St James's PICCADILLY

Holding the Silence 2026

Daily Readings from Sunday 8th – Saturday 21st March 2026

Collect for Sunday 8th – Saturday 14th March

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 15th – Saturday 21st March

Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Daily Readings

Sunday 8th March

He told them this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. So he said to the gardener, 'For three years I have come looking for fruit on this tree and still I find 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 it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not you can cut it down.' *Luke 13.6-9*

Faith … **must** be enforced by reason …
when faith becomes blind it dies. *Ghandi*

Monday 9th March

Jesus said to the woman at the well, 'everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' *John 4.13-15*

God is not a proposition to be studied – God is the source of all creation … the love which moves our hearts … and is continuously drawing us into God's own unity and love.
Gerard Hughes

Tuesday 10th March

Then Mary said to the angel, 'Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' *John 4.38*

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I woke and saw that life was service. I acted, and behold! Service was joy. *Rabindranath Tagore*

Wednesday 11th March

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. *Matthew 5.17-19*

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

Thursday 12th March

Come, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *Psalm 95.6,7*

When I admire the wonders of a sunset or the beauty of the moon, my soul expands in the worship of the creator. *Ghandi*

Friday 13th March

Let all the faithful make their prayers to you in time of trouble; in the great waterflood it shall not reach them. You are a place for me to hide in; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with songs of deliverance. *Psalm 32.7,8*

Prayer, the expression of our desire for God and our relationship with God, is not something we control, it is what we are drawn to. *Ann Lewin*

Saturday 14th March

Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn and he will heal us; he has struck down and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. *Hosea 1-3a*

The best prayer is to rest in the goodness of God knowing that that goodness can reach right down to the depths of need. *Julian of Norwich*

Sunday 15th March
Jesus said to Martha, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' she said to him, 'Yes Lord, I believe that you are the messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' *John 11.25-27*

Knowledge is learning something every day. Wisdom is letting go of something every day. *Zen proverb*

Monday 16th March
Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; give thanks to his holy name. for his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favour for a lifetime. *Psalm 30.4-5*

Let nothing disturb you, let nothing dismay you. All things pass. God never changes. *St Teresa of Avila*

Tuesday 17th March
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; therefore we will not fear though the earth be moved, and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea; though the waters rage and swell, and though the mountains quake at the towering seas. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High. *Psalm 46.1-4*

When you come out of the storm you won't be the same person that walked in. That's what the storm is all about. *Haruki Murakami*

Wednesday 18th March
Sing for joy, O heavens and exult O earth; break forth, O mountains into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his suffering ones. *Isaiah 49.13*

There is a voice that doesn't use words. Listen. *Rumi*

Thursday 19th March
Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? says the Lord. *Jeremiah 22.15b-17*

Life is a tapestry: we are the warp; angels the weft; God the weaver. Only the weaver sees the whole design. *Eileen Elias Freeman*

Friday 20th March
Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, 'You know me and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me. Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come. *John 7.28-30*

God's presence does not depend on your thoughts of Him. He is unfailingly there; if he were not, you would not exist. *Thomas Merton*

Saturday 21st March
But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy; when I fall I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. *Micah 7.7-9*

Faith enables persons to be persons because it lets God be God. *Carter Lindberg*

Join the Holding the Silence live stream Thursday and Friday at 12 noon on our YouTube channel