St James's PICCADILLY

# Holding the Silence 2026

## Daily Readings from Sunday 18th – Saturday 31st October

## Collect for Sunday 18th – Saturday 24th October

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Collect for Sunday 25th – Saturday 31st October

Lord God, defend your church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## Daily Readings

### Sunday 18th October

Ten lepers approached Jesus, asking for mercy. He sent them to the priests, and as they went they were healed. One of them turned back, loudly praising God, and fell at Jesus' feet with thanks. He was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, 'The other nine, where are they? Is the only one to return and praise God a foreigner?' *Luke 17.12-18*

The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays. *Søren Kirkegaard*

### Monday 19th October

The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth; our God comes and will not keep silence. *Psalm 50.1-2*

Live not for battles won
Live not for the-End-of-the-Song.
Live in the along.
*Gwendolyn Brooks*

### Tuesday 20th October

Ever since the creation of the world God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. *Romans 1.20*

The truly wise person kneels at the feet of all creatures and is not afraid to endure the mockery of others. *Mechthild of Magdeburg*

### Wednesday 21stth October

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints, according to the will of God. *Romans 8.26,27*

God speed you, God lead you, and keep you wrapped around his heart: may you be known by love. *Paul Field*

### Thursday 22nd October

Nehemiah and Ezra the priest said to the people, 'this day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep. Go your way, eat the fat and drink the wine and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared.' *Nehemiah 8.8-10*

The great thing in this world is not so much where you stand, as in what direction you are moving. *Oliver Wendell Holmes*

### Friday 23rd October

Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, that is their hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing is secret that will not become known. *Luke 12.2*

We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience. *Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*

### Saturday 24th October

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night', even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalm 139.10, 11*

We shall rest and we shall see, We shall see and we shall love, we shall love and we shall praise. *St Augustine*

### Sunday 25th October

We all growl like bears and like doves we moan mournfully. We wait for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far from us. Our transgressions are with us and we know our iniquities: turning away from following our God. The Lord saw there was no justice and no one to intervene. He will come as Redeemer to those who turn from transgression. *From Isaiah 59.9-20.*

A light to you in the darkness; a light when all other lights go out. *J.R.R. Tolkein*

### Monday 26th October

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. *John 17.1-3*

Hope is like the sun, which as we journey towards it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us. *Samuel Smiles*

### Tuesday 27th October

I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; incline your ear to and listen to my words. Show me your marvellous loving-kindness, O Saviour of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who rise up against them. Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings. *Psalm 17.6-8*

Every happening, great or small, is a parable whereby God speaks to us, and the art of life is to get the message. *Malcolm Muggeridge*

### Wednesday 28th October

Jesus said, 'If any want to become my followers let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit themselves? *Luke 9.23-25*

I believe there is a way out of dark experiences though one cannot see it, and that all the suffering does not come in vain. *A.C. Benson*

### Thursday 29th October

The gifts that he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the stature of Christ. *Ephesians 4.11-14*

We are called to represent Christ spontaneously and with incalculable consequences in the pedestrian obscurity of everyday life. *Hans Jürgen Schultz*

### Friday 30th October

We could say more but could never say enough; let the final word be: 'He is the all.' Where can we find the strength to praise him? For he is greater than all his works. Awesome is the Lord and very great and marvellous is his power. *From Ecclesiasticus 43*

The life of faith is a continually renewed victory over doubt, a continually renewed grasp of meaning in the mist of meaninglessness. *Lesslie Newbigin*

### Saturday 31st October

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, or who can rise up in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie; they shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a just reward from the God of their salvation. *Psalm 24.3-5*

We are not meant to live solely by intellectual convictions, we are meant, more and more, to open ourselves to the spirit. *Basil Hume*

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