St James's PICCADILLY

Holding the Silence 2026

Daily Readings from Sunday 8th – Saturday 21st November

Collect for Sunday 8th – Saturday 14th November

God our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 15th – Saturday 21st November

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 will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Daily Readings

Sunday 8th November

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying 'The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news. *Mark 1.14-15*

Faith, in contrast to belief, is not a definition of reality, not a received answer, but an active, open state that makes us willing to explore. *Sharon Saltzberg*

Monday 9th November

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea', and it would obey you.' *Luke 17.5*

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

Tuesday 10th November

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep, 'Come here and take your place at the table'? would you not rather say, 'Prepare supper for me and serve me while I eat and drink. Later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what he was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have only done what we ought to have done.' *Luke 17.7-10*

This life is not a state of being righteous, but rather of growth in righteousness; not a state of being healthy, but a period of healing; not a state of being, but becoming; not a state of rest, but of exercise and activity. *Martin Luther*

Wednesday 11th November

We ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. *Titus 3.3-5*

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

Thursday 12th November

Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' For in fact the kingdom of God is among you.' *Luke 17. 20-21*

We always know which is the best road to follow, but we follow only the road that we have become accustomed to. *Paul Coelho*

Friday 13th November

Blessed are those whose way is pure, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blest are those who keep his testimonies and seek him with their whole heart, those who do no wickedness, but walk in his ways. You, O Lord have charged that we should diligently keep your commandments. *Psalm 119.1-4*

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

Saturday 14th November

In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. *1 Corinthians 12.13*

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

Sunday 15th November

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, but encouraging one another. *Hebrews 10.23,24*

We shall rest and we shall see; we shall see and we shall love; we shall love and we shall praise. Behold what is in the end shall not end. Beauty forever old and forever new, where all shall be 'Amen' and 'Alleluia'. *St Augustine*

Monday 16th November

As Jesus approached, a blind man shouted, 'Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me!' They ordered him to be quiet, but Jesus stopped and asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' He said 'Lord, let me see again.' Jesus said, 'Receive your sight. Your faith has saved you.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all who saw it praised God. *Luke 18.36-41*

The most difficult thing in the world, it seems to me, is to realize that I am a child of God; to keep that in my mind all the time. *Maya Angelou*

Tuesday 17th November

In Jerich, Zaccheus, a rich tax collector, climbed a tree to see Jesus over the heads of the crowd. When Jesus approached, he looked up into the tree and said, 'Zaccheus, hurry and come down. I must stay at your house today.' Zaccheus came down and was happy to welcome Jesus. The crowd grumbled that Jesus went to the house of a sinner. Zaccheus promised to repay what he had stolen and to give money to the poor. Jesus said, 'The Son of Man came to seek out and save what was lost.' *Luke 19.1-10*

We, unaccustomed to courage, exiles from delight, live coiled in shells of loneliness until love leaves its high holy temple and comes into our sight to liberate us into life. *Maya Angelou*

Wednesday 18th November

O praise God in his holiness, praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his noble acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Alleluia. *Psalm 150.1,2,6*

A life that is holy is a life that allows for all your uncertainties, your curiosities and unbelief. That doesn't just allow for them, but holds them as sacred. *Cole Arthur Riley*

Thursday 19th November

As he came near and saw the city he wept over it, saying 'If you, even you, had only recognised on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you when your enemies will set up a rampart around you and surround you. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children with you, and they will not leave one stone upon another; because you did not recognise the time of your visitation from God. *Luke 19.41-44*

At the heart of the desperate suffering there is in the world … there is an indestructible energy making for love. *Rowan Williams*

Friday 20th November

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfector of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12.1,2*

None of us knows what might happen even the next minute, yet still we go forward. Because we trust. Because we have faith. *Paulo Coelho*

Saturday 21st November

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour; the Lord Jesus Christ. *1 John 18*.33-37

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. *Maya Angelou*

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

YouTube channel