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have those who live by it. *Psalms 111.7-11*

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 in us in our ordinary circumstances.

Kathleen Norris

Friday 26th April

Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; his greatness is beyond all searching out. One generation shall praise your works to another and declare your mighty acts. They shall speak of the majesty of your glory, and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts, and I will also tell of your greatness. *Psalms 145.4-6*

It is faith that is expected of you and honest living, not profound understanding and deep knowledge of the mysteries of God.

Thomas à Kempis

Saturday 27th April

How lovely is your dwelling place O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: at your altar O Lord of hosts, my king and my God. blessed are they who dwell in your house: they will be always praising you. *Psalms 84. 1-3*

I think it pisses God if you walk by the colour purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it.

Alice Walker

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