

Holding the Silence 2026

Daily Readings from Sunday 4th – Saturday 17th October

Collect for Sunday 4th – Saturday 10th October

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the Apostles teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 11th – Saturday 17th October

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Daily Readings

Sunday 4th October

In the presence of God and of Jesus Christ ... I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching.
2 Timothy 4.1-3

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

Monday 5th October

No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. *Romans 4.20,21*

God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer. *St Teresa of Calcutta*

Tuesday 6th October

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. *Psalms 17.7,8*

We are travellers on a cosmic journey, stardust, swirling and dancing in the eddies and whirlpools of infinity. Life is eternal. We have stopped for a moment to encounter each other, to meet, to love, to share. This is a precious moment. It is a little parenthesis in eternity.

Paulo Coelho

Wednesday 7th October

Blessed be the Lord who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth. Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken and we are delivered.

Psalms 124.5,6

Time lost is time when we have not lived a full human life, time unenriched by experience, creative endeavour, enjoyment and suffering.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Thursday 8th October

But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6.22,23

To give thanks in solitude is enough.

Thanksgiving has wings and goes where it must go. Your prayer knows much more about it than you do. *Victor Hugo*

Friday 9th October

Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; I shall keep it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for therein is my delight. *Psalms 119.34,35*

Prayer is the divine in us appealing to the divine above us. *C.H. Dodd*

Saturday 10th October

He told this parable: A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. He said to his gardener, 'For three years I have looked for fruit on this tree and found none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' *Luke 13.6-8*

A tulip doesn't strive to impress anyone.
It doesn't struggle to be different than a rose.
It doesn't have to.
It is different.
And there's room in the garden for every flower.
Marianne Williamson

Sunday 11th October

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son who he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. *Hebrews 1.1-3*

The Lord does not look so much at the magnitude of what we do as at the love with which we do it. *Teresa of Avila*

Monday 12th October

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What do you read in the law?' he answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' Jesus said, 'You have given the right answer, do this and you will live.' *Luke 10.15-28*

If you should ask me what are the ways of God, I would tell you that the first is humility, the second is humility, and the third is humility. Not that there are no other precepts to give, but if humility does not precede all that we do, our efforts are fruitless. *St Augustine*

Tuesday 13th October

Jesus entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came and asked him, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, there is need for only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken from her. *Luke 10.38-41*

Inner peace doesn't come from getting what we want, but from remembering who we are.
Marianne Williamson

Wednesday 14th October

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished one of his disciples said, 'lord teach is to pray as John taught his disciples.' He said, 'When you pray say, Father, hallowed be your name. your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us, and do not bring us to the time of trial. *Luke 11.1-4*

I can be changed by what happens to me, but I refuse to be reduced by it. *Maya Angelou*

Thursday 15th October

I say to you, Ask and it shall be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds; and for everyone who knocks the door will be opened. If you, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. *Luke 1.9,10,13*

Eat bread. Drink wine. Try to sing the song of Christ. Love life. If you can dance, dance. Everywhere grace awaits. Desire to love to love. *Maura Eichner*

Friday 16th October

The works of his hand 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. *Psalms 111.7-9*

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

Saturday 17th October

While Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!' but he said, Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.' *Luke 11.27-28*

If a man have not love in his heart for his fellow creatures, all his other virtues are not worth a straw. *Quobna Ottobah Cugoana*

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