

## Holding the Silence 2026

### Daily Readings from Sunday 25th January - Saturday 7th February 2026

#### Collect for Sunday 25th - Saturday 31st January

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to raise you in Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Collect for Sunday 1st - Saturday 7th February

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Daily Readings

#### Sunday 25th 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*

If we celebrate, let it be that he has invaded our lives with a purpose, striding over our picturesque traditions, demanding much more than the milk and the softness and the mother warmth of the baby in the storefront creche.  
*Lucy Shaw*

#### Monday 26th January

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, and 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*

Of this I am certain, that we are not here in order to have a good time. *Ludwig Wittgenstein*

#### Tuesday 27th 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*

... Let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my heart illumines. *Bianca of Siena*

#### Wednesday 28th 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*

In God's sight we do not fall, in our sight we do not stand. As I see it, both of these are true. But the deeper insight belongs to God.  
*Julian of Norwich*

#### Thursday 29th January

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, like the showers that water the earth. In his time shall righteousness flourish, and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. *Psalms 72.5-7*

If the wind will not serve, take the oars.  
*Latin proverb*

#### Friday 30th January

When the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.  
*John 16.13,14*

We are all meant to shine, as children do ... and as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. *Nelson Mandela*

#### Saturday 31st January

As a great gale arose the waves beat into the boat, so the boat was already swamped. They woke him and he rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' The wind ceased and there was dead calm. He said to them, 'Why were you afraid? Have you no faith?' they were filled with great awe, and said to one another 'Who then is this that even the wind and waves obey him?' *Mark 4.37-41*

You comfort us and give us hope, you lift the veil of eternity, and we are permitted to know that

the world is a path, and we are on a journey,  
and the reward in the end is peace.

*part of a Jewish prayer*

### **Sunday 1st February**

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one may boast in the presence of God.

*1 Corinthians 1.27-29*

God does not want us to be burdened because of sorrows and tempests that happen in our lives, because that has always been so before miracles happen. *Julian of Norwich*

### **Monday 2nd February**

When Jesus was brought to the temple for purification according to the law there was also Anna, a prophet. She was of a great age, and never left the temple, but worshipped there day and night. At that moment, she began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Israel.

*Luke 2.36-38*

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

### **Tuesday 3rd February**

The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; in your hands alone is my fortune. My share has fallen in a fair land; indeed I have a goodly heritage. *Psalms 16 4-6*

We find real satisfaction not by the incessant longing for newer and newer goals, but by taking joy in the small things that actually make up our lives. *Larry Rosenberg*

### **Wednesday 4th February**

He came to his home town, and on the sabbath he began to preach in the synagogue and many people were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary? Are not his brothers and sisters here with us?' *Mark 6.1-3*

To affect the quality of the day is the highest of arts. *Henry David Thoreau*

### **Thursday 5th February**

Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. *Deuteronomy 15.10,11*

Be ablaze with enthusiasm. Let us be an alive burning offering before the altar of God.

*Hildegard of Bingen*

### **Friday 6th February**

As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried in the fire; he is a shield to all who trust in him. *Psalms 18.31*

Grant us what we need each day in bread and insight. *Neil Douglas-Klotz*

### **Saturday 7th February**

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope. My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning. O Israel wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; with him is plenteous redemption.

*Psalms 130 5-7a*

God does not love you because you are loveable. You are loveable because God loves you. *Desmond Tutu*

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Thursday and Friday at 12 noon on our  
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