

Holding the Silence 2023

Daily Readings from Sunday 26th November - Saturday 9th December

Collect for Sunday 26th November - Saturday 2nd December

Stir up O Lord the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 3rd - Saturday 9th December

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation may one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Daily Readings

Sunday 26th November

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. *Psalms 24.3-5*

God knows some days we all feel like losers.
Thomas Lynch

Monday 27th November

Two blind men followed Jesus into the house, still crying out, 'Have mercy on us Son of David.' He asked them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' They said 'Yes Lord.' Then he touched their eyes and said, 'According to your faith let it be done to you.' Their eyes were opened. Though Jesus sternly ordered them to tell no one, they spread the news about him throughout the district. *Matthew 9.27-30*

Hope is the companion of power and mother of success, for who so hopes strongly has within him the gift of miracles. *Samuel Smiles*

Tuesday 28th November

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to the innumerable angels in festal gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a

new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
Hebrews 12.22-24

The ultimate gift of conscious life is the sense of mystery that encompasses it. *Lewis Mumford*

Wednesday 29th November

I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me ... Do not worry about how you speak or what you say because it will be given to you; for it is not you who speak, but the spirit of your Father speaking through you. *Matthew 10.16-20*

Nothing can be whole or sole which has not been rent. *W.B. Yeats*

Thursday 30th November

Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. *John 12.23-25*

It is easy enough, assuming we have read the gospels, to know what the way stands for. It is less easy to stand that way ourselves. It is extremely difficult to direct our thinking and living along that way and no other.
Hubert van Zeller

Friday 1st December

Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. *Matthew 11.7-10*

The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire. *Ferdinand Foch*

Saturday 2nd December

Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. *Matthew 11.27,28*

It is in the shelter of each other that people live.
Irish proverb

Sunday 3rd December

The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say 'Come' And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let everyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen. *Revelation 22.17,20,21*

Life is a constant Advent season; we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfil. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfilment are all part of our Advent experience. *Anon*

Monday 4th December

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, nor decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. *Isaiah 11.1-3*

You can stand in the sunlight ... feel the warmth of the sun. Feels like the fingerprints of God on your soul. *R.J. Ellory*

Tuesday 5th December

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Isaiah wrote. 'I am sending my messenger ahead of you who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness; "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside were going to him and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. *Mark 1.1-5*

The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. *Lau Tsu*

Wednesday 6th December

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he knocks. Blessed are those slaves who the master finds alert when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt, have them sit down and serve them. *Luke 12.35-37*

If you are not as close to God as you used to be, who moved? *Author unknown*

Thursday 7th December

Jesus said to his disciples, 'This people's heart has grown dull, their ears are deaf and they shut their eyes, but blessed are your eyes for they see and blessed are your ears for they hear. Many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see and hear what you hear, but they did not hear it. *Matthew 13.15,16*

Unless commitment is made there are only promises and hopes ... but no plans. *Peter F. Drucker*

Friday 8th December

The Lord said, 'Because these people draw near with their mouths and honour me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship is a human commandment learned by rote; so I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing. The wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden. *Isaiah 29.13,14*

We mend and renew the world by strengthening inside ourselves what we seek **outside** ourselves, not by demanding it of others or trying to force it on others. *Richard Rohr*

Saturday 9th December

He came to his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? Are not all his brothers and sisters with us? Where did this man get all this?' And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house,' and he did not do many deeds of power there because of their unbelief. *Matthew 13.44-49*

There is more beauty than our eyes can bear, precious things have been put into our hands and to do nothing to honour them is to do great harm. *Marilynne Robinson*

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