



St James's
PICCADILLY

Canopy

Saturday 26th October 2024
1.30pm - 2pm

Silence Speaks: Reflecting with
Images by Black Women Artists



This contemplative service encourages encounters with portraits by Black women artists whose work focuses on depicting both historical and contemporary women. Each of these women is strongly connected with activism and racial justice in Britain, the Turner Prize, and the Royal Academy. All of them are currently exhibiting or have recently exhibited their work in London. Current highlights include Claudette Johnson at Tate Britain's Turner Prize exhibition and Charmaine Watkiss in the Wellcome Collection's exhibition focusing on work, titled 'Hard Graft'.

Please take this booklet with you when you leave, accompanied by these images and contemplative texts, as an encouragement to continue to reflect, to look, and to see. You are invited to participate in the intertwining experiences of words and images, held in a silence that offers rest and refreshment, and longs for true liberation and freedom for all.

This short gathering is inspired by two weekly services at St James's Piccadilly: Holding the Silence, and Sanctuary. Both can be accessed on our YouTube channel and website (www.sjp.org.uk). Sanctuary is also in church on Tuesday evenings, beginning with silence from 6pm, out of which flows music, candlelight, reflection, and an informal Eucharist.

Everyone is welcome to all of our services, events, and activities. If you would like to learn more about St James's, please email The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine, Associate Rector (associaterector@sjp.org.uk)

Introduction

We gather. We hope. We rest. We look.

Amen.

Whatever we seek, whoever we are, wherever we've come from, we gather in peace.

Amen.

Attentive to the unexpected happenings at the edges of our lives, we gather, we hope, we rest, we look.

Amen.

Wisdom of the World

When we choose to love, we choose to move against fear, against alienation and separation. The choice to love is a choice to connect, to find ourselves in the other.

bell hooks

To be truly visionary we have to root our imagination in our concrete reality while simultaneously imagining possibilities beyond that reality.

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Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world.

bell hooks

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



Claudette Johnson, *Blues Dance*, 2023 (Courtauld Institute of Art)



Charmaine Watkiss, The Return of the Seed Keeper, 2021



Sonia Boyce OBE, *Missionary Position II*, 1985 (Tate)



Lubaina Himid CBE, Between the Two My Heart is Balanced, 1991 (Tate)

Blessing and Conclusion

May the road rise to meet you,
and the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
may we know that we are held
in the hollow of God's hand.
Amen.

Attentive to the unexpected happenings at the edges of our lives, as we go out from this place into our beautiful and fragile world, we gather, we hope, we rest, we look, we see.
Amen.



If you'd like to make a donation towards St James's work in this community and beyond, please use this QR code.

We are grateful for everyone's support and welcome people of all faiths and none.



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